

Roath News



Christmas / Epiphany 2020/2021
Free but donations always welcome

THE PARISH OF ROATH, CARDIFF

The Vicar:	Canon Stewart Lisk Tel: 20487854; 07794157604 email: <i>stewartlisk@live.co.uk</i>
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Reader:	Mr Geoff Smith Tel: 20499498.
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Parish Treasurer:	Mr Jim Bendon Tel: 20482082
PCC Minutes Secretary:	Mrs Anita White Tel 02920 491340
Roath Church House bookings	RCH Booking Secretary Mrs Anna Mason Tel: 07720641653
Parish Website:	www.roath.org.uk

The Clergy are always available to minister to the sick and dying. Please inform the clergy of sickness. Holy Communion may be received at home by those who are unable to come to church.

*The Parish Surgery is open on Mondays (except Bank Holidays) between 6.00.p.m. and 7.00.p.m. in Roath Church House to arrange **Baptisms and Weddings**. (Contact no. 20487854).*

Confessions and the Sacrament of Healing by arrangement.

Copy date for the next magazine (Lent) is 1st February

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

Sunday – November 22nd

My dear Friends,

Some of you who receive this will be very familiar with the interior of St Margaret of Antioch Roath, others will not have visited yet.(You would be most welcome, especially on our heritage weekend when we have guided tours). However even regular attenders may not have seen one of its largest and most impressive treasures. High on the wall of the Bute Mausoleum chapel, hidden from the rest of the church is a magnificent mosaic added in the 1880s portraying Christ in Majesty. Our Lord is shown sitting on a throne looking down upon the world.

This was part of the rebuilding of St Margaret's by the Third Marquess of Bute, who converted from the Anglican Church to Roman Catholicism. It was done at a time when the Roman Catholic Church was developing the ideas relating to the feast of Christ the King which was eventually formally instituted by Pope Pius XI encyclical Qui Primas in 1925. This feast has now been adopted by the Anglican calendar and is marked this Sunday, formerly the Sunday before Advent.

On this day we celebrate the all embracing authority of Christ which shall lead the human race to seek the peace of Christ in his kingdom. It was in sharp contrast in Europe at that time when earthly kingdoms and monarchs like those in Russia, Germany and Austria were losing their thrones and their autocratic power over their countries and empires .It was also at a time in history when the rights, duties, responsibilities and freedoms of ordinary people were becoming more important and valued in the nations of the world.

Our Gospel reading from St Matthew,Ch25, v31-46, describes the Son of Man coming in glory with angels around him sitting on the throne of glory. "All nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats." Jesus goes on to describe how those who give food and drink to the hungry and thirsty, those who clothe the naked, care for the sick and visit the

imprisoned will inherit the kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world.

As we today seek to be followers of our Lord Jesus, Christ the King and submit ourselves to his rule we have plenty of opportunity to do what he requires of us. The Covid 19 pandemic continues to bring into sharp focus the needs of those less fortunate and although we may not be able at this time to offer our charity in the usual ways we can still find ways of supporting them with our generous and sacrificial giving.

Best wishes and prayers
Stewart

Sunday – November 29th

My dear Friends,

This Sunday we keep as the First Sunday in Advent, a day that marks the end of the old Christian year and the beginning of a new one in our liturgical calendar. Just as when we come to the turn of the year in the secular calendar we inevitably look back and forward. For many 2020 has been a year of anxiety and uncertainty, for some illness and recovery, for others it has been a year of sadness and bereavement . For everyone it has been a time like nothing any of us have experienced in the past. We may all want to put it behind us.

There are however lessons to be learnt in our national lives, in our communities in church and in our family life. Governments throughout the world have been criticised for their handling of the pandemic. Some have got things right more often than others perhaps but not always at the same time. No doubt history will judge but I have several times read how we could have been better prepared for what is happening now.

We have had to adapt the way we shop, socialise, go to school or work . This has meant staying at home for so much time. How we use our days and evenings to cope with what we must achieve has been different for most. Talking on the phone to some of you who are ordinarily housebound it has shown me the rest of us have a lot to learn from you. In our recent firebreak we were prepared to know what it would be like because of what occurred in March.

Our Church life has been radically different, not having normal services for weeks through Easter, then private prayer and now following strict regulations as to what we can do in worship. We wait to see what the coming months will bring. This season we start now is probably a good time to reflect on the past and to consider how we will face the future.

There was much uncertainty and anxiety in the world as the people of Israel longed for the coming of the Messiah. There had been centuries of Prophets calling them to repentance and renewal to welcome their Saviour. As we are reminded throughout Advent the message of those holy men was not always heeded and the people strayed from God's path. At this time we remember that call to be open to Christ entering the human race for he came not in glory and triumph but to heal a troubled and fractured world. Our need for him is as great now as it ever was.

So let us be prepared and ready to look forward to Christ's light in the darkness as we say our Advent prayers and sing on our doorsteps or in our homes our carols. Let us pray that his light may bring hope and salvation to all of his people.

Best wishes and prayers
Stewart

Sunday 6th December

My dear Friends,

Some of you with long memories in the city and diocese may recall a very talented and inspirational drama teacher at the Bishop of Llandaff High School, John Gould. Sadly he died earlier this year. He was well known because every year he produced two productions of a very high standard. At Christmas it would be a secular play, Shakespeare or something equally demanding. In Lent a passion play with a cast of around 300 would be put on in the Cathedral.

Throughout my time at the school I was in those productions, aged 18 I played John the Baptist. I had to wear a very itchy beard and an equally uncomfortable hessian sackcloth costume and was unrecognisable! I also remember well having not only to learn the words in this week's gospel

from St Mark but also to shout them out at the top of my voice. I am told I was a frightening and unnerving character!

John the Baptist was proclaiming the coming of the Messiah not as a far in the future event but something that was imminent. He wanted the people to be prepared in heart and soul for the coming of Jesus. He called people to repent, to say they were sorry for their failures and to renew themselves in following God. Although he was stirring up all his listeners from around a large area and challenging them, his message definitely made an appeal as the people came voluntarily and asked for Baptism in the waters of the River Jordan. Many of them had been disillusioned with the established religious hierarchy, others had felt rejected and made to feel outsiders.

John was preparing them to receive Jesus in person. We are making our preparations in this season of Advent to prepare for the annual remembrance of the coming of the infant Jesus. He will be a baby who will grow into the man that John will baptise with water, and God will baptise with the Holy Spirit. A man who will not only make an impact on the people of the Judaea countryside but on countless millions over 2000 years to the present day. His message of peace and love is as important now as it ever was. Some individuals and groups will not know this message, we can all do our part to make the paths straight for Jesus to be known and through us his love to be shown to the community in which we live. It may sometimes be difficult, uncomfortable and challenging but just like John we can find a role to share the coming of the Saviour into his world.

Best wishes and prayers
Stewart

Sunday 20th December

My dear Friends,

By the time you receive this I will have attended four long Zoom meetings this week, after scores of them this year. I am beginning to feel envious of Mary and Joseph who could not join a video conference as there was no Zoom at the inn [*Boom, Boom. Eds*].

Two of those Zoom meetings were with the Bishop and Senior staff of the diocese and lay representatives of many churches in our Deanery exploring the Mission Areas planned for our diocese, more of that in 2021. Another one was with the Archdeacon of Llandaff receiving nominations of clergy to make to the Bishop to suggest potential successors to me as Area Dean.

The best Zoom of all this week was however hosted by the 19th Cardiff Scouts, Bishop Crossley's Own . Normally this week we welcome 120 Scouts, Cubs and Beavers to St Margaret's Church for their Annual Carol Service. The Church is always filled with parents, grandparents, supporters and the Leaders. The Beavers wear Nativity costumes acting the events whilst the Cubs and Scouts read all the traditional lessons and prayers telling the story of the first Christmas.

This year was very different. The boys and girls were cosy at home with their families and the guests and leaders joined them on all the tiny images on the screen. Many dressed up for Christmas and did their best to create a festive atmosphere. However we still had the story of the miraculous birth of Jesus read by the children. We all sang 'Away in a manger' accompanied by Evie on her home piano. It was wonderful that in spite of the restrictions we came together in the best way we could. Sadly we could not manage the usual delicious mince pies and warming punch in Roath Church House....next year!

Our Gospel reading in Church this Sunday from St Luke's Gospel begins that Christmas story with the annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary by the Angel Gabriel. Many of us will be sending pictures of this event to each other at this time as it is a favourite image on Christmas cards. Many religious cards have paintings of the Mother and Child in the stable. Those representations however are rarely realistic. We can only imagine what it was really like and how the Holy Family must have felt. Mary was a long way from home and without the support of her mother Anne. Joseph would have been anxious that he could not find better accommodation for his very young wife at this crucial time. Their relief and joy at the arrival of the infant would have set aside some of their anxieties. The imminent future however was to bring further worries.

This year more than others we might identify with the worries and uncertainty of Mary and Joseph in the feelings we and our loved ones

have at this time. Yet like them we must remember the joy and hope that their Son brought. For them he was a much loved baby son, for us he was to grow into the man who gave the world his unique message of love, hope and peace. I pray that you all may know his presence in your lives and homes this coming Christmas wherever you may be and whether you are alone or in company.

Best wishes prayers and every blessing to you all.
Stewart



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!

CHRISTMAS EUCHARISTS

ST MARGARET'S

Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 8am Holy Communion

9.30am Family Communion

ST EDWARD'S

Christmas Eve 10.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 11am Family Communion

BOOKING ESSENTIAL owing to Covid-19 Regulations. Email:
stewartlisk@live.co.uk Call or text: 07794-157604 with your contact details.

ST EDWARDS NOTES DECEMBER 2020

November is traditionally a time for Remembrance, and this year marked the centenary on Armistice Day 1920, of 100 years when an unknown warrior was buried among the kings in Westminster Abbey, a symbol of a nation's grief and gratitude. *The Story of the Grave of the Unknown Warrior | Heritage Calling*

In St Edwards, Poppy crosses were visible through the nave windows as we couldn't be in church for our traditional services. The bell-cote has also been decorated to mark the church year, and many walking past have noticed and smiled at the imaginative way in which church has been 'inside out' in 2020.

Also in November, a Mitzvah Day, when people are encouraged to give time (not money) to make a difference to the community around us. A Mitzvah, literally, is a commandment in Jewish law. However, it is often used to mean a good deed or an act of kindness, which is an integral part of Jewish life and is the basis for Mitzvah Day. <http://mitzvahday.org.uk>

Ironically perhaps, when places of worship have been closed, acts of kindness have multiplied, as everywhere 'good neighbours' remember those who are in need of a helping hand.

During this year which has challenged many and changed the way we live our lives, our remembering is extended into this Advent and Christmas time.

Dickens tells the story of the 'Ghosts' of Christmas past, present and future; not that all Christmas time visitations and reminiscences are as scary as the ones Scrooge experienced, I hope!

We do however recall our childhood, family festivities, in my case with some nostalgia, and the family and friends who made Christmas even more special, and who we no longer see.

This year many of us will enjoy a Christmas like never before, without our friends and family, due to the need to keep ourselves and others safe. It will be even more appropriate to raise a glass to absent friends, and to count our many blessings.

On Christmas Eve we are being encouraged to stand at our front doors and sing Silent Night at 7pm, as Wales unites to celebrate this special time of year. Clapping for those who have behaved heroically was such a uniting act, and if singing is not your thing, we can all hum.

Whatever Christmas brings, we hope to welcome more people back in 2021 to St Edwards.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

BATHTIME – by Jean Gough

AFTER CHORES THAT HAVE BEEN SO TAXING
I TAKE A BATH, IT'S SO RELAXING
AS I SPLASH THE WATER, I BEGIN TO SING!
MY GRANDSON SHOUTS, "WHAT A TERRIBLE DIN!"
I LAUGH AND THEN I STOP AND THINK
OF OTHERS WHO DON'T EVEN HAVE WATER TO DRINK
THEN AS I GENEROUSLY USE THE SOAP
I THINK OF FOLK WHO HAVE NO HOPE
AND WHEN I AM WASHING MY KNEES
I THINK OF THOSE WITH A FATAL DISEASE
AS I SCRUB MY HANDS AND FEET
I REALISE THERE'S FOLK WITH NO FOOD TO EAT
AND AS I SPLASH WATER OVER MY BACK
I GET THE MESSAGE, HE WANTS ME TO ACT
SO I TELL OUR LORD "I'LL DO MY BEST"
AND LEAVE HIM TO DO THE REST!



NEWS FROM THE LYCHGATE

“ Ring the bells, this happy morning
Ring them for the King has come
Ring them, all of us his children
Ring them for our happy homes.”

My mother used to sing this carol. I haven't heard it anywhere else ever. Perhaps some people in our congregation might remember it. It has a jolly tune. Anyway, my mother came from a poor country family. On Christmas morning after church they would be sent out by their mother to go carol singing around the village, to see what they could collect. So armed with this and other carols my mother and her three sisters and baby brother in a battered pram would go around the village carol singing. My mother hated it and remembered when she was grown up to tell her own daughters about it.

Gill Day tells us that the choir has returned in a limited socially distanced way. I'm sure this must be pleasing for everyone. We rejoice with Gary, our choirmaster who now has a new spaniel puppy called Alfie.

Sadly one of our congregation has had a tragic loss. Howard Gough's son Jeff, died suddenly in his fifties. We send Howard our deepest sympathy and assure him that we are thinking of him.

Chris Webb who is one of our Sunday School Teachers, has reached her 70th birthday. Happy birthday Chris.

You will remember that at Christmas time we are invited to collect our change into a cooking pot. This goes to the Huggard Centre for the homeless and to the Church Army. If you would like to contribute to these necessary causes Gill Day or Mal Rowson would be pleased to receive donations.

We are happy to report that Wendy Bartlett is out of hospital and making progress. People who remember John and Betty Katchi who moved to Barry will be sorry to hear that John has been in hospital with

pneumonia and that poor Betty has had Covid, but is now recovering. We send greetings to these people and all others who are ill at this time.

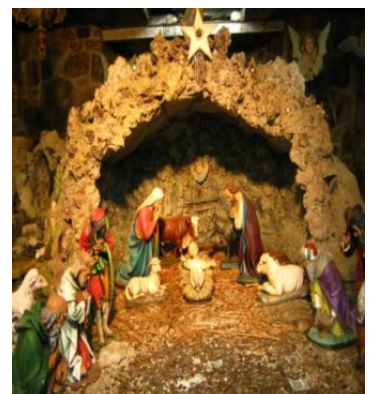
Teifion Griffiths, in his role as antiquarian bookseller, came across a history of Haughton Parish, near Ormskirk in Lancashire. He contacted the present vicar who said they already had several copies. But Teifion's copy contained papers and letters relating to the parish from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. So he offered to send it to the vicar in return for a small donation to St Margaret's church. This he did and has now received a generous cheque for £25 for St Margaret's.

This will be a strange Christmas for all of us. Many of our family traditions will have to go by the board. Fortunately for us the essential Christmas message remains. My mother's carol ended with

"O Christmas bells, ring out ring out
Your merry chimes today
And take us back to Bethlehem
Where Christ our Saviour lay."

Sally reports that this year I celebrate that I have now been working in Sainsburys for 2 years. I would just like to say that I know these are uncertain times for us all but we are all in this together. Myself and the husband Stephen would like to wish you all a very Blessed Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. Keep Safe and Well and remember that Our Saviour Jesus Christ is watching over us,

So once again we will go "in haste to see Mary, Joseph and the babe lying in a manger ." (St Luke).



Christmas Greetings & A Prosperous Joyous New Year to each & every
one of you

Julia & Sally

FESTIVE QUIZZES from Paul & Sarah Elliott

Carols quiz

Can you identify each of the following carols from which a random line has been quoted? - answers on page 15

1. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation
2. The cattle are lowing the baby awakes
3. Enough for Him, whom cherubim worship night and day
4. They looked up and saw a star, shining in the east, beyond them far
5. Our finest gifts we bring pa-rup-a-pum-pum
6. Just as poor as was the stable then, the prince of glory when he came
7. He lies 'mid the beasts of the stall, who is Maker and Lord of us all
8. O and A and A and O
9. Fear not, said he (for mighty dread had seized their troubled minds)
10. Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace
11. Bring me mead and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hither
12. So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven
13. Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy
14. And i-o, i-o, i-o!
15. Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel

Saints quiz - answers on page 15

1. Who is the patron saint of Cardiff?
2. Who is the patron saint of Newport?
3. Which parish church stands upon the site of the foundations of the Roman legion headquarters in Caerleon? (Saint's name)
4. In the 10th century Pope John XV formalised a process for the identification of saints. Approximately how many have been proclaimed as saints by the Vatican since then? A.1,000 B.10,000 C.100,000?
5. The English-Italian schoolboy Carlos Acutis has been in the news recently for what?
6. St Matthew whose saint's day is 21 September is patron saint of what / whom?
7. Who is the patron saint of Musicians?
8. St Elisabeth of Hungary, born to the Hungarian King Andrew II, is known as patron of which 3 groups of people all beginning with the letter B?
9. Which famous 1981 film had its opening sequence on the beach at St Andrew's in Scotland?
10. Which saint was Jesus' legal father?
11. What is the Russian City formerly known as Petrograd then Leningrad now known as?
12. The "Cistercian Way" in Wales runs through which saint's village near Tenby?
13. 'The Saints' is the nickname of which two English rugby teams?
14. Opened in 1828 St Katharine Docks in London took its name from which 12th century building formerly located there?
15. Who played TV's the Saint after Roger Moore?

Carols quiz - answers

1. *O Come all Ye Faithful*
2. *Away in a Manger*
3. *In the Bleak Midwinter*
4. *The First Noel*
5. *Little Drummer Boy*
6. *Calypso Carol*
7. *Come, Come, Come to the Manger*
8. *Unto Us is Born a Son*
9. *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night*
10. *Silent Night*
11. *Good King Wenceslas*
12. *O Little Town of Bethlehem*
13. *Joy to the World*
14. *Ding Dong Merrily on High*
15. *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

Saints quiz - answers

1. *St Teilo c.500-560 A.D.*
2. *Gwynllyw Farfog ('Woolos the Bearded') c.450-500 AD*
3. *St Cadoc's*
4. *Just over 10,000. (The first formally recognised saint in this way was Ulrich of Augsburg in 993)*
5. *Having sadly died aged just 15 in 2006, he has just been beatified by the Vatican, one of the steps towards formal recognition as 'saint' in the R.C. church*
6. *Bankers & Financiers*
7. *St Cecilia*
8. *Bakers, Beggars & Brides*
9. *Chariots of Fire*
10. *St Joseph*
11. *St Petersburg (since 1991)*
12. *St Florence*
13. *Northampton (Rugby Union) and St Helens (Rugby League)*
14. *Hospital : 'St Katherine's by the Tower'*
15. *Ian Ogilvy (Return of the Saint 1978-79)*

Copy date for the next magazine (Lent) is 1st February

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

Sue Mansell, smmansell@icloud.com

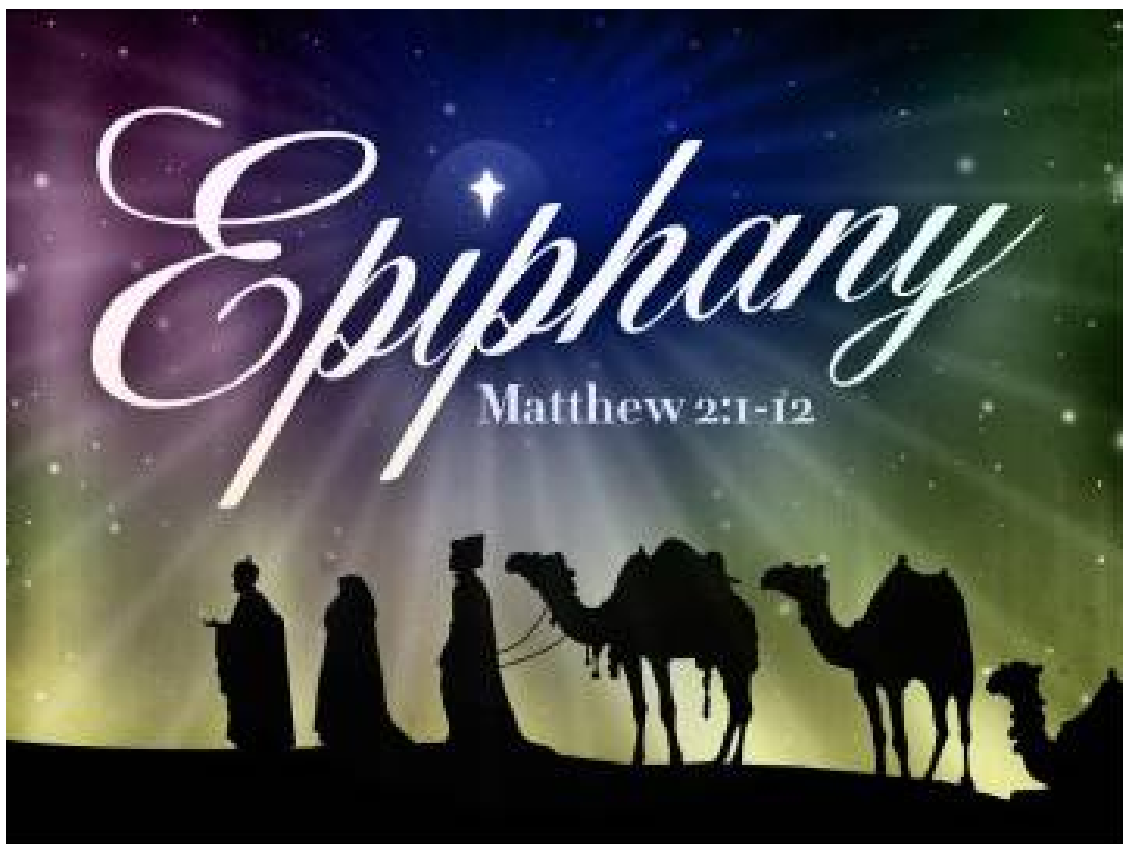
or Gwynn Ellis, rgellis@ntlworld.com, (preferably using Arial font 12)

Church in Wales latest Covid Guidance

Update: 21 December 2020

Wales has now entered the highest alert level for Coronavirus. Whilst places of worship do not need to close for services and worship under this level, we urge churches to carefully review the services they plan to offer over the coming weeks. It is more important than ever that risk management and mitigation measures are robust and that resources are in place to implement them. We owe a duty to all those attending services to do all we reasonably can to keep people safe even if that may mean reducing the number and frequency of services offered in some cases. Please review your plans and risk assessment procedures accordingly to make sure people can be certain of a safe environment at church services.

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.