

Christ Church News

JANUARY 2019



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Welcome to Christ Church News

You will see inside the obituaries to John Griffiths and Peter Sidaway, both of whom have served Christ Church in so very many ways. We deeply mourn their passing.

John gave loyal support to everything we did and was an encourager of the new. It's sad that he has missed our obtaining planning permission for our New Hall. He must now be rejoicing in heaven with all the saints, knowing that we are set on our new journey.

Please pray that all will now go smoothly.

So, just as in our nation, the turn of the year is heralding new relationships with our continental neighbours, in our little patch we look forward to new relationships with those in our Parish who haven't yet come to understand the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We are starting an Alpha course on 14th January and hope to draw many new people to understand just how much God loves them. Please invite your friends and neighbours to join us in this venture.

Last but not least, our Vicar, Trystan is taking up a new post in the new year as half-time Tutor in Applied Theology at St Padarn's. He **STILL REMAINS OUR VICAR** and is keen to stress this.

Linda Alexander, Editor

IN THIS EDITION WE HAVE SOME PICTURES ON THE BACK PAGE AS WE HAVE DONE SO MUCH OVER THE MONTH!

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda



HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all

THE WORD BECAME FLESH
AND MADE HIS DWELLING AMONG US
WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY
FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH
JOHN 1:14

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THE CHRISTMAS SEASON WHERE SO MANY GAVE OF THEIR BEST

9 Lessons and Carols

was a great success. We had an augmented choir and are most grateful to all those who volunteered their time and skill. Thanks also to those who read so beautifully. Julie and Sue led with great enthusiasm.

A wonderful start to the Christmas Celebrations



CAROLS AT CARTREF



We had over 800 people through our doors over the Christmas period.

Thanks Julie for all your hard work



**Dr Julie Waller:
Christ Church
Music Director
2010 to 2018**

We are sad that Julie has felt it's time to retire. She took over after Peter Sidaway retired (see pg 3). There will be a farewell service in January.

This tribute has been written by Adrian Wilson who is a long standing member of our choir.

Julie took up the position in January 2010. She is an accomplished pianist, but was unfamiliar with playing the lower register foot pedals. However, undaunted and with some guidance, she has mastered the technique. This illustrates how she has enthusiastically embraced challenges presented by being Music Director. She has been more familiar with non-conformist hymns than our Anglican *Ancient and Modern*, but has incorporated the latter into our Sunday services. Chanting psalms is particularly challenging because of the 'pointing' and phasing. All this shows that preparation and practice must take place if our services are to benefit from music support.

"We at Christ Church are most grateful to Julie in keeping our music tradition alive."

Always aware of the importance of outreach activities, the choir has sung evensong in Llangathen Chapel (near Aberglasney in Carmarthenshire), St Teilos rebuilt church in St Fagans National Museum of History and taken part in several Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) Festival services in Llandaff, Newport, and Hereford Cathedrals. Each time the choir sang with other choirs – Christ Church Parish has been well represented at these services over the years.

Our 'band' has arisen from Julie's desire to have varied musical forms in services or small concerts. Many have benefitted from her enthusiasm to spark this off.

It is therefore no surprise that after weekly choir rehearsals and requests to play at special and Sunday services, that she now stands down at the end of December 2018. She has volunteered her time and served us well, rarely being unavailable. We at Christ Church are most grateful to Julie in keeping our music tradition alive.

Adrian Wilson

Those whom we will sorely miss

JOHN GRIFFITHS O.B.E. 1929-2018



Christ Church must sadly say farewell to another of its long-standing stalwarts with the passing of John Griffiths

John originally worshipped with the loyal and committed group that met at Ton-yr-Ywen School. When that out-reach in the huge Old Parish closed he was one of those who chose to join us in Christ Church and he and Margaret worked tirelessly in many ways for us over decades.

John was one of the many distinguished alumni of Cathays High School, he left there to read Chemistry at Cardiff University and went on from there first to work in Defence Ministry facilities and then became a lecturer in the Cardiff College of Advanced Technology which after vari-

ous transformations merged into Cardiff University. It was not an easy marriage of institutions and John was much involved in making it work. He continued his Defence Ministry involvement and was in 1992 awarded an OBE for his services to Civil Defence. He was an enormously respected academic who modestly was reluctant to talk about his achievements.

For us, he was John, who, with Margaret (to whom he was married in 1956) gave us their love and loyalty. Margaret was a pharmacist and they met in College. There were three children of that long, happy marriage: Peter, Huw and Paul.

Most of all for us he will be remembered as the Editor for over 17 years of "Credo", our hugely successful and widely admired church magazine. In this he was supported by Claire Edwards where they made a complementary partnership, and he always acknowledged the value of her support.

John was never a narrow scientist. He had a passion for language and exacted high standards as an editor. In advanced years he studied Welsh up to "A" Level. His wide reading became evident in the contributions he made to study groups like ConneXion. All this was done against a background of multiple health problems that would have daunted most people.

He was involved with the Scouts and was an active member of a Probus Group. He had a wonderful capacity for friendship and, as long as he was able, he was a minister of communion in our church. He also helped with things like providing transport for church activities.

Eventually, health problems overwhelmed him and his death was quite sudden, although to the very last he was helping edit the Monthly Newsletter with Linda.

To Margaret and her boys, we extend our heart-felt sympathies and we remember them in our prayers. Rest in peace, thou good and faithful servant.

PETER SIDAWAY 1933-2018



Christ Church worshipping family had news of yet another sad loss with the death of Peter Sidaway.

Jill and he had moved to Bristol five years ago to be near family, and Peter died of the cancer that he had fought with courage for over twenty years.

We will always remember him for the many services he gave to our church. A brilliant teacher of music to young children, he guided our Sunday School when he joined us in 1965 and then when eventually the post became vacant he was for many years our organist and choir-master. In that role he was inspirational and wrote many pieces for them.

Peter gave unsparingly of his many gifts

But Peter was well known in many other spheres. His teaching skills in music led to his appointment to the Music Department Cardiff College of Education and then he became Head of Department in Caerleon.

After being diagnosed with prostate cancer he reacted to that by becoming a huge fund-raiser for Cancer Research and mentor to patients. He was a life-long organiser for Ramblers and an active member of Probus.

Above all, Peter was a totally committed Christian who gave unsparingly of his many gifts to the service of our Parish and community. In all this he had Jill's support, his beloved wife for almost sixty years. He died just before their Diamond wedding anniversary.

To Jill and Catherine and Michael their children we send our heartfelt condolences and have them in our prayers. Requiescat in pace.

Carols & Mince pies was better than ever



Thanks to all who took part in every way. We had a wonderful evening of poetry, drama and even time to meditate on the Christmas story. Thanks to everyone who showed off their hidden talents..... Even Colin and Our Vicar !



Good Companions Christmas Party

MESSY CHRISTMAS

CHRISTINGLE



JESUS BIRTHDAY CAKE DECORATING AT MESSY CHRISTMAS



Christingle was wonderful and Mary wasn't afraid to be her real self !

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