

Roath News



MICHAELMAS & HARVEST 2017

Free but donations always welcome

THE PARISH OF ROATH, CARDIFF

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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 is 23rd October

From the Vicar of Roath, the Reverend Canon Stewart Lisk

My dear Friends

Welcome to the Michaelmas / Harvest Edition of *Roath News*. This year St Michael and All Angels day fall on Friday 29 September and our Harvest Thanksgiving two days later on Sunday 1st October. The message of Harvest is one that is well known, it is still very popular in our Primary Schools. Michaelmas however is almost forgotten. The Saint's day recalls St Michael the Archangel who fought against Satan and his evil demons. A story that is told to show the power of good conquering evil. Surely a message that is as current today as it has ever been.

We may not think in terms of supernatural beings nowadays but evil and good are personified in the world in so many different forms. The ideas of dark and light are also associated with good and evil and at this time of the year we are conscious of the shortening days and the lengthening nights. The celebration of Michaelmas is associated with encouraging protection during the dark months that come in Autumn and Winter.

In olden times there were many traditions and folklore associated with the Feast of Michaelmas such as having a well-fatted goose fed on the stubble from the Harvest to be eaten to protect against financial want in the coming year. An old saying goes

“Eat goose on Michaelmas Day
Want not for money all the year”

Michaelmas was also a time when Annual Fairs were held in towns and villages, to end the Summer and begin the Autumn. The ancient universities and the legal profession still call this time of year the Michaelmas term but for most of us the significance is almost lost.

However as we look at pictures of St Michael or see him represented in stained glass we see him carrying a sword and wearing armour. These are symbols of his defeating the evil in Satan and protecting the souls of the righteous as they journey to

heaven. This was something we as a family were reminded of when we visited Mont St Michel in Normandy this summer. The story goes that the Abbot of what became the Abbey of St Michael was told in a vision to build his church by St Michael on the difficult site adjacent to the sea. He had the vision three times before he acted upon it. It is said that a dent appeared on his skull to show St Michael's persistence!

All Angels are messengers from God and we do not always recognise them. Few of us will have seen an angel as depicted in art or sculpture or stained glass. However all of us will have received words from God in various forms telling us to do his Will, to follow in His way and to promote good over evil. The message of St Michael and all Angels is surely one that we can practice and encourage wherever we are: listen to God's message and do his work today.

May the Angels of Heaven watch over us all
With every blessing and good wish.



A Peek into the Past

We who worship in the churches of our parish, or in other churches in Wales, are no doubt aware that our church is 'the Church in Wales'. Had we been around before 1920, we would have been members of the Church of England, the good old C of E, part of the established church of England and Wales, owing allegiance to the Queen as Supreme Governor, and having bishops with seats in the House of Lords. All that was to change in the early 20thC, and I'm grateful to David Lee, former Archdeacon of Llandaff, for his article in the Spring edition of *Croeso*, clearly describing how this came about.

In the late 19thC, churches in Wales were, he says, 'at war with each other'. Many of them were nonconformist churches, then at the height of their powers. From 1800-50, a chapel had been built in Wales every 8 days! Yet because the Church was established, a tithe or tax

was imposed on all adults, of whatever denomination, to maintain the local vicar. Also, in rural areas, the only graveyard was that of the parish church; and burials were conducted by the vicar using the rites of the C of E. The Church also owned much land, and with the population growth following the industrial revolution, this was needed for housing and development. Consequently, the alien 'English' church was seen as an oppressor over the, often nonconformist, people of Wales.

This view was promoted by the Liberal party under David Lloyd George, who urged nonconformists to support the campaign to disestablish the Welsh dioceses and confiscate their assets. The Welsh Church fought back; Bishops of St David's and St Asaph addressed packed meetings, arguing that the Church had been in Wales for over a thousand years, long before any nonconformity, many of whose early leaders had, incidentally, been Anglican clerics.

When the Liberals gained power in the 1911 general election, their attempts to pass the Welsh Church Act were thwarted by the House of Lords. But after the outbreak of war the bill got through, when the Parliament Act could bypass the Lords, but it was suspended until the war was over. Wartime experiences brought changed attitudes, with Christians of all hues fighting alongside each other, and military chaplains doing heroic work with the wounded and dying. And the rumour that money taken from the church would be used for secular purposes offended many nonconformists. This resulted in the Welsh Church Amending Act of 1919, drafted by the Welsh bishops, which prevented much loss except assets acquired before 1662.

The Church in Wales came into being on 1st April 1920, with the four Welsh bishops released from their oaths of obedience to Canterbury, and the creation of a self-governing province with its own constitution, Representative Body and Governing Body. In June 1920 the Archbishop of Canterbury installed Alfred Edwards, Bishop of St Asaph, as the first Archbishop of Wales. In 2002, an Archbishop of Wales, Rowan Williams, was appointed the 104th Archbishop of Canterbury. A new archbishop, following the retirement of the Most Reverend Barry Morgan, has recently been appointed, and by the time you read this article, we should know who it is!

J.M.R

A new Archbishop of Wales was elected on September 6

John Davies, who has served as the Bishop of Swansea and Brecon for the past nine years, has been chosen as the 13th Archbishop of Wales.

Archbishop John was born at Newport (Mon) and educated at Bassaleg Grammar School. He graduated in law from the University of Southampton from where he moved to the College of Law at Chester. He was admitted as a solicitor in 1977, specialising in criminal law and, after ordination, completed a master's degree in Canon Law. Prior to ordination he was heavily involved in the life of the church at parochial, diocesan and provincial level.

Archbishop John left the law to enter the ministry and was ordained in 1984. He served in the Diocese of Monmouth in a variety of rural, post-industrial and urban parishes, and he also served as Diocesan Schools' Officer and Officer for Ecumenical Affairs. He was appointed Dean of Brecon in 2000, and during eight years in that role oversaw significant improvements to the fabric and liturgy of the Cathedral. He was elected as the ninth Bishop of Swansea and Brecon in 2008.

Having been the 'lead Bishop' for Church and Society issues, Archbishop John is profoundly interested in matters of social justice and has spoken out on a range of issues, including homelessness and housing, rural problems, organ donation, assisted dying and poverty. He has retained a keen interest in issues of crime and punishment, with a particular concern about the treatment and rehabilitation of offenders, the nature of criminality and the effects of poor social and educational standards. Having served as the chairman of the trustees of a large hospice in Newport, he also has a deep concern for the just provision of healthcare, not least for those in the final stages of life. He currently chairs the Ethical Investment Group of the Church in Wales, its International Group and the Wales National Committee of Christian Aid, and is a national trustee of Christian Aid.

As a former church chorister, organist and choirmaster, Archbishop John has a passionate interest in church music being 'done well', whether complex musical settings or just simple hymns and songs,

believing that it can do much to enhance quality, spirituality and effectiveness of many an act of worship.

He also enjoys a wide variety of music, watching sport – especially cricket and rugby – playing golf very occasionally, cooking and walking. He is married to Jo, an emergency nurse practitioner, and they have two grown-up children.

Taken from Church in Wales Website

Sleep for the Lord

I never have trouble getting to sleep. I go to bed after the news, try and read for 20 minutes or so, put my head on the pillow, manage to say the Jesus Prayer about two and a half times before I'm (apparently) snoring away. It's a real gift. The only problem is that I have often fallen asleep as my wife is telling me all about her day. An elbow in the ribs is successful at waking me but not as good at keeping me awake.

The first Sunday in September was World Sleep Day. I'm not clear as to who in the world decided it was World Sleep Day, but what a good thing to celebrate. It seems that among the benefits of sleep are; reducing blood pressure (good), keeping you focussed (excellent) and reducing stress (perhaps I ought to sleep more).

Napoleon Bonaparte is reported to have said that a man needs six hours sleep a night, a woman seven, and a fool eight. However, Albert Einstein took ten hours of sleep a night and had regular naps during the day (I've always thought of myself as an Albert Einstein sort of chap).

As we finish the summer break I hope you all had a decent restful time. There is a great tradition in Christianity of being quiet. In quietness you are able to hear God. In stillness you are able to feel God's presence. 'In stillness alone does a man's truth bind itself together and strike root', wrote a spiritual writer.

The desert fathers in the early centuries of Christianity fled from the cities and from the centres of power (which Christianity had, by then, joined) and sought silence and peace. This started the monastic movement and established quiet repetitive prayer (such as the Jesus

Prayer – ‘Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner’) as being a powerful spiritual tool.

Of course, experiencing physical quietness is a good start. But it is often a prelude to hearing your own inner turmoil which can be not only loud but deafening. In fact, this is what stops many people from sleeping. They go to bed exhausted, desperate for sleep, and the moment their head hits the pillow, their mind is racing with their problems and stresses and they can’t sleep. All the apparent benefits of sleep elude them because there is no inner peace. Alcohol doesn’t help. Sleeping tablets only work temporarily and are addictive.

Having Christian faith doesn’t itself make you sleep (I don’t want to hear any clever comments about falling asleep during sermons). But knowing Jesus, responding to his extended hand, living in the knowledge of God’s unconditional love can certainly help you to inner peace.

The world is a maelstrom of wonder and beauty, yet also pain, violence and stress. Floods in USA and India and the continuing threat of terror merely remind us of that again and again. In fact, so troubled can life be that only in God can one ever find real peace.

Jesus himself suffered all there was to suffer. Despite knowing his fate, his relationship with the father was such that he was peace personified. In the agony in the garden, the night before his death when even he couldn’t sleep, he found peace in submitting himself to God.

Coming to God the Father, through his Son Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit is how we find true peace in our hearts – despite all the trials we have to suffer. ‘Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.’ (Mt 11. 28)

Resting in God’s love, in the quiet of wherever you can find it, is so important in our spiritual health. In the countryside, in the garden, in the bathroom – it doesn’t matter where. But try and experience stillness when you can – I’m sure it will help you sleep.

Sweet dreams!

Fr Rhys

ST EDWARD'S NOTES – Harvest/Michaelmas 2017

OPEN DAYS Once again this year we plan to hold our open day/s to coincide with our Music & Arts Festival 13th – 22nd October and the Made in Roath Festival, (15th – 22nd Oct.)

The church will be open that week for the festival events, and we plan to open the church wherever possible beforehand.

Volunteers needed in church to welcome visitors, please speak to any member of the committee.

AGE POSITIVE WEEK An Age Cymru initiative celebrating age, ageing and older people's contribution to society. Being age positive is a crucial part of creating an *age friendly Wales* so why not celebrate positive ageing? Be part of Age Positive Week between Sunday 1 October and Sunday 8 October 2017. We're expecting this year's Age Positive Week - which coincides with UN International Day of Older Persons on 1 October, to be bigger and better than before. <http://www.ageuk.org.uk/cymru/get-involved/age-positive-week1/>

Age appears to be best in four things; old wood best to burn, old wine to drink, old friends to trust, and old authors to read. Francis Bacon

Read more at: <https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/f/francisc403060.html>

CHURCH FLOWERS

We're lucky to have some very talented flower arrangers in the Parish, and hope that they feel appreciated for their time and talent.

Whilst any colours and arrangements are always welcome, there are some guidelines below, for those who are interested.

Harvest: Orange, Red, Yellow, Brown foliage

Christmas: White, Yellow, Red, Green foliage

Trinity & Epiphany: Any colour, Green foliage

Easter, Ascension, Saints: White, light & dark Yellow, Green foliage

Whitsunday, Martyrs: White, Red, Green Foliage

It is the custom of the Church not to decorate the building with flowers during Advent and Lent, although greenery in Advent may sometimes be appropriate as a sign of the coming Incarnation.

With thanks to Jean Gough for the research

ST EDWARD'S SUMMER RAFFLE PRIZE LIST 2017

1. Bayliss & Harding Spa Set – Christine
2. Bottle of Gordons Gin - Tony
3. Royal Worcester Dish – Mrs Lane
4. Lemon Hamper - Christabel
5. Marmite Hamper - Mathew
6. Box of Biscuits - Kathie
7. China Mug – Sue M
8. DVD - Sonia
9. Bottle of Red Wine - Ann
10. Box of Chocolates – Ivor
11. Picnic Condiment Set - Rham
12. Bottle of White Wine - Gaynor
13. Toiletries Set - Kathie
14. Toiletries Set - Shannon
15. Silk Scarf - Stewart
16. Beach Bag - Charles
17. Handbag – Jean
18. Shopping Bag - Liz

£288 was raised for Church Funds

Thank you to Janice and others who provided the prizes and to everyone who bought tickets.

A Prayer of Jane Austen

Incline us, O God
To think humbly of ourselves,
To be saved only in the examination
Of our own conduct,
To consider our fellow creatures with kindness,
And to judge of all they say and do
With the charity which we would desire
From them ourselves.

St Edward's East Window

When drinking my early morning tea one day in August (my bedroom overlooks St Edward's Church) I was amazed to see a large insect like structure (a 'cherry-picker') being manoeuvred into place in front of the gorgeous east window. This was the climax of conservation work being done to the windows. I soon saw a craftsman, Dave (an employee of Brockweir Glass, the firm commissioned to do the restoration work on all the windows), carefully working his way round the stone tracery, delicately scraping and repairing where needed. Then he turned his attention to the windows, gently checking the leading and polishing the glass. Two days later the cherry-picker had vanished and St Edward's windows will be at risk no longer. The east window with its blue-winged angel, will look down on us for many years to come.

The window was given in memory of Ada Cox by her husband William and children Irene, Phyllis, Geoffrey and Ronald. Ron served as a missionary in the places named in the scrolls at the top of the window and these were Zanzibar, Nyasaland, Northern Rhodesia and Masasi. The window was installed in 1922.

Mary Traynor



St Edward's East Window



NEWS FROM THE Lychgate



The nights are drawing in and there is a feeling of end of summer. Soon we shall settle down to “The Last Night of the Proms” and Autumn will be upon us. Does anyone else remember Tim John, Bernard Johns’ son going to the “Last Night” sometime in the eighties? After Church he dressed up for us with his flags and streamers so that we could have a feel of it all. We do hear that Julie Randall of our congregation is to be at the “Last Night” this year. Look out for her, waving a Welsh flag!

Pat Hyett has written a piece about Gary Mullins, our new choirmaster. So now everyone will know about this remarkable young man. The choir is changing: the two young people, Beatrice and Harrison, are soon to be joined by two others in the choir. Also for the first time for ages the ladies of the choir have been robed, in blue, with white collars. We have to thank Chris Bilsdon, one of our lady choristers who made all the beautiful choir robes. Pat writes for us:

“GARY MULLINS – does he really need any introduction! He has of course recently taken on the responsibility of leading and directing St. Margaret’s choir, which consists entirely of volunteers, many without any music reading experience, but all of whom enjoy singing choral music. Gary has a larger than life personality, and is already bringing in new energy and ideas to the choir, together with young members.

At the age of 7 he was taken to St Martin’s Church in Albany Road and immediately fell in love with the whole atmosphere of the church. He loved the music and the incense and straightaway

joined the choir. Father Clarke could see how much he enjoyed his music and allowed him at any time to practise on the organ. At the age of 14 he was ready to expand his talents and was invited to St. Edward's Church where he was welcomed with open arms by Norman and Heather Doe, Alan and Kathy Mayer and Sue Mansell, all of whom have given him great support over the years. Norman was a great inspiration to Gary, and not only took him under his wing with his music but also made him part of their family. His gratitude to them is exceptional. Alan has also been a great support throughout his career and still continues to help him in his new post. Whilst still at St Edward's, Rob Thorne, who was then the organist at St Teilo's, contacted Gary. He was about to leave the post and informed Gary of the vacancy which was about to occur at St Teilo's. Gary, at the age of 16, gladly took on the post and enjoyed 8 years there as organist and choir master.

After St Teilo's was closed, the ladies choir transferred to St Margaret's choir. Sadly several years later, a very dear member of the late St Teilo's choir Julia Perrin, passed away. Gary immediately asked if he could be the organist at the funeral service. It was after hearing Gary play that he was asked if he would like to be added to the organist's rota at St Margaret's. So this is where it all started for us and for him – every alternate Sunday he would play at St Margaret's.

Until the age of 30 Gary had taken no exams, but within 18 months he sat and passed Piano Grades 5, 6, 7 and 8 and Grade 5 Music Theory with distinction. He was awarded prizes for Grades 6, 7 and 8 for the highest marks and won a scholarship to Trinity College London, but he transferred to the Welsh College of Music and Drama where he did his diploma with Fazliddin Husanov. He has since been teaching and performing piano/organ music at a very high standard. Sometime ago he bought a piano teaching practice from Jackie Payne, ("The Piano Studio Cardiff") which was a very big financial decision at the time, but it has proved to be most successful, and has gone from strength to strength. He

now has over 90 private students entering for exams at different levels, and has been rewarded with their achievements by gaining the highest marks in Cardiff.

He is also a peripatetic music teacher in St Paul's Primary School in Grangetown, Coryton Primary School and Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg, Pen-y-Groes.

By the time he was reaching 40 he was ready for a new challenge. His love continued to be composition and choral music, and this is why he decided to take on the task of directing St Margaret's choir. He has already made his mark by bringing in new members and requesting the ladies of the choir to be robed. Immense thanks are due to lady chorister Chris Bilsdon for making the new blue/white robes very professionally. It was indeed a mammoth task for her to undertake. The donation of a new baby grand piano has very kindly been given by Pam Hall in memory of her late husband Jeff, who loved music very dearly. On Friday 27th October, at 7.30pm there will be a concert in Jeff's memory. Gary and an orchestra drawn from students of the RWCMD and Cardiff University, conducted by Benjamin Teague, will perform The Marriage of Figaro; Laudate Domine (Vespers); Mozart's Piano Concerto No 21, (Gary Mullins piano) and Symphony No. 40. Gary wishes to dedicate this concert to Jeff's memory as the most fitting possible tribute to him.

And so starts a new era of choral music at St Margaret's. The past choirmaster Bob Hyett is very happy to see the choir continuing with a safe pair of hands, and the choir giving its full support and encouragement to Gary. Gary is a very skilled musician, talented performer and excellent teacher and we continue to wish him every success in his musical career in the years ahead.

For any further information visit Gary's website www.pianostudiocardiff.com. Phone 07817712665 or email

thepianostudiocardiff@gmail.com." Thank you to Pat Hyett and Gary.

In the last magazine we reported with sadness that our friend from St Margaret's, Jeff Hall, passed away quite suddenly on June 26th in Heath Hospital. There were many members of our congregation at his funeral on 11th July. He will be greatly missed, as evidenced by his daughters who spoke at his funeral. Our hearts go out to all his family, and especially to Pam, his widow.

Our long lived and faithful congregation has thrown up another Golden Wedding. Mary and Mike Sullivan were married on the 2nd September 1967 in Yeovil. We send them our congratulations and love.

Happy Birthday to Anna Mason, our Sacristan. She is now 50. Whisper it, as no-one will believe it!

Two members of our congregation have recently been in hospital. They are Gill Armitage and Pat Woodward. Happily they are both now recovering and are at home. We send them our love, as we do to all members of our wider congregation who cannot for various reasons be in church with us. We mention Delia Coles who has now moved to Llanishen. We hope to see her occasionally. Her new address is available.

The second most favourite hymn of St Margaret's is "Eternal Father, strong to save, whose arm doth bind the restless wave." This is fitting as £80 was recently raised in a collection for Mission to Seamen on Sea Sunday.

The Ladies Circle have been busy. Their concert, an Evening with Constanza Ladies Choir, was a great success, raising £413 for their charities, the Amber Project and Motor Neuron Disease. Another £100 pounds was added to this with their Clothes Swap evening on 14th August. Well done, Ladies.

Also, the St Margaret's Wednesday morning Eucharist Group have sent £60 coffee collection money to the Yemen Crisis Appeal. All were in agreement that this should be done. Well done to everyone who attends on Wednesday mornings.



God Bless and until next time.
Julia & Sally



St Margaret's Roath Survey of favourite Hymns August 2017.

From "Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New":

Winner with 8 votes:

511 O Lord, My God, When I in Awesome Wonder

With 7 votes:

153 Eternal Father, Strong to Save

With 5 votes:

144 Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

565 Praise my Soul, The King of Heaven

With 4 votes:

520 On a Hill Far Away Stood an Old Rugged Cross

25 All Things Bright and Beautiful

With 3 votes:

67 Be Still, For the Presence of the Lord

334 I watch the sunrise lighting the sky

463 My Song is Love Unknown

With 2 votes:

6 All Creatures of our God and King

33 And Did Those Feet in Ancient Time

249 Great is thy Faithfulness

286 "Holy Holy Holy, Lord God Almighty"

381 Let all Mortal Flesh keep Silence
419 Lord the Light of your Love is Shining
428 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"
437 Make me a channel of Thy Peace
525 One more Step Along the World I go
I vow to Thee my Country

With 1 vote:

1 Abba Father
29 "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"
37 Angels voices Ever Singing
54 At the Name of Jesus
68 Be Still My Soul
97 Christ is made the Sure Foundation
162 Father I place into Your Hands
208 "Glory to Thee, My God, this Night"
252 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer"
281 He who would valiant be
296 How Shall I Sing That Majesty
305 I Danced in the Morning
314 "Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise"
323 In Heavenly Love Abiding
332 "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky"
374 "Just as I am, without One Plea"
378 "Lead, kindly light, amid th' encircling gloom"
379 "Lead Us, Heavenly Father, Lead Us"
380 Led Like a Lamb to the Slaughter
392 Let us with a Gladsome Mind
405 "Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending"
450 Morning Has Broken
480 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"
483 O for a closer walk with God
517 O Love That Will Not Let Me Go
550 O what their joy and their glory must be
590 Seek Ye First The Kingdom of God
622 Sweet Sacrament Divine
638 The Day Thou Gavest Lord is Ended

649 The King of Love My Shepherd is
658 There is a Redeemer
695 To God be the glory! Great things he has done
719 "We Plough the Fields, and Scatter"
738 When I survey the wondrous cross
O My Lord

Notes on the Hymns Chosen

Firstly a thank you to all who voted, some going to considerable trouble to cast their votes. At 50p per vote we made about £50 for the organ fund. I have made a list of hymns that were voted for and hope that you can find your favourite among them.

The first thing to notice is that there is a considerable range. No wonder the vicar cannot please everyone! After the main favourites there are nearly 40 with a single vote. A few people, of course mentioned hymns that are not in our current hymn book! Some people chose hymns from their weddings; some choosing the hymns that they have planned for their funerals. I was surprised at how few children's hymns were mentioned. "All things Bright and Beautiful" is there of course, but where is the schoolboy's favourite "There is a Green Hill"? A few seasonal favourites made the list: "O come, O come Emmanuel", "Lo, he comes with Clouds Descending" and "We Plough the Fields and Scatter." The winner is the hymn "O Lord my God, when I in Awesome Wonder" It has a lovely chorus and this is true of other favourites. Indeed a chorus characterizes most of the modern hymns chosen. Generally the hymns are traditional. One would find them in "Hymns Ancient and Modern", "The English Hymnal" and "Songs of Praise." I was pleasantly surprised by the 2nd choice overall "Eternal Father, Strong to save". Maybe it speaks to the heart of our seafaring nation, and especially to this city of Cardiff.

Moving on, as they say, I shall be back among you with my clipboard for you to choose your favourite Christmas hymns and Carols later in the year. It will be in November for

publication in the Christmas edition of Roath News. And in case you are interested, I mentioned my favourite hymn (and yes, intended for my funeral!) This is "Immortal Invisible".

Julia Griffiths

The Pioneers of Soccer in Wales ***The Link to St. Margaret's Church!***

This summer saw the city of Cardiff host the most prestigious games in the European football calendar for both men's and women's football. The Football Association of Wales (FAW) has its headquarters here in the capital, and Cardiff City Stadium has become the preferred venue for senior internationals. Here we trace the emergence of the round-ball game in the closing years of the 19th century: read on to see the relevance to Roath!

The FAW was formed in 1876, the first international was played in March that year and the Welsh Cup inaugurated in 1877-8, but all were centred almost exclusively on north-east Wales. There were complaints from South Wales that the first Welsh XI that played Scotland was unrepresentative, and the rugby-playing football clubs of the south asserted that they could field players to take on the north (or other nations) under either rugby or association football rules!

The earliest reports of football being played in Cardiff under association rules involve a club **formed by the clergy of St. Margaret's Church, Roath**. They were certainly playing through much of the 1880s - based at Roath Court, off Newport Road, near the church - and although there were no organised competitions, they were regarded as the strongest in the area. **St. Margaret's were the Cardiff representatives at the meeting** in 1890 that gave birth to the first attempt at a South Wales League. The competition was chaotic and incomplete, and St. Margaret's appear to have been among the least active of the 13 who entered! Six clubs withdrew during the season.

1890 can be considered a seminal year in the establishment of football in Cardiff. During that year, a team (**comprising the St. Margaret's players**) accompanied Cardiff rugby club on a combined away trip to Gloucester. In the same year, a meeting at the Coffee

Tavern in St. Mary Street between "enthusiasts" Jack Sandiford, Fred Farthing, Tom Nicholls and Jack Finn led to the formation of a new Cardiff club, *though it appears to be rebranding of St. Margaret's*. Farthing was certainly involved with St. Margaret's as he is listed as their player in the first representative match between a South Wales League team and one from Gloucester, played in Bristol in February 1891 and refereed by none other than Dr. W. G. Grace.

The Cardiff club, formed at that coffee tavern meeting, was one of just six who entered the South Wales League for its second season (1881-2), again based in Roath (at Tyn-y-Coed Farm) with changing facilities at the Royal George Hotel. **Key players, all ex St.**

Margaret's club men, were said to be Farthing, the Revd.

William. L. Crichton and goal-keeper McDonald, but they couldn't prevent Treharris from again taking the honours. Records show that the club also entered the Welsh Cup - but failed to play a match, scratching when drawn away to Shrewsbury.

By 1882-3 the Cardiff club was established among the strongest in the south, as association football grew in popularity in the region. They had now moved to St. Andrew's Park, North Road and were using changing facilities in the Rose & Crown opposite the castle. Cardiff achieved a league and medal (cup) double, losing just once in an eight team competition (to runners-up Treharris whom they beat 4-2 in a play-off after finishing level on points). In the medal knockout, Cardiff beat Mountain Ash 2-0 in the final.

In June 1893 the clubs involved in the league formed the South Wales & Monmouthshire Association (indeed, the "medal" honours for 1891-2 and 1882-3 were adopted by the SW&MFA and are listed to this day in their handbook). Cardiff were among the 15 attendee clubs, as was a club called Fairwater (though they actually withdrew, leaving 14 founder members).

The (brief) period of peaceful co-existence of rugby and association codes in South Wales is further shown by the use of Cardiff Arms Park for a football match between Cardiff and the army side of the King's Own Scottish Borderers in November 1893, followed by an exhibition match with Preston North End the following April, which aimed to raise much-needed funds.

1893-4 saw the South Wales League in abeyance, but a more active Welsh Cup campaign for Cardiff - a 0-4 win at Mountain Ash and a 4-1 defeat away at Ironbridge. At their AGM in 1894, Cardiff formally merged with Cardiff Harlequins rugby club - rugby to be played midweek, soccer on weekends.

When the South Wales League re-launched late in 1895, Cardiff resident Jack Sandiford was again said to be the driving force, and he was elected chairman. **The Cardiff club (under the name St. Margaret's again)** were involved, as was a second local team in the form of Cardiff Teachers, of whom little is known. Cardiff had, however, also taken the bold step of entering the Western League, formed a year earlier and involving team such as Trowbridge, Gloucester and Eastville Rovers. Cardiff's home venue for the new venture was in the south west of the town (Cardiff wasn't yet officially a city), the Grange Athletics Grounds in Ferry Road, now the site of Channel View Road. But they were expelled mid-season for non-payment of fines.

1896 brought three more important landmarks: first, Cardiff saw its first Wales international, Wales v England on 16th March at Cardiff Arms Park.

Secondly in 1896 the founding of the Cardiff Schools' League (for under 14s) gave birth to a competition that would produce future football heroes such as Fred Keenor and Len Davies. Its inaugural members were Albany Road, Court Road, Eleanor Street, Gladstone Road, Grange, Higher Grade (Howard Gardens), Moorland Road, Radnor Road, Roath Park, Severn Road and Stacey Road.

The third significant event of 1896 was the founding of Cardiff Corinthians, by members of the Canton based Cathedral Cricket Club. They started out playing at Sophia Gardens, in the South Wales League, and of course are today the oldest surviving club in the city. As the Corries established themselves, so the pioneering Cardiff/St. Margaret's club disappeared from the scene, with their 1893 double standing as their only main honours.

1898 brought a visit by Aston Villa to face a South Wales League select side at the Arms Park, the Midlands surprisingly held to just a 2-3 victory by the hosts. While Cardiff clubs failed to make much

of an impression in local or national competitions as the 19th century drew to a close, the most significant chapters in the city's early football history were about to be written, for (in an echo of the Corries' foundation) Riverside Cricket Club and one of its players, Bartley Wilson, were to give birth to Riverside AFC - later to develop into Cardiff City AFC. But that's another story, in another century.

Bob Hyett

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Things are not always what they seem . . .

An Irishman moves into a tiny hamlet in County Kerry, walks into the pub and orders three beers. With raised eyebrows, the bartender serves him, and he drinks at a table alone, only to order three more later. The same thing happens the next evening. The village starts to whisper about the Man who Orders Three Beers. Eventually, the bar-tender has to say, 'Everyone is asking why you always order three beers'.

'I know it's odd', says the man, 'but I have two brothers, one in America, one in Australia. We made a pact, that when we drink, we will always order two extra beers to keep up the family bond.' The man becomes a local celebrity, and out-of-towners come to watch him drink.

But one day he comes in and orders only two beers. The bartender feels sad, passes round the news and prayers are offered for the soul of one of the brothers. Next day the bartender offers his condolences to the man on the death of his brother. 'You know, two beers and all . . .'

The man pauses and then replies, 'You'll be happy to hear that my brothers are alive and well. It's just that I myself have decided to give up drinking for Lent. !!

Roath News Biographies – 1 – Anna Mason

I, Anna Mason, have lived in Cardiff all my life. I studied at a local convent school, married at 21, and have three wonderful children - Savannah who's now 23, Connor 20 and Alex now 13. I am Roath Church House secretary and general janitor. I take all the bookings and keep up with the general day-to-day maintenance and the 17 different classes that run every week. There are over 1000 people who visit the building every month. I am also sacristan, crucifer and deputy people's church warden at St Margaret's church - but there is more! I am also a registered childminder with 12 children in my care, and am a 'landlord' of four properties which I manage.

I have recently opened a new animal rescue centre called the Arc, Anna's rescue centre. I started rescuing when I was 14. I constantly brought injured birds and homeless animals into the house. My first job was as a veterinary nurse at three of the local veterinary centres in Cardiff, and mum always dreaded me coming home with large cardboard boxes and running straight to my room! In the time I worked in the vets I actually rehomed 14 dogs and 12 cats. I would have reared more but mum had said enough was enough. I then went on to work and manage a pet shop and a dog salon, and always helped the RSPCA. I also worked in Companies House and had time to have three wonderful children.



My new charity has really taken off. Since the centre opened in April this year I have rescued over 70 cats and rehomed over 50, also two dogs, three koi carp, and rescued several seagulls. This is self-funded

and just a small organisation but I run it myself so am extremely busy! One of the kittens that were rescued recently was called Phil, 11 weeks old. Unfortunately, due to the fact of lots of inbreeding among a colony of feral cats, I rescued him along with 27 other cats, all from a house and garden where the occupant had died and was not

discovered for three weeks, and the police rang me to assist with the break in. Poor Phil has a problem with his heart, but he has lived



with me since he was two weeks old. I think he thinks he's a dog as I have four dogs and they absolutely love each other. Hopefully Phil will grow out of his heart problem. All the cats in my care are always vet checked, neutered and vaccinated and we always deflea and deworm.

In my new rescue centre I have found some appalling situations - animals tied up in carrier bags dumped in the rubbish, some covered in bleach, some have been shot and others have just given birth in the rain. So many cats are dumped, on average over 3000 a year, and only three rescue centres deal with this area. The RSPCA do not help with stray cats, hence my bank balance is very low. Vets' bills alone cost me £1000 a month. I work tirelessly to rescue sick or abandoned cats and kittens with the hope of finding them all permanent loving homes.

I would not exist without you the public, and your kind support. If you would like to help ARC with our amazing work, you can look me up on Facebook or on Google Arc annas rescue centre x 07720641653

annasrescuecentre
@outlook.com

ARC
ANNAS RESCUE CENTRE
annasrescuecentre.weebly.com

Cardiff based cat rescue run by anna who works tirelessly to rescue sick or abandoned cats kittens and others with the hope of finding them all loving forever homes. I would not exist without you, If you would like to help ARC, you can as follows: contact -FACEBOOK PAGE or instagram ARC ANNAS RESCUE CENTRE

I monitor all the animals that come in to the centre vet check them and care or require any specialist treatment we foster out kittens and stray cats and other to rehabilitate them back to home life then we find lovely people to re home our cats.

WOULD YOU LIKE A LAF WARMER

I RESCUE ABANDONED, ABUSED OR STRAY ANIMALS

Help us do some good today!

CALL ME 07720641653

Notes from the North number 28

Most of us have our mobile 'phone. Mine is just used as a telephone, But recently, - 'do not laugh' - I was reading Kath's Townswomen's Guild magazine, and saw an advert for a book called – **Android phones One step at a time** – I have purchased a copy, and it has opened my eyes to the other uses it has, and I have only reached page 6!! It is talking about 'apps'!! But I am sure you have an immediate reaction 'what does he mean?', everyone knows what an app is!!

Last year Kath and I had attended an afternoon tea in church. We were sitting at a table and the subject of the 'phone' came up on what the phone could do. Kath had said - "mine is only a phone". This caused Peter, our local tame technical 'expert' to ask if she would like to have a camera. She was not enthused. She said again it is only a 'phone.

He took it from Kath and moved to another table, there he 'played' with it for several minutes. We carried on talking and eventually Peter returned. "It is only a phone" he said,!!!

At this - we all exclaimed at the same time – "Kath told you it was only a 'phone!!" Some men!! End of story. Peter has still not forgiven Kath.

But back to the book, it may even tell me how to print photos from my phone. I shall report back. It may take some time as I have yet to come to terms with MY phone.

Going back to my last 'notes'. The hospital department for eye care, sent a new appointment, for the Tuesday we were in the Lakes!!!!. I think some reading lessons may be needed, and also an understanding of requests from patients!!

We had a good 5 days. Weather as usual, mixed. But wall to wall rain/sunshine would have been unrealistic too.

My bell-ringing improves. I led a party of six in 'rounds', for the first time recently. I think I nearly got it right, I was invited to repeat the exercise!! Next hurdle is ringing 'changes', that is dodging with the bell next to you, which may sound straightforward but requires a bit of memory and judgement!! My request is in the post for the 2 attributes mentioned.

Our church hall and the land on which it stands, has been on offer and an offer has been received by a retirement home company. We are waiting for local planning permission, and the plans are going to be available for public view soon. I have been asked if I have applied for an apartment yet. I am not sure if I am quite ready yet.

Adrian and 2 friends cycled from Newcastle-on-Tyne to Edinburgh, a distance of about 200 miles. It took them 5 days. They kept in touch and had a fairly dry journey for nearly all the time. I am sure I would not have the energy to do so.

Adrian and Lesley have a neighbour whose extension is very visible on their garden. The solution was to erect a 'beach hut' and I was enlisted with another of their friends to erect the said building. It was fairly straightforward, and took about 2 hours. Since then Lesley has been painting the outside to make it look like one of those huts which feature on adverts of the seaside.

I realised when I gave my talk about my 'life', I could have asked if anyone in the audience had swum in the Panama Canal. I expect there might have been one or two, but it does seem to be a rather bizarre distinction!!

That's it for now. Love from David and Kath.

Secular Lives, Sacred Hearts

This book, with the sub-title ‘The Role of the Church in a Time of no Religion’, is by Alan Billings, recently Police and Crime Commissioner for S.Yorkshire, but who, when he wrote the book in 2004, was a parish priest in Cumbria.

We live in a time of steeply declining church congregations, and of the disappearance of Sunday Schools and religious education in state schools. The church has lost many of the roles it once occupied, as welfare and pastoral care are now covered by secular agencies. With a shrinking part to play, what should the church’s attitude be? Should it, as the evangelicals tend to do, concentrate on its own gathered congregation and turn outwards only to evangelize ‘the lost’? The Anglican Church though, in Wales as in England, has a parish system, whereby each church has a responsibility to all, of any faith or none, should the people ask for its services. And when they do, Billings wonders why this is so. He concludes that, despite this secular age, many British people still define themselves as Christian, in surveys and on census returns. They may not attend church, but may still have an attachment to the Christian faith, as a way of living, if not a set of beliefs. They try to live by the ‘golden rule’, treating others as they would wish to be treated. They may attend church at Christmas, Harvest or Remembrance Day, and want family weddings and funerals to be held in church. They see the church as a resource, but do not want to ‘belong’. Britain, he concludes, is ‘culturally Christian’. Thus he very much wants the church to continue to be the church of the nation by keeping that cultural legacy alive for all who want it, and not to turn inward and become one more religious sect. The book then goes on to explore why, in Billings’ opinion, the world ‘out there’ still seeks the ministry of the church, chiefly in baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Baptism was often urged on parents by family pressure, or a superstitious belief that the unbaptized go to hell! These reasons seem to figure less today. A big factor, he feels, is the desire to show the child to the wider circle of family and friends, who may well bring gifts – as at the Epiphany of Jesus! But they want too the non-material gifts, that a loving upbringing can confer – love of family,

care for others, trying to leave the world a better place – all of which can be linked in people’s minds with ‘I turn to Christ’. Infant baptisms have declined, but attendances are often much increased. Parents are often today unmarried, and the baby’s baptism may be their first opportunity to celebrate as a couple. It can also be a rite of passage for the couple, showing a new level of commitment to family life, and integration into the community. A single parent may feel that baptism is a ‘respectable’ thing to do, and, as in the early church, this ‘sacrament of radical equality’ gives all an equally good start. ‘I made a bad mistake, but she’s done nothing wrong. God won’t hold it against her’,

Despite falling numbers, many non-churchgoers still want to be married in church. Why? Billings find several reasons. One is the ‘rite of passage’ we saw in baptism. The couple may, usually do, already live together, may already have children. But this is a move into the community of the married, ‘stepping up a gear’. It binds families together – the boyfriend becomes a son-in-law – and it is a public declaration of how much they love each other. It is a move to a state of more permanence and stability, the couple are ‘locked together more tightly’, and will be more prepared to work through any difficulties that come along. But this would apply to any marriage, anywhere, and today the alternatives to the plainness of the register office are numerous. So why a church wedding? ‘I don’t think weddings take in hotels’ said one prospective groom. ‘You need a bit of solemnity’. The liturgy of the marriage service articulates what the couple want to say to one another in the presence of their families and friends. This is a ‘big deal’, and the church gives them a voice at this crucial moment in their lives. When asked why, one young man replied, ‘Why have we come to church to be married? Isn’t that what churches are for? If we wanted a book we’d go to the library’!

Finally he looks at Christian funerals. Death today, he says, is almost always medicalized. Most people will die in hospital, rather than at home with their family, and maybe a priest or pastor, with them. Thus the church is more distanced from the dying. Many today are cremated, and this may involve a brief, sometimes as little

as twenty minutes, service in a crematorium chapel. This may be conducted by a duty clergyman, who has no knowledge of the family. Where church funerals do take place, their emphasis is very different these days. With the decline of belief in the after life, the service no longer stresses the reality of death and the soul's journey to heaven, releasing the dead person from 'this vale of tears'. Today, it is much more likely to be 'A Celebration of the Life of . . .', or a Memorial Service., with some churches offering a variety of services for different types of death. So a church service can offer what many want, at a difficult milestone in their lives. While keeping open the door to eternal life, its looking back to the life of the deceased offers a rite of passage for the bereaved. The dead person is now 'in a better place', 'Dad is now with Mam', where they wait for those left behind. The church enables contact with the dead, with prayers, masses for the soul (for Catholics), memorial books and services, often at All Souls tide. Whereas a secular funeral must find positives in the person's life, a Christian funeral says of every person, whatever they were like, this too was a child of God. The language of the modern liturgy can help those left behind with feelings of anger, guilt and regret; it offers a form of confession, absolution and silence. There is no feeling of being rushed, or on a conveyor belt.

Billings concludes with a plea that the parish church should not become just a gathered congregation, with the saved inside and lost outside, the church as some sort of ark. Jesus fed the hungry and healed the sick. He preached the kingdom, rather than the church, and often found it in unexpected places and unlikely people, The nature of God is forgiveness and love, and the welfare of all people in the present age. The church is one public building set aside for the articulation of 'man does not live by bread alone'. If those non-attenders, leading secular lives but with sacred hearts, ask the church for that bread, it must be the church's role and privilege to offer it to them, at those most important of life's milestones.

A thought-provoking book, yet an easy and accessible read.
J.M.R.

**SUNDAY AND WEEK-DAY WORSHIP
IN THE PARISH OF ROATH**

(For Holy Day Celebrations see Weekly Newsletter)

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH WATERLOO ROAD

Sun: 8.00 am Holy Eucharist
9.30 am Sung Eucharist
9.30 am Sunday School R.C. House
(each Sunday except 1st)
6.00 pm Sung Evensong
1st Sunday in month – Evensong/Holy Eucharist

Wed: 9.30 am Holy Eucharist

ST. EDWARD'S CHURCH BLENHEIM ROAD

Sun: 11.00 am Sung Eucharist & Sunday School
7.00 pm Choral Evensong
Wed: 10.15 am Holy Eucharist

Conventional District of Tremorfa
ST PHILIP'S COMMUNITY CHURCH
TWEEDSMUIR ROAD

Sun: 9.30 am Family Communion
Tues: 3.15 pm 'Messy Church' (in term-time)

Copy date for the next magazine is Monday 23rd October

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

Jean Rose, jeanmargaretrose@yahoo.com

or Sue Mansell, smmansell@icloud.com

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



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