

# Christ Church News

## JANUARY 2022

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**From 1st January 2022 we officially 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 in our North Cardiff Church Group

As the year turns we remember all those who have sad memories of the past year. All those who have lost loved ones, and all those who have been affected by the covid pandemic.

We think about those who have endured lockdown for nearly 2 years due to failing health and fragility.

We pray for our Welsh Government that they will make wise decisions and that we might all start to find normality once again.

We pray that as a church we might start to reach out more into our community and that our eyes would be dynamically opened to their needs.

We pray that our new community hall will start to be built this year and that it will be a part of that reaching out.

We pray that this coming year will be a year which will herald health, life and restoration for us all.

*Linda Alexander, Editor*



**CHRISTINGLE ON ZOOM.** We had over 150 people attending this time of carols and fun. Thank you Joey for helping us.

# North Cardiff Ministry Area

**Ministry Areas are a return to a more collaborative way of working to enable God's people to work together effectively and creatively for church growth. They will help to establish a stronger Christian presence in our communities, and enable us collectively to do more, today and into the future.**

## **ELEANOR WILLIAMS LAY CHAIR OF OUR MINISTRY AREA WRITES . . .**

### **Where are we up to?**

Preparations are now complete for the launch of the new North Cardiff Ministry Area (NCMA) which technically came into being on 1st January 2022. It will incorporate the three existing parishes of Christchurch Roath Park, Llanishen and St Denys Lisvane.

A Ministry Area Transition Team (MATT), with representatives from all three parishes, has been meeting regularly throughout 2021. This has resulted in the provision of governance and staffing structures together with Standing Orders and role profiles that will enable the NCMA to operate fairly and efficiently over the coming years. These can all be found at the Ministry Area tab of the Christ Church website.

### **How will it work?**

A Ministry Area Council (MAC) will be responsible for the mission strategy and oversight, act as a channel for liaison and for taking significant decisions in the life of the whole Ministry Area. The MAC will be responsible for all the finances of the Ministry Area. Bishop June has appointed the Revd. James Griffiths (St Denys) as Ministry Area Leader and Eleanor Williams (Christchurch) as Lay Chair. There will be three smaller bodies. Two of these are sub-committees: Governance, Audit and Risk (GAR) and Finance and Buildings (FAB). The third is a Leadership Team which will meet regularly to discuss the day-to-day issues of the Ministry Area. Its membership will be the MAC Lay Chair, the MA Leader, the MA Vicars, the two MA Wardens, the MA Treasurer, and the MA Secretary.

### **How are individual churches linked to the Ministry Area?**

The MAC shall be sovereign in all matters, but will normally delegate decisions concerning the day to day operations of individual service patterns, finances, fabric and fundraising to the Church Committees. Each former parish will have its own Church Committee instead of the former Parochial Church Councils. The Christ Church Committee will include the Vicar, the Curate, the Congregational Vicar's Warden, the Congregational People's Warden, two Congregational MAC Members, the Church Treasurer(s), the Church Committee Secretary and up to four elected Lay Members. These appointments will be made following nominations at a Church Committee Meeting (similar to a Vestry Meeting) in January. Then, the MAC will meet for the first time in February.

### **Will we all merge together?**

No. Throughout these preparations the MATT has been mindful of three key points on the culture of the MA. These are reflected in our Standing Orders.

- 1 Maintaining the strong bond between the clergy and congregation. Each congregation will retain its own cleric who will continue to provide spiritual and pastoral oversight for the church(es)
- 2 The subsidiarity principle. The MATT believes that individual churches should have the maximum reasonable amount of authority over and responsibility for their day to day running.
- 3 Maintaining our traditions. Each church is unique and has its own traditions and approach. The MATT wants to respect these and ensure that we support each other without interfering with how divine worship or teaching is conducted at local level.

**My hope for us in the Ministry Area is that we at Christ Church continue to grow and flourish as a worshipping community in our own right, but that we benefit from close, cheerful and productive links with our neighbours at Lisvane and Llanishen.**  
Eleanor

**The Church in Wales believes and proclaims the Good News of Jesus Christ. This is Good News, because it encourages each one of us to realise that God loves us, that he has gone out of his way to meet us in the person of his Son, in whom he accepts us as we are.**

**He asks us to draw on his strength to live life to the full, and to bring healing to the world.**

## **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**



A CHRISTMAS  
REFLECTION

# Hope

REVD CANON DR  
TRYSTAN OWAIN HUGHES

The recent movie *A Boy Called Christmas* tells the magical story of how the young St Nicholas met Blitzen and the elves and became the Santa Claus we all know and love. At the start of the film, the King of Finland, played by Jim Broadbent, speaks to his subjects about the dark times they are living in. He says these words: “We all know times are hard. I mean really, really, really hard. I can’t remember the last time I smiled. Can you? What is there to smile about? We’re all miserable. We’re all missing something. And I think we know what that is... Hope. We all need hope.”

After the past few years, many of us can relate to those words. We live in times of turmoil – fractious political uncertainty, heart-breaking environmental damage, toxic ideological divisions, desperate asylum seekers, and, of course, an unforgiving pandemic. In his latest book, the New York Times bestselling author Mark Manson suggests that we all need hope to survive “the way a fish needs water” and, without a hope of a brighter, better future, “we spiritually die”. And he suggests that one of the essential things to build and maintain hope is a sense of control. In other words, if we lose a sense of control over our lives, we lose hope.

**How many of us have felt in control of our lives over the past 18 months? Very few, I imagine. But what the pandemic has actually done is taught us a timeless truth about control. It’s taught us that the narrative of self-control is a lie – none of us have any real control over virtually anything! Our health, our jobs, our partners, our children, our weather – none of us have control over them!**

Christmas, though, is a time when we’re reminded that, for all our lack of control, hope still lives on. This season opens our eyes to the small glimmers of promise all around us, twinkling like the tree lights in our living rooms. In the Christmas story, the angels announce to the shepherds the coming of a great hope – a Saviour who’ll usher in a new world. No doubt the shepherds were expecting to be told that this hope was to be found in a capital city or in a

great palace, in the guise of a charismatic politician or a famous world leader. Instead, the hope entered our world in a helpless baby in a dirty manger in a grubby stable, born to two nobodies surrounded by braying animals, in a small seemingly unimportant town.



Despite the lack of hope in that scene, though, we know that somebody was in control. And, of course, in our own hopelessness, however bad things get, however dark it seems, however stormy the seas, we know that somebody **is** in control. **That is why the light shines in the darkness. And it all started with that first Christmas morning. As the opening words of one Christmas song puts it: “A ray of hope flickers in the sky, A tiny star lights up way up high”.**

That star in the night sky pointed to a Christ child who came to us in poverty and weakness, in a seemingly dull, unimaginative scene. But this is the beginning of the glorious colourful nativity that fills our lives and delights our hearts each Christmas, this is the dawn of a new hope. This is the reassurance that, if we lay down our desperation for control, the one who **is** in control will open our eyes, our ears, our hearts to moments of hope in small things in seemingly unimportant places.

So, yes, when we are reaching out to others through foodbanks or medicines or vaccines or education or charities or environmental care, this is God’s hope in action. But hope is also birthed in our smaller, seemingly insignificant actions – when we’re taking the time to help a neighbour, when we’re reassuring a friend with kind and uplifting words, when we make a phone call to someone who is lonely or struggling, when we speak out for justice for those who are desperate or marginalised, and when we practice kindness and compassion and patience. **This is when God’s light is breaking through all around us, reassuring us,** in the words of Maggie Smith in that film *A Boy Called Christmas*: “the darkest night will end, the sun will rise, and Christmas mornings will come again, when anything and everything can happen”.

To watch a recording of this reflection: <https://youtu.be/reEAQMEd9DO>

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

**info@christchurchcardiff.co.uk    www.christchurchcardiff.co.uk**

**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 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

**PRAYER** We wish you, and all those reading this magazine, a time of refreshment as we look forward to the new year. 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](http://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](mailto:Trystan.Hughes@stpadarns.ac.uk)

**EDITOR** Linda Alexander mob 07814759559 ideas are always welcome  
[linda@familyalexander.co.uk](mailto:linda@familyalexander.co.uk)