

Christ Church News

DECEMBER 2021

EDITION 44/2021



ADVENT, We are praying that the new Christian Year will bring the wind of the Holy Spirit to blow away the shadows and bring healing to our nation and our world.

**MARANATHA
COME LORD
JESUS**



Coming and going

We welcome **Siôn Brynach** back into our church. He has now returned to Parish life as our curate after a time of great family trauma. He has written a moving article inside.

Inside is an article by **Chris Burr** who is stepping down from his Parish duties on the clergy team. A huge thanks to him and all he has brought to Christ Church.

BBC young chorister of the year

We are awaiting the results of the BBC Young Chorister of the year competition, in which Owen has reached the UK wide final on 5th December 2021.

Happy Birthday

We wish Eric Lewis a big happy birthday. He celebrated his 100th birthday on 21st November with a quiet family party.

Sad Goodbyes

We are sad to report the deaths of **Gloria Thomas and Norma Jenkins**. Both faithful members of our congregation.

Christmas at Christ Church

We're looking forward to Christmas as a time of hope, peace, and joy. Despite the restrictions that are still in place and the worries that we continue to face, Christmas in Christ Church will reflect the spirit of the season and the wonderful message of Jesus's birth.

We have plenty of zoom and podchurch services, as well as services in the church building (booking is essential). Here is our timetable of services, which we are very hopeful of offering, although there may be some changes due to Covid developments:

Timetable of Christmas Services

Sun 19 Dec 6pm: Carol Service in the church

Mon 20 Dec: Nine Lessons and Carols on Podchurch

Tues 21 Dec 10.30am: Messy Christmas in the hall

Fri 24 Dec 3.30pm: Christingle in church (1)

Fri 24 Dec 5.15pm: Christingle in church (2)

Fri 24 Dec 11.15pm: Midnight Mass in the church

**Fri 24 Dec 11.30pm: Midnight Mass Zoom
Spiritual Communion**

Sat 25 Dec: Christmas Podchurch

Sat 25 Dec 10am: Christmas Communion in the church

**Sat 25 Dec 11.30am: Zoom Christmas Spiritual
Communion**

**Sun 26 Dec [no service in the church]: St Stephen's Day
Podchurch**

Peace on Earth - Goodwill to All
Christ Church wishes you a peaceful Christmas



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Owen Hurrell, through to the final of the BBC young chorister of the year competition

CONGRATULATIONS OWEN

We are so privileged to have Owen sing for us in Christ Church. As well as singing in Christ Church he also regularly sings in Llandaff Cathedral choir.

Earlier this year, 13yr old Owen was shortlisted from hundreds of entrants across the UK for the BBC Young Chorister of the Year competition. The contest, for BBC Songs of Praise and Radio 2, was recorded in Salisbury Cathedral just before half term. 5 boys and 5 girls competed in separate semi-finals for 6 places (3 boys and 3 girls) in the final, which will be broadcast on Sunday 5th Dec at 12.30pm on BBC1.

Both semi-finals can be viewed on iplayer if you missed them.

Don't forget to watch the final on Sunday 5th December.

The competition is very strong but we feel that Owen has a great chance of winning.

ALSO Owen successfully auditioned to sing solo in the production of the Snowman in St David's Hall on 9th December.

He will sing in the matinee performance.



Siôn Brynach our Curate writes ...



Siôn Brynach has been part of the Christ Church community since May 2019 and became our curate upon ordination as a Deacon in June 2020. In May 2021 he was given six months leave of absence by the Bishop of Llandaf, but now returns to his ministry at Christ Church.

I was delighted to meet with Bishop June a few weeks ago and be given her blessing to resume my ministry as curate here at Christ Church. When I'd met her previously, back in May, she had rightly decided that I would benefit from six months away from ministry to concentrate on the needs of our family.

In October 2020, while walking along a pavement in Canton, Cardiff, Catherine my wife was involved in a serious collision when a van failed to stop at a T-junction, collided with a car parked opposite which in turn crushed Catherine against an adjacent wall. She suffered life-threatening and life-changing injuries. Since then she has had 4 visits to theatre for surgery – three times at the University Hospital in Cardiff, and most recently – 1 September - at the Royal Free Hospital in London. Her rehab continues and the road between Cardiff and her Burton-on-Trent clinic has become disturbingly familiar to us both.

The lesson of the past year for me has been the sustaining nature of the discipline of discipleship – the daily

pattern of morning and evening prayer. God does indeed give us our daily bread, through prayer and the scriptures. So often the day's readings have given me what I needed to hear (though sometimes didn't want to hear!) that particular day.

"God does indeed give us our daily bread, through prayer and the scriptures"

It hasn't all been doom and gloom. Catherine and I were hugely proud that Mali our 18 year old daughter managed to get excellent A level results despite all the stresses and challenges we've faced. She began studying French, German and Italian at Bangor University in September. A month later our 21 year old son, Pwyll, began his training as a commercial pilot at Gatwick. The application and assessment process took two years, and we're so proud of Pwyll that he managed to get a place on this course. 15 year old Amig and 12 year old Mael have also been stars and demonstrated their resilience.

It has been a great help this past six months to have been able to concentrate on the family, but I've missed you all. Now I look forward both to seeing you at the Christ Church's building and to renewing my contact with the wider worshipping community through PodChurch and the zoom spiritual communion.

Thanks for all your support. Siôn

We welcome you and all the family back to church and will continue to pray for you.

Norma Mary Jenkins



Norma died peacefully at home in her sleep on 14th November. Norma was diagnosed with Alzheimer's eight years ago, but previously she'd regularly attended Christ Church, where she was an active member of the Mother's Union. She continued to take great comfort from attending services, even as

the disease progressed. **Norma will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.**

RIP Norma, good and faithful servant

The funeral will be in Christ Church on Tuesday 14th December 11.15am

Goodbye and a Big "Diolch" to Revd Chris Burr

From January 1st I shall step down from the clergy team here at Christ Church. That's not to say I won't be back from time to time to preach or help out (if invited of course!), but it does mean that I won't be around as much going forward.



The Church in Wales is undergoing great change at present with regard to its ministry and organisation, and the ongoing restrictions resulting from the pandemic have only served to enhance a sense of uncertainty for many. However, with Trystan at the helm, Christ Church is very fortunate to have a large, active, and engaged clergy team and congregation to help navigate those changes, but there are other churches which are less well-resourced, and I feel that it's right to free myself up a little more to help out if and where I can.

Helen and I have received a wonderful welcome here since I stepped down from St Denys Lisvane nearly three years ago, and that's helped enormously as I made the transition from parish ministry to my current role at St Padarn's college.

Christ Church will always be a special place for us, and we'll certainly keep in touch, not least with those who joined us on our Holy land trip in 2019, and of course those who are joining us on our next planned trip this time next year! My sincere thanks for all of your support.

Every blessing from Rev Chris.

Gloria Thomas

Chorister, Artist and a wonderful friend

Gloria was involved in organising many activities within Christ Church over the years, so it is with great sadness that we hear that she has passed away recently.

One of her primary activities was singing in our 4 part choir as a soprano.

Under former choir director, Peter Sidaway, she regularly attended Thursday evening rehearsals and Sunday services. When a 'topline' solo was needed, she sang wonderfully. Dr. Julie Waller followed Peter as Choir Director and Gloria was there. Our Parish choir attended Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) local choral events and special services such as choral Evensong in Llangathen, Carmarthenshire and in St Teilos in the National Museum of Wales, St Fagans, for one of its early services after rebuilding.



Gloria was much loved and greatly respected. She gave her best throughout. 'Gloria' is perhaps a fitting description to say thank you as our chorister.
Adrian Wilson

Gloria was a longstanding friend to many in Christ Church. She organised fund raisers with great expertise, having been a manager at David Morgan's shop in Cardiff. Latterly she discovered her talent as a sculptor and we are proud to have been given a sculpture of Jesus which she felt was truly inspired by God and is her legacy to us.
THANK YOU GLORIA.



RIP Gloria, Good and faithful servant

21st April 1939— 27th October 2021

NEW HALL BOOKING SECRETARY WANTED

Gill Barker has organised the bookings for the church hall for the past 9 Years. We are looking for someone to take over from Gill in the new year. **COULD THAT BE YOU?** It's a job that mostly can be done from home so even a car isn't necessary. Gill is happy to train that person for a smooth handover. **If you are interested in knowing more please ring Gill on 02920 747464**

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Priest in charge: Revd Canon Dr Trystan Owain Hughes Tel: 07976523634

**Clergy Team : Revd Canon Jenny Wigley : Revd Andrew Wade : Revd Canon Ian Rogerson
Revd Chris Burr : Revd Siôn Brynach**

Readers : Dominic DeSaulles : Eleanor Williams

Parish Secretary Denise Searle: at Parish Office info@christchurchcardiff.co.uk

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

**From 1st January 2022 we will become a part
of the North Cardiff Ministry Area.**

Please pray for this time of change in so many directions, that it will be a good and fruitful time as we learn to grow together with our North Cardiff Church Group

CHRISTMAS LEAFLETS

We are looking for volunteers to deliver our Christmas leaflets. Please help Roger Feesey as he takes on the distribution task by volunteering your street.
Roger's mobile is 07851312600

PRAYER We wish you, and all those reading this magazine, a time of refreshment as we come out of lockdown. If you have a particular prayer request please phone Val Jones our Pastoral Care Leader on 07587 007508 You can also email info @christchurchcardiff.co.uk or pop your prayer request into the letterbox on our church door

**THE CHURCH IS OPEN FOR SERVICES BY APPOINTMENT. WE NOW HAVE A RESTRICTED
NUMBER OF 65 PLACES DUE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES.**

If you wish to attend the Sunday Morning 10.00am service please email us at
info@christchurchcardiff.co.uk with your name and telephone number.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE.

THERE IS A PODCHURCH SERVICE EACH WEEK. This is open to anyone and the link can be found on facebook or just follow this link www.soundcloud.com/christchurchcardiff

**WE ARE CONTINUING TO OFFER A SERVICE OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION ON ZOOM WHICH
STARTS EACH SUNDAY AT 11.30am**

**PLEASE EMAIL TRYSTAN, OUR VICAR IF YOU WANT TO JOIN AN ONLINE ZOOM SERVICE OR
PRAYER MEETING Trystan.Hughes@stpadarns.ac.uk**

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