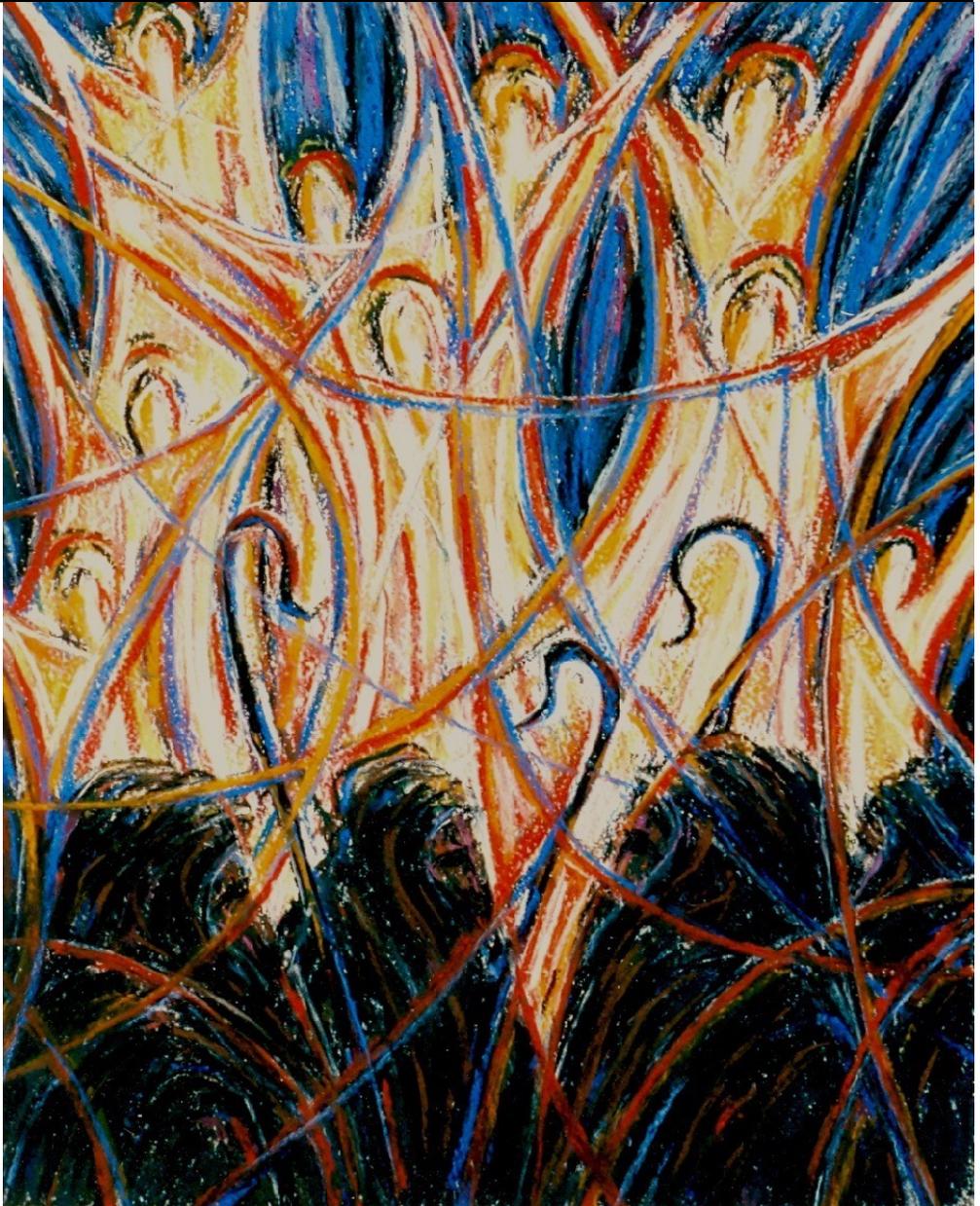


Radyr Parish News

Winter 2017

Christ Church, Radyr

St John's Church, Danescourt



The Parish of Radyr

www.radyr.org.uk/parish

twitter @RadyrParish

Registered Charity No. 1132144

The Reverend Canon Jenny Wigley (Rector)

The Rectory, Rectory Close, Radyr CF15 8EW

2084 2417 rector@radyr.org.uk

Lay reader

Norman Clewer 2031 3373

Lay minister for home communion

Keena Baskerville 2056 9246

Churchwardens

Margaret Smart 2084 2516 margaret.smart77@ntlworld.com

Cheryl Evans 07917 440955 cherylrhiwbina@icloud.com

Subwardens for Christ Church

Rubina Davison 2084 3442

Cathy Sloan 2084 2610

Subwardens for St John's Church

Malcolm May 2055 2352

Pauline Parry 2021 9214

Sunday and mid-week services

Christ Church, Radyr

Sunday	8.00am	Holy Eucharist
	11.00am	Sung Eucharist and Sunday School
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer (1 st 2 nd & 3 rd Sundays) Holy Eucharist (4 th Sunday) Café Church at St John's (5 th Sunday)
	Wednesday	9.30am

St John the Baptist, Danescourt

Sunday	9.15am	Holy Eucharist and Sunday School
	6.00pm	Café Church (5 th Sunday of the month)
Thursday	11.00am	Holy Eucharist

Arrangements may be made with the Rector for baptisms, weddings and the publication of bans of marriage.

The Rector writes:

My dear friends

It feels as if it has been a dark old year on the world stage, with all sorts of individuals and communities caught up in struggles not of their own making.

Traditionally, the season of Advent has been a time for Christians to reflect on this human darkness as it yields to the Light of Christ whose coming into the world we celebrate at Christmas. The weeks of Advent are a time to take stock, to be thoughtful and serious as we prepare ourselves - rather than rushing straight in to what the secular world thinks of as 'the party season'.

And I hope that we will all find time to show our love and care for those whose lives are still a struggle: to quote the traditional bidding prayer of the service of Nine Lessons and Carols 'because this of all things would rejoice (Christ's) heart'.

With every blessing and wishing you peace at Christmas.

Jenny Wigley



Morning Services on Christmas Eve

As Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, there will be some changes to the usual morning services. The morning will be observed as the Fourth Sunday in Advent, and the afternoon onwards as Christmas Eve.

There will be no 8am service at Christ Church, and there will be a short said Holy Eucharist at 9.15 am at St John's and 11am at Christ Church. Full details of all the Christmas Services may be found on page 4.

Christmas Services

Christ Church

Sunday 17th December
6pm Nine Lessons and Carols
followed by refreshments

Sunday 24th December
Christmas Eve

8am No service

11am Short Said Eucharist

4pm Carols Round the Crib and
nativity play

11pm
First Eucharist of Christmas
Midnight Mass

Monday 25th December
Christmas Day

8am Holy Eucharist
a simple short service of Holy
Communion

11am Family Eucharist
Holy Communion with Christmas
carols. Bring along a toy or gift to
show us and make us smile!

Please note: no 9.30am Eucharist on
Wednesday 27th December; no 6pm
service on Sunday 31st December.

St John's Church

Friday 22nd December
6pm Carols round the Crib
followed by refreshments.

Sunday 24th December
Christmas Eve

9.15am Short Said Eucharist

9pm First Eucharist of Christmas
Holy Communion with carols

Monday 25th December
Christmas Day

9:15am Family Eucharist
Holy Communion with Christmas
carols. Bring along a toy or gift to
show us and make us smile!

Please note: no 11.00am Eucharist
on Thursday 28th December.

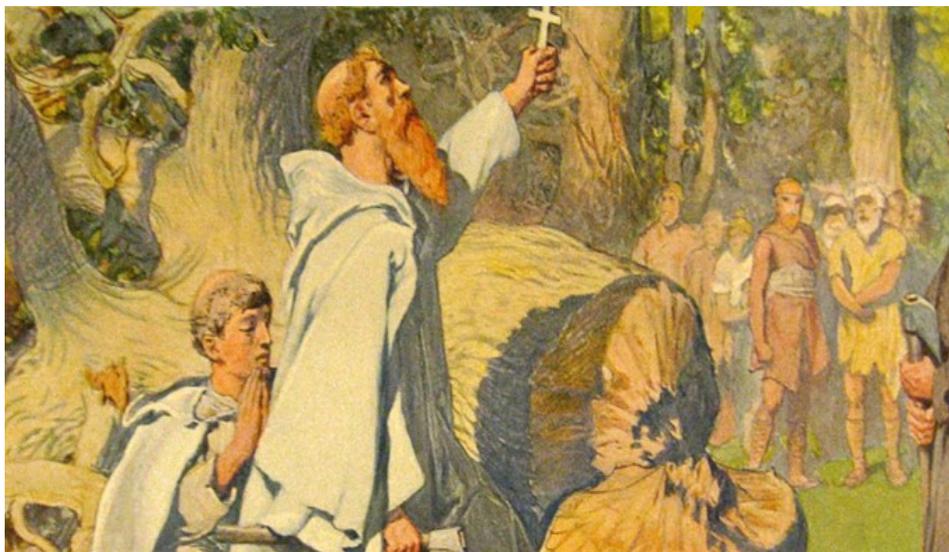


O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree

This year our parish held its first ever Christmas Tree Festival, but have you ever wondered about the Christian origins of the custom of bringing a fir tree into the home? Lots of people know the story of how Prince Albert introduced the tradition of Christmas trees from Germany in the 19th century, but the tradition began centuries before, and was inspired by an 8th century Celtic saint, Boniface.

Born in Devon, Boniface became an abbot and then a missionary, sent to Germany to convert the pagans to Christianity. He worked tirelessly across the country destroying idols and pagan temples and building churches in their place. He was named Archbishop of Mainz.

The story is told that, on a preaching tour of Bavaria around the time of the Winter Solstice, Boniface came across a group of pagans worshipping an ancient oak tree. Horrified by what he saw as blasphemy, Boniface grabbed the nearest axe and hacked down the tree. He challenged those who worshipped sacred oaks to discover the power of God as creator, and pointed to the fir trees all around whose leaves remained all through the year- the symbol of the Son of God who lives for ever.



As well as the Christmas tree in church and at home, there is also the Christmas crib. Several of these were on display for the festival, including the beautiful wooden one from St John's. The origins of the

crib scene go back to the 13th century, and lie with the actions of a different saint - Francis of Assisi.

Francis had a deep longing to help people enter into the mystery of God's humility: God becoming a helpless baby, finding refuge among the poor and needy. So he had a manger placed in a hillside cave near Greccio, with a carving of a baby laid on the hay. He brought in an ox and an ass, and then he gathered the village folk to walk up to the cave in procession carrying torches through the night to celebrate the child born in the manger.

Francis would smile at our pretty varnished cribs, though surely he would bless any home that has one. He would probably prefer those set up outdoors with live animals. And if he were to stand by one and preach today, he might say something like this:

'Look deeper than this pleasant scene. See your God become your food for eternity in a feeding place for animals. See the simple bands wound around the helpless baby, not the embroidered dress. See a man and woman wearing the clothes of the poor. See and smell the animals. Feel the cold and dirt of the cave, lighted only by a little fire. And adore your God, who took a human heart that could know the greatest love and the sharpest pain, arms that could embrace the sinners, the neurotics, the lepers, and hands that could touch cheeks running with tears, and be pierced with nails. Adore your poor and humble God.'

Courtesy franciscanmedia.org



Christ Church Sunday School

The children helped to lead worship at the Harvest Festival service. Gwilym, Gwen and Matthew conducted a survey to find out which vegetable the congregation liked best. It was the pea, which was lucky, as it led onto the children's talk 'Give Peas a Chance'. Christian Aid is helping to change the lives of farmers in southern Malawi, teaching them the new skills needed to grow pigeon peas, a hardy drought-resistant variety that is high in protein.

Autumn is always busy in Sunday School and this year we were even busier. The Christmas Tree Festival challenged us: how could we decorate a tree to show everyone what happens in Sunday School, as well as giving everyone a chance to take part? Did we succeed? We'll let you be the judges, when you visit the Christmas Tree Festival. Having put in lots of hard work, it seemed disappointing to only be on view for one weekend. However, a little magic is all that's needed for everyone to enjoy our handiwork until Epiphany.

We were also busy filling shoeboxes: would we beat last year's record? The children always have fun on Shoebox Sunday trying to guess, or count, how many shoeboxes are piled up in front of the altar.

Rehearsals for the Crib Service, and learning a new carol to sing at the Nine Lessons and Carols, started a few weeks ago. Ian Thomas has been helping us. Did you notice him slip out of the choir and follow us into Sunday School each week? The Nine Lessons and Carols service is too late for everyone to stay until the end. That's why we will be singing at the beginning, and then going home to bed.

December is always very busy in Sunday School, at home and school, so we hold our party in January and always share it with the children from St John's Sunday School. As a special treat this year, we will be having a puppet show after tea.

We'd love you to come along and join in the fun learning about how much Jesus loves us. We meet every Sunday in term time at 11am for an hour (ages 2 - 11).

Julie Davies

Sunday School Co-ordinator 2084 2923

St John's Sunday School

October 1st was a dull, grey day, but inside St John's Church everything was golden and bright. It was Harvest Festival and the beautiful decorations made the church glow. It was lovely to see so many children there. At the beginning of the service they made a little parade around the church with Jenny to look at the Harvest gifts which were to be donated to Cardiff Foodbank. It was a lovely service which gave us all an opportunity for thanksgiving and generosity.

In one of their lessons this term, the children worked hard on new decorations for the noticeboard in the hall. They made owls which they positioned on the branches of a tree. These wise birds remind us all to follow Jesus, as you can see in the photo.



We have continued to look at the things that God gives us. The children learned about the feeding of the 5,000 and made baskets with five loaves and two fishes. They also learned about food growing in the Garden of Eden and very much enjoyed spelling their names with pumpkin seeds.

Another special service this term was Remembrance Sunday. The children made poppies and coloured in pictures of poppy wreaths. When they joined us at the end of the service we had our minute's silence. The children all stood very quietly and observed this with the adults.

Our thoughts have now turned to Christmas. In Sunday School we started our preparations by decorating a tree for the Christmas Tree Festival. Everyone will have the chance to see all the trees decorated by different organisations in the parish.

We hope that you can join us for all our celebrations at this special time of year. For the children, the Carols Around the Crib service is especially lovely and Jenny relies on their help to make the service run smoothly. The dates for all these events can be found on page 4 of this magazine.

Our last lesson this term is on December 17th and the new term will start on January 7th. If you would like to join us, we meet at 9.15am in St John's church hall. From everyone in St John's Sunday School we wish you a **VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS**.

Anne Jones 2055 4749

Parish Gift Day 2017

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our annual Gift Day appeal. The total at the time of going to print is £3,825. Almost all the donations were Gift Aided, which will add a further 25%. As we plan for 2018, I can see that our very active Building Committee already has plans to deal with several maintenance issues affecting our buildings. The amount raised will certainly help us make positive decisions on this expenditure.

We would also like to thank the Mothers' Union for the £880 collected as a result of their sponsored walk. Their contribution will be used to purchase the books given by the parish as baptism and wedding gifts.

Peter Umbleja
Treasurer

The man who married Mary

The traditional Nativity scene on our Christmas cards has Mary with the Christ Child. Around her are the shepherds and magi. We may also see stable animals, angels and a star! While Joseph is often included, his presence seems to be of minor importance. After all, we praise God for Jesus with our familiar Christmas carols, mentioning angels, shepherds, wise men and Mary but the name of Joseph is absent! Why is Joseph given a low profile? For he is a man to be remembered.



Joseph was a resident of Nazareth. He worked as a carpenter and his skills would have included making furniture, repairing buildings and crafting agricultural tools. Although Joseph had an honourable profession, he would not have been a man of great wealth.

The gospel writers Matthew and Luke give Joseph a few brief mentions. After the birth of Jesus, Joseph and Mary go to the temple in Jerusalem to dedicate the baby to God. Afterwards, they flee into Egypt to escape the wrath of Herod and much later return to Nazareth. Twelve years later, Mary and Joseph go with Jesus to Jerusalem for the Passover feast. Here they lose Jesus, and find him in the Temple talking with religious leaders!

Apart from these verses, the New Testament is silent about the rest of Joseph's life. However, we do know that Joseph was father to other children by Mary. His four sons are named and they had at least two daughters (see Matthew 13:55).

And we also know that Joseph was someone who quietly and humbly took on the awesome role in caring for the early life of the Son of God. Joseph would have taught Jesus many things - not just the skills of a labourer, but the lore of the countryside which was evident in our Lord's teaching. Jesus grew up within a loving family and described God as 'Father', knowing also the good fatherly qualities of Joseph.

In the Christmas story, Joseph is placed into a situation that brought him misunderstanding and suspicion. But Joseph remained faithful in the knowledge that as long as God had spoken, the opinion of others mattered little. Before Jesus began his ministry it is believed that Joseph died. It is likely Jesus took on many of his father's responsibilities before he left home.

In the eyes of the world, Joseph was a nobody. He was not a man of valour, fame and fortune. But he was the one who had parental responsibility for the greatest person who has ever lived!

It is sad that we often equate ordinariness with ineffectiveness. Down the ages, God has used many ordinary people to accomplish great things. God continues to use ordinary people. Like Joseph, we need to know that doing God's will is the most important thing in life. May we, this Christmas, respond to God's call to us and please him in all that we do.

Lester Amann



Getting Ready for Christmas

This year's Get Ready for Christmas event took place at Christ Church on Saturday 25th November, with lots of people enjoying the festive atmosphere, seasonal stalls and delicious food and drink.

Among the stalls were personalised tea-lights and baubles, books, toys, games, preserves and gingerbread. There were some excellent prizes for our annual Christmas Raffle: 1st prize a £100 gift voucher for Wales Millennium Centre; 2nd prize a festive hamper donated by Redrow Homes, and 3rd prize a gift voucher for Pugh's Garden Centre.

The children were entertained by Paddy the Clown and enjoyed the craft activities and having their faces painted.

Sincere thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the event a success, particularly Rubina Davison and the Activities Committee.

1FamilyCardiff

an update on how our Deanery is resettling a Syrian refugee family

On 19th November, a 20-strong team met for the second time in two weeks at St Catwg's in Pentyrch. Our aim was to allocate tasks to individuals, so we are now becoming accountable for a whole range of things like meeting the Syrian family at the airport, providing a welcome pack of food, finding translators, registering the family with the local GP, helping them get their housing allowance, get their bio-metric visas, and so on - all of which has to be done with due care and sensitivity. We were hoping to have this plan completed by the end of November so that it can be submitted to the Home Office for their approval. We will only be allocated a family once the Home Office is completely satisfied with our resettlement plan. As you will know by now, the Home Office criteria, which is rigorous, must be complied with at every stage, and this is what our group is currently working to achieve.

We are pleased to report good news on the house front for our refugee family. After sadly losing our previously-earmarked house, we now have a benefactor-landlord who is working with us to purchase a 3-4 bedroom house for the family to rent in the affordable Ely Bridge area. We are most grateful for all the suggestions and offers of help to find a replacement house and we are holding these in reserve in case this one should fall through as well - but at the moment things are looking good.

Fr Jesse Smith of the parish of Caerau-with-Ely, one of the driving forces in the 1FamilyCardiff team, has experience of resettling Syrian families as part of the government scheme and has knowledge of resources and facilities that our family will be able to access, such as local schools that will accept refugee children and English classes at the Ely Hub. We will, of course provide extra classes if needed. All help and support will be tailored specifically for our family's needs.

So, to sum up, the project continues apace and we thank you for your continued support. Talking of which, please come and visit the Christmas Tree Festival at Christ Church, the donations from which will be given to the 1FamilyCardiff project.

Sara and John Kiff
07710 172685

Open the Book

'Open the Book' has started at Christ Church and St. John's. It consists of three teams who go into Bryn Deri, Radyr and Danescourt Primary schools once every half-term to read and enact a Bible story to the children. We began with an Old Testament story of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednigo called 'The Boys who liked to say NO'. The children participated by shouting NO every time a sign was held up when the boys in the story were saying NO—see the photo below. It was well received by the children and their teachers (we think!).

We are now preparing the New Testament story of The Good Samaritan which is called 'The Kind Stranger'. We follow the script in the Lion Storyteller Bible and have great fun practising the best ways to bring the stories to life for the children. When necessary, we make our own props and are learning new skills as we go along. Fun and learning for us as well as the school children!

Jean Gardner



Cheryl Evans, Ann May and Teri Morgan at Danescourt School.

Face to face with Ian Thomas

Ian is Choir Leader at Christ Church

I started worshipping at Christ Church nearly two years ago, after moving to Morganstown. Since my first visit, I have felt really welcome here and that the style of worship is something that is right for me. As Leader of the Parish Choir, I lead the rehearsals each week, prepare new pieces with the choir for special occasions and introduce new materials for the Sung Eucharist - did you notice when we changed the Alleluias that we sing before and after the gospel? I also meet regularly with Jenny and organist Leigh Bracegirdle. The three of us shape the music we use for worship and explore new ways of using music in church.

I have a real passion for the use of music in worship and find it one of the best ways to find a reflective space in church. For me, music has a fantastic ability to hold you, shape your mood and release you from the cares you may have brought into a service, so that you can focus on God. I am hoping to develop more ways that we can worship through music in the near future - keep your eyes out for some announcements in the Spring.

I was brought up in Caerphilly and went to St Teilo's Church in Wales High School. I studied Mathematics at Bristol University before deciding to study Professional Stage Management and Technical Theatre at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. What is technical theatre? The best way to describe it is to list what I have done with those skills: I made a beanstalk grow from a wheelie bin, helped Toad of Toad Hall escape from the police without ever moving and gave the Snow Queen her magical entrance for the Sherman Theatre. On a slightly larger scale, I was involved in creating the second biggest town in Essex (temporarily) for the World Scout Jamboree in 2007, turned concrete tennis courts in Bath with no access into a public theatre space and ran away with the circus to make a safe working events space in the middle of a London car park.

I work at the National Assembly for Wales as a System Manager. It's a grand title that means I look after a number of committee-related ICT Systems to enable Assembly Members and the public to have

access to the right information about the business of the Assembly at the right time.

I'm also a member of the Chaplaincy Team at the Royal Welsh Showground in Builth Wells. There are 20 chaplains from various denominations across Wales who support visitors at the main events at the Showground with a listening and signposting service. As well as the Royal Welsh Show this year, I have spent days at car rallies, ram sales, mountain bike events and WonderWool - yes, a celebration of the various crafts involving wool and other natural fibres! I find it rewarding to be able to support people in this unfamiliar environment. I admit my hi-vis jacket means that I get asked where the toilets are a lot, but I also have some really important spiritual conversations when out on the showground for the day.



Ian at the Royal Welsh Showground

In November I was married to Angharad - we've been together for 13 years. We were really pleased to get married in Christ Church, which is so much a part of the community in Radyr. We even planned the events of our wedding weekend to make sure I was free for the usual events on Remembrance Sunday on the day after our wedding! Now we look forward to seeing the community in church for our Christmas services; to the Choir preparing for our Advent service at the close of the Christmas Tree Festival, and the Nine Lessons and Carols service on 17th December.

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is the world's largest Christmas project, devoted to spreading love, joy and hope to children living in war-torn regions and areas of desperate poverty or disaster. Once again I am delighted to report that we had a wonderful response to the shoebox appeal. On Shoebox Sunday, 19th November, the Sunday School children and congregations of Christ Church and St John's carefully offered their boxes to build the 'wall of love' in church along with those from other organisations—288 boxes in total.

The following day, the boxes were collected, along with those from Bryn Deri and Radyr Primary Schools, and taken to the huge warehouse at Llantrisant. Here they were sorted and crated ready for delivery around the world.

You are all to be thanked most sincerely for your generosity: the congregations and Sunday Schools of Christ Church and St. John's; Mothers' Union; Radyr and Bryn Deri Primary Schools; Gill Davies, Marion John, Rose King and Marilyn Morgan; Radyr National Women's Register; Rotary Club of Llandaff; Radyr and Morganstown WI; ladies of Radyr Golf Club; Radyr Parish Music Group; Rhiwbina French class and individuals who gave donations.

Anne-Marie Phillips
2084 2526



Caring for our buildings

I think the best headline I can give to this report is that we continue to strive to keep our buildings operational, fit for purpose, dry, warm, in good repair, safe and looking nice. We do that for those that worship in our buildings and also for the (very many) people who use our buildings for other purposes. Our buildings are one of the 'shop fronts' of the parish: we want people to have a good impression, and we want them to keep coming back.

I regret to say that, in this context, we have had a few problems with the heating at St John's. Fortunately, it all turned out to be a mix-up over the heating controls. Everything works properly now and we have learned in the process. I am, though, glad to say that the troublesome leak in the Lady Chapel at Christ Church has been located and - fingers crossed - resolved. We had fears that we would have to strip the roof of the Lady Chapel (fearsomely expensive) but not yet! The lights in the Parish Hall have been replaced with LED units, and very bright it is too! Other areas now look a bit dim, so we will attend to them in the relatively near future.

Sadly, the mower at Christ Church was stolen towards the end of the summer period. That is an essential bit of kit to keep the grounds looking good. We will replace it, probably in the spring, and keep it in a more secure housing. Why would someone want to steal it? It wasn't that valuable - but it will cost quite a bit to replace.

We have done the necessary work of cleaning out gutters and tidying the vegetation etc, so we think that our buildings are pretty well set for the winter period. All boring stuff, but essential.

Do have a wonderful Christmas and let us know if you see anything amiss.

Nick Hawkins 029 2084 2561
HawkinsNick@msn.com



Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Our members have learnt a great deal at our last two meetings.

In October we had a fascinating talk about the work of the Wales Air Ambulance service. They have ambulances in all parts of Wales, the busiest being in the north of the country. There is now a dedicated Children's Ambulance. The charity relies entirely on contributions from the public to fund their work.

Linda James came along in November to explain in detail about 1FamilyCardiff. We heard about the progress of the scheme so far, its onward plans and continuing challenges. We very much hope that early in 2018 the end goal will be achieved, and that our organisation may be able to help in some way, whether it be contributing items towards making a lovely home, a welcoming food pack or toys for children. When asked to do or find something, we try to say 'YES'.

At this time of year, there seems to be increasing demands on everyone's time. We ran stalls at 'Get Ready for Christmas', displayed a tree at the Christmas Tree Festival, and will provide Christmas presents for the children and mothers at Hafan Flats in Ely. Several of our members are also involved with the parish's 'Open the Book' and 'Church Alive' projects.

For some light relief, many of us will enjoy a Christmas Lunch instead of our usual monthly meeting on 11th December. On the 7th we also have the opportunity to attend a Diocesan Mothers' Union Advent Carol Service at St John's Church, Cardiff.

Once we get to 2018, our organisation will have a new theme: 'Walking in Mary Sumner's Footsteps'. We have been provided with ideas and resources to help us to follow this theme and remember our founder's original concept for Mothers' Union. Our annual Wave of Prayer will take place towards the end of January.

We shall be very pleased to welcome you if you would like to come along to our meetings at 2pm at Christ Church on the following dates:-

Monday 8th January - Members' Afternoon
Monday 12th February - A talk about Amelia Farm
Monday 12th March - Lent Reflections

Nicky Webber
Branch Leader 2084 3582

To Bethlehem

The moon on high wears
A silver halo round its head,
And stars in the sky are dancing
E'er they go to bed.

There's a happy tune held close
In the midnight air,
And wise men wend their way to Bethlehem
And the King who's cradled there.

Meantime, in the hills
Above the sleeping town,
Angels singing heaven's own song
Wing God's message down.

They speak of the Child who brings
God's judgement and care,
And call us to turn our hearts to Bethlehem,
And join in the shepherds' prayer.

So come with us quick
This Christmastide to greet our Lord
As He, by shepherds and wise men,
Is now adored.

Come near and meet our Saviour
Who hates human strife,
And learn of him who calls us in love,
How to re-mould our life.

Sam Doubtfire

From the parish registers

Holy Baptism

Annabelle Rose Bennett
Gruffydd Dewi Broad
Elizabeth Hazel Flynn

Joined in Holy Matrimony

Ian Thomas and Angharad Richards

The faithful departed

Bill Giles
Kenneth Holland
Peter Jones
Donald Starke
Ricey Thomas



Dates for your diary

1st-3rd Dec	Christmas Tree Festival Christ Church Concludes with an Advent carol service at 6pm on 3 rd December.
7th January	Epiphany Sunday
4th February	Christingle Services St John's 9.15am Christ Church 11am
14th February	Ash Wednesday
18th February	First Sunday in Lent
2nd March	Women's World Day of Prayer service Christ Church 7pm
11th March	Mothering Sunday
30th March	Good Friday
1st April	Easter Day

From the archives

The following is an extract from the parish leaflet of November 1953

BIRTHS

CLARKE - on September 26th at Romilly Nursing Home, to Lorna (née Williams) and William Clarke of Aldersyde, Radyr, a son.

MARRIAGE

October 3rd 1953: Peter David Williams to Alix Mary Smart

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

November 27th, Angela Roberts; November 29th, Susan Elizabeth Roberts; November 30th, Neil Gardner.

A THING OF BEAUTY

The Rt. Reverend Ian Shevill, Bishop of North Queensland, Australia, not long ago produced an apt argument in favour of making our places of worship as beautiful as possible: 'We shape our buildings and they afterwards shape us.'

PAROCHIAL NOTES

A Sunday School was started at the Parish Church on October 4th. 27 scholars were present. On October 11th, 40 children attended a Young People's Harvest Thanksgiving Service and on October 18th the number of scholars was 50. We hope this number will again increase as time goes on. The School 'Staff' consists of a Superintendent Mr W Vincent Spear (who is a Licensed Reader) and three teachers, Mrs Stansbury, Mrs Vowles and Mrs Roberts.

IN DEFENCE OF SUNDAY SCHOOLS

When treating patients in the Department of Psychological Medicine at a well-known London Hospital, I often used to ask them, 'does religion mean anything to you?' Sometimes, the answer was 'no', occasionally 'yes' but the most frequent reply was 'well, I used to go to Sunday School.' That has been their one personal contact with Christianity.

The prevalent feeling of insecurity in England is due, I think, below the fear of war, etc., to the loss of belief in God. And as parents now generally and tragically fail in their duty and delight on themselves teaching their children Christianity, surely Sunday Schools have a more vital part than ever to place in saving this nation from becoming completely pagan. To my mind, we shall never get a Christian England

continued overleaf

continued from previous page

until the laity have real responsibility in the matter.
Dr Sybil Trenellen, The Sunday Times, October 18th.

EPITAPHS

Epitaphs must be a constant source of interest to anyone who is interested in humanity. For there, surely, you find people saying what they would like the world to think. You find an expression of virtues and the facts which they admired. You find what they considered the most desirable aims whether they attained them or not. There is one epitaph which is particularly thought-provoking. It belongs to a young man who was called Arsène who lived in Paris some years ago. Because he was forced to be a grocer when he thought he was worthy of being much more, he hanged himself in his master's house. He left a long memorandum bewailing his hard lot and beseeching his parents to erect a tombstone to his memory and to inscribe on it: 'Born to be a man, died a grocer.'

Parish News subscriptions

If you have enjoyed reading this magazine, why not take out a subscription? Four issues a year for £2.50, delivered to your home (or collect from church). Please speak to Malcolm May at St John's (2055 2352) or Alun and Deb Redwood-Knight at Christ Church (2055 1195).



Solution to the crossword in the last edition.

Old stamps? Loose change?

Christian Aid will put your stamps to good use to raise funds for their humanitarian work, and 'Christmas-the Story' will take your small change (1p, 5p or whatever) to help fund their nativity productions in Tabernacle, the Hayes.

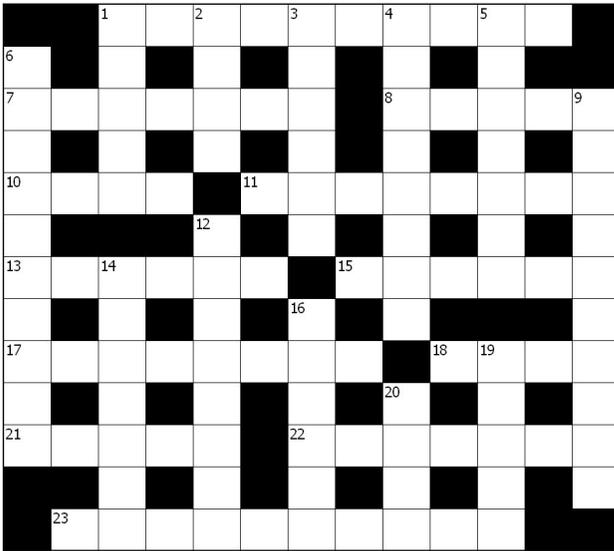
There is a white box for stamps and a jar for coins at the back of each church.

Parish activities

Sunday	9.15am	Sunday School, St John's Church Anne Jones 2055 4749
	11.00am	Sunday School, Christ Church Julie Davies 2084 2923
	6.00pm	Whatever! Christ Church (first Sunday of month, term time) Rector 2084 2417
Monday	2.00pm	Mothers' Union, New School Rooms (second Monday of month) Nicky Webber 2084 3582
Wednesday	10.00am (term-time)	Parent & Toddler Group, Parish Hall Heather Jones 2089 0242
Thursday	6.00pm	Choir Practice, Christ Church Pat Jones 2084 2813
	7.30pm	Bell-ringing Practice, Christ Church Trevor Lewis 2033 9449

Other useful contacts

PCC Secretary	Chris Dale	2084 4464
PCC Treasurer	Peter Umbleja	2084 3279
Building Committee	Derek Bateman	2084 2339
Gift Aid Secretary	Julie Davies	2084 2923
Safeguarding Officer	James Homer-Boyd	2084 3335
Parish News Editor	Lorraine Rees LSrees@btinternet.com	2055 4354
Parish News Distribution Secretaries		
Christ Church	Alun & Deb Redwood-Knight	2055 1195
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22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

Down

1and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8) (5)
 2 The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as ... as a lion (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign

woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19,20) (8)
 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
 6 Offer your bodies as living , holy and pleasing to God (Romans 12:1) (10)
 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)
 12 One who accepts government by God (8)
 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)
 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)
 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)
 20 You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will ... his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21) (4)

Across

1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14,15) (7)
 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith (6)
 17 Stormy (8)
 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone unclean (Numbers 9:11) (4)
 21 Arson (anag.) (5)