

Christ Church News

JUNE 2020

EDITION 26/2020

PODCHURCH
CHRIST CHURCH
ROATH PARK

[www.soundcloud.com/
christchurchcardiff](http://www.soundcloud.com/christchurchcardiff)

OUR PODCHURCH EDITION

A Soundcloud with a Silver Lining

When self isolation and lockdown began and the churches were closed, we in Christ Church knew that we had to find a way to keep our church family connected, to inspire each other in these troubles times, and to reach out to our local community and beyond. I contacted one of our church members, Andy Taylor, who had worked for BBC Radio One and Capital Radio in the past. We came up with the concept of podchurch – church services in the form of audio podcasts. These can be listened to at any time – while sitting in the living room, while out for your daily exercise, while making a meal, or while relaxing in the garden.

Putting these digital services together each week takes organisation and time. Many of our congregation are involved with the readings, reflections, prayers, and closing messages – all recorded on their mobile phones. Sue and Owen Hurrell record the hymns, alongside the choir who use a clever app to record voices and instruments in the comfort of their own homes. Andy then does a great job editing and producing the short services, which are of a high quality.

“nothing can fully replace meeting each other in person”

We were astounded at the popularity of these digital services. Our podchurch Soundcloud channel had almost 4000 plays – and, of course, each “play” will sometimes have a whole family listening while sitting around their computer or iPad. And we know from our stats that, while those tuning in are largely our own community in Cardiff, we also have regular listeners across the UK, and, believe it or not, in another 24 countries worldwide! Thanks to the technological skills of another church member, Rachel Priest, we have also recently set up a telephone service which means our congregation members can listen to our podchurch service over their telephone for the price of a local call.



Revd Canon Dr Trystan Owain Hughes

Our podchurch venture has become so popular that we are now producing other recordings for our Soundcloud channel. The Christian mindfulness meditations, for example, are particularly popular at a time of worry and anxiety. Alongside this, we have started Zoom prayer meetings, Zoom conneXion groups, and YouTube reflections. It has taken a bit of time to get used to the technology, but church members of all ages have really got in to Zoom meetings! They are certainly no replacement for meeting together in person, but, while in lockdown, they have provided us another useful online way to connect.

We are, as a church community, still looking forward so much to the time when we can get back together in our church building to connect face-to-face – nothing can fully replace meeting each other in person. But we have realised that using technology has huge advantages for the church today – despite the difficulty and sadness of our present predicament, we have found new ways of reaching out into our community, new ways of offering peace of mind, and new ways of inspiring people to lives of service and compassion.

As such, even though we won't have the capacity to do as many digital services once we are back in our building, we are still hugely keen to continue our podchurch channel after the end of the lockdown.

Christ Church Cardiff Podchurch Channel:
<https://soundcloud.com/christchurchcardiff>

 **ChristChurchCardiff**

 **@ChristchCardiff**

www.christchurchcardiff.co.uk

Some Thoughts on Podchurch by Val Jones (Pastoral Co-ordinator)



Christ Church is like so many large families having members of all ages from nought to a hundred; family members who have attended other churches at previous times; family members who were born in other countries and speak other languages; family members who experience barriers to

living. And the Christ Church family love nothing better than being together, celebrating together and supporting each other at difficult times.

When we were told we were not able to meet on Sundays or during the week we were sad and felt the loss. Many of us instinctively began phoning others, initially informally but also in a more organised way so that those who were isolated would know they were still cared for and could be helped practically when necessary. But in that first week or so we missed meeting, singing and praying together at church services. So what a joy it was when many of us received information that there was to be a service called Pod Church which we would access on the internet... if we had the internet. And many of us do, but not all.

That first service was wonderful: we heard Trystan welcome us in English and Welsh – as he does every Sunday morning. We heard beautiful music played by Sue and singing from Owen; we heard the Old Testament and New Testament Bible read-

“many people had listened in, trying if possible to do so at the time they would normally be in church.”

ings from a member of the congregation which then Trystan reflected upon, and intercessions written especially for us by our Reader in training and the Lord's Prayer read by a family, parents, teenagers and children. And what a surprise at the end when we listened to messages from other members of Christ Church sending their best wishes.

I learnt later in the week as I phoned round that many people had listened in, trying if possible to do so at the time they would normally be in church. One lady who cannot access the internet listened to it on the telephone while a friend of hers played it

on her computer...wonderful!!

I know of at least three members of our church who would not describe themselves as young who have recently acquired a 'tablet' and are now 'online' – simply so they can join in the services.

Since introducing podchurch, Christ Church has also embraced technology for prayer. We now have twice weekly prayer groups via Zoom. All are invited to join although the technology can be a hurdle. The group welcomes neighbours and friends from other churches and this includes a family who live in Kenya – a privilege to hear from, and pray with, people living in such a different country and environment.

During this very difficult time, technology is ensuring we can stay in touch with our Christ Church family; in fact it has enhanced many relationships in that people we have simply smiled at on Sundays and said good morning to, are now true friends to whom we speak on the phone regularly and with whom we share joys, worries and news.

Podchurch technology means we remain the Christ Church family who comes together regularly for worship, reflection and prayer.

Val Jones

From the editor

Another month in lock down is taking its toll on all of us . No more than those who have lost loved ones.

Judith Hill's sister Myfanwy died on Saturday 25th April in the Heath hospital after contracting corona virus. She was only 52 and was Judith's younger sister. She left two grown up children, Abbey and Joseph, and one grandson, Joel aged 4. Our hearts go out to the family in their grief, especially as at one point they thought Myfanwy was getting better, but then unfortunately she took a turn for the worse. **Our prayers are with Judith, Richard and the family at this sad time.**

On a happier note we are looking forward to celebrating Molly Hughes' 90th Birthday on Sunday 31st May, and trust she will have a very happy time.

Also Margaret Beechy, now living in Swansea, who has just celebrated her 99th Birthday and we wish her health and happiness from all her friends in Christ Church.

The 75th Anniversary of VE day



**Rosemary Webb Celebrating
VE day 75th Anniversary
at Cartref**



Brian Ward's memory of VE day

I was thinking today what I was doing 75 years ago today (May 8th) on VE Day?

Well, aged 13, because of the war, I was at a Boy's Boarding School in Gloucestershire in a little Village called Uley near Bristol.

There are a number of Military airfields in the county, and we often saw Spitfires and Hurricanes, fly over our playing fields.

On this Victorious sunny day we had an extended playtime and were wearing our playsuits with White tops in the playing fields.. A Spitfire flew over quite low and seemed to take an interest in us. About Ten of us quickly decided to show our Victory appreciation, took off our White Tops, and lay them out as a V on the playing field.



The Pilot came round again and either waved at us or did a Victory Roll or possibility both. It certainly made our VE day one to remember.

our zoom prayer meeting took us to Africa ...



Our zoom prayer meeting has been an exciting journey. There are usually 7 or 8 members at our meeting, which is a great opportunity to meet up and pray for those on our hearts and minds.

At the first meeting Carol and Ed Mills asked if they could invite their friend, Pastor

Pastor Michael Mwknihka delivering food

Michael from Kimilili in Kenya. We were happy to invite him to join us, and this has been the start of a great friendship, not only with Michael but also with his wife Irene and their children. Rev. Michael is the Youth pastor of a little Pentecostal church in the village and it has been great to get to know him. He prays for us at Christ Church and we pray for his church and his village.

Carol and Edward actually brought him to our church last year when he met a few people, so he knows our church. Corona virus has been a big topic of prayer as you can imagine. Recently a few of us sent him some money to help him with his internet connection as we

kept losing him. He was also able to buy some face masks with the money and some food. His village has now gone into lock down re the virus and unlike our government furlough

"God has provided them"

scheme, there is no money for those who

cant go out to earn a living. Michael decided to put together food parcels for the 12 families in the area who have nothing.

We, as a group, have now given him money to pay for some of the food parcels, and you can see the picture of him delivering the food on his bike. Good Companions have kindly donated towards these food parcels,



Putting food parcels together for the destitute families of Kimilili

and if anyone reading this wants to help with food needs or other needs, then please contact Carol Mills on 07849 589432 or Linda Alexander on 07814 759559 for more info .

I believe that God has led us to help this little village. Taya, who is one of our choir members and a zoom prayer member, has a house-mate in Cardiff who knows Michael.... Now how unexpected is that ! Zoom prayer has linked us up right across the world. When Michael is asked where the food parcels are coming from he just says "God has provided them"... Amen to that !

Linda Alexander

Christ Church Roath Park, Lake Road North, Cardiff CF23 5QN

02920 763151 info@christchurchcardiff.co.uk www.christchurchcardiff.co.uk

Priest in charge: Revd Canon Dr Trystan Owain Hughes Tel: 07976 523634

Lay Reader Dominic De Saulles

Other Clergy: Revd Canon Jenny Wigley : Revd Andrew Wade: Revd Ian Rogerson: Revd Chris Burr

Parish Secretary Denise Searle: at Parish Office (Monday and Wednesday mornings)

Parish Office/Hall Enquiries Tel: 029 20763151

Church Wardens

Haydn Hopkins Tel: 029 20621280

Colin Francis Tel: 029 20751773

PCC Secretary Judith Hill 029 20758080

Treasurer John Hodgson 029 20764485

Gift Aid Secretary Gerald Bradnum 029 20751177

Electoral Roll Officer David Alexander 029 20759704

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator Val Jones 029 20747021

Music at Christ Church is coordinated by Sue Hurrell & Jane Roberts: youth choir on Tuesday evenings in Sue's house Main choir 2nd & 4th Thursday of month 6.30-7.30pm in church email : hurrell.sue@gmail.com / 029 20485171 for **youth choir** Janeg@doctors.org.uk/ 07909 971293 for **adult choir**
We'd be delighted to welcome new musicians and choir members

CHILDRENS & YOUTH WORK

Chatterbox Parents & Toddlers – every Thursday 1:30pm – 3:00pm in the hall.

Contact: **Ann Francis Tel 029 20751773**

FUNKY Church age up to 11 meets each Sunday during the service except for Family service.

Contact: **Val Jones Tel: 029 20747021**

Sandra Hughes Tel: 029 20758588

Messy Church

Contact: **Linda Alexander Tel: 07814759559**

Youth Club J Walkers age 11– 18

Sandra Hughes 029 20758588

Open the Book

Alison Peters 02920761277

Sylvia McCarty 0774324139

ConneXion Groups.....

Meet monthly at various times and in various houses. Contact the Parish office for more information.

Good Companions Tuesdays 2:00pm– 4.00pm

Contact: Val Jones or Alison Peters

Val Jones Tel: 029 20747021

Alison Peters 029 20761277

SCOUTS

Beavers

Monday at 6.30pm

Cubs

Wednesday 6:15pm

Scouts – 84th Cardiff

Wednesdays 7:30pm

ALL INFORMATION FROM

Geoff Payne

Telephone: 02920 756577

OR Caryl Roach, 02920 754463

Rainbows in the church hall

Tuesdays 5:00pm

Contact: Emma Lane Tel 02920 750675