

# Christ Church News

## APRIL 2019



EDITION 12/2019

### Welcome to Christ Church News

**We have now come nearly to the end of a long period of Lent where we have considered our Faith in many ways.**

Thanks to all those who have given Lent talks during the Evening Services which have given us plenty of challenging food for thought over this period. We also give thanks to all those supporting Alpha and Stories for the Soul groups.

**We do hope you are able to fully partake in the drama of the Holy Week services, followed by the Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus at Easter.**

As with all months at Christ Church there have been happy and sad moments. Our prayers go out this month to Gill and Mike Barker as they mourn the death of Gill's uncle "Buck" who was "like a father". He was like a father to all of Gills family and we are sad for them all.

Also Alex Kinsey has suffered the death of her grandmother to whom she was very close. Our prayers and thoughts go out to her and Ethan at this sad time, and to all her family.

We continue to pray for members of our congregation who have been hospitalised this month, especially Chris Stacey, Carol Rudram and Deborah Wood. We also pray for Glen Thomas who has recently had a stroke and is in recovery. Glen and Gloria have recently moved to Llanishen.

"Then said Jesus,  
"*Father*,  
forgive them; for  
they know not  
what they do."

—Luke 23:34



Kay Dugdale has finally left the Heath Hospital after a protracted stay and has moved into a nursing home, Ty Coch, in Llanishen.

Veronica Moverley has just celebrated her 97th Birthday.

We thank Shirley Davies for organizing another successful Coffee Morning this month when £451 was raised towards the cost of our new church hall.

There is an old saying "if you want something done, ask a busy person". Well, two very busy people have taken on running the music at Christ Church, namely Sue Hurrell and Jane Roberts. Both are currently taking organ lessons in order to improve their organ skills. They are incredibly busy, and we thank them for their sacrifice of time and talent to lead the music in our church.

Linda Alexander

# Goldfinch Moments



**When I suffered a recent reoccurrence of an old back injury, the pain was excruciating and my mind started dwelling on how bleak the future seemed. After a particularly dark few days, I lay in my bedroom,**

**in pain and frustrated. I looked outside and there, on the telephone wire, staring at me, was a goldfinch.**

I hadn't seen one for a long time, perhaps even years. For a brief moment, my worries faded and I was entranced by this beautiful visitor. As it flew away, I reached down for my iPad and, for some reason, I googled "what is the meaning of seeing a goldfinch?" I was immediately faced with dozens of classical paintings of Jesus holding goldfinches. It turns out that there has long been a link between faith and the goldfinch, and it was even believed that the bird got its red face from trying to remove Jesus's crown of thorns. I then read that, down the years, the goldfinch was regarded as a bird of healing.



**"our call is to open our eyes to see those signs that God's Kingdom is here"**

**There I was, in pain and despair, and who visited me, but a traditional icon of healing and hope. Was that just a coincidence?** I don't know. Did God somehow send that goldfinch? Again, I don't know. Was it God who prompted me to google the meaning of this small bird? Yet again, I don't know. But did God speak to me through that goldfinch? Absolutely. Did God open my eyes to his kingdom of hope and joy through that small bird? Undoubtedly. To me that goldfinch became a sign. A source of hope at a time when I felt only hopelessness. A beacon of light, when all I was seeing was darkness. A glimpse, however faint, of joy, when all I was feeling was pessimism and despair.

The miracles in John's Gospel are referred to by a Greek word, semeia, which is translated "signs". It is, though, only people whose eyes were open who recognised the significance of these spiritual moments. I'm sure there were many in the wedding in Cana who were so busy guzzling the wine that they missed the wonder of that sign, just as I'm sure there were many who were too busy stuffing their faces at the feeding of the 5000 to recognise that wonder. **"Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will never believe", Jesus says (John 4:48).**

As Christians, our call is to open our eyes to see those signs that God's Kingdom is here. After all, in our oh-so-busy lives it's too easy to miss those moments of grace, those glimpses of heaven around us. Carl Jung, the Swiss psychologist, claimed that "modern people don't see God because they don't look low enough". It's not always the big things that reveal God. Sometimes he's in the small details – in the goldfinches. Jung even had a word for these moments – synchronicity – those moments or events where "meaningful coincidences" happen.

These brief moments in the ordinariness of our everyday lives, these goldfinch moments, are the "signs" that God's kingdom is all around us. They are certainly not easy to recognise, especially when we face times of suffering, pain, or grief. But these are the shafts of light in the darkness of our struggles. By opening our eyes to God's love, comfort, and beauty in the small and seemingly insignificant details of our everyday lives, a path of hope is illuminated and our journeys can be transformed.

**Rev'd Dr Trystan Owain Hughes**



Photographs by Rev. Anthony Beer

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY VERONICA



Veronica is one of those people who light up a room. We are thrilled to wish her A Happy 97th Birthday on 30th March. We wish her every blessing for the coming years.

## Sue Hurrell & Jane Roberts now leading the music in our church



Both are highly accomplished musicians, and we are thrilled that they have offered their services. Sue works for the Welsh Government and Jane is a G.P.



## STORIES FOR THE SOUL.... "SLOW DOWN, LISTEN, WONDER, PLAY.... "

Hannah Burch has been leading this wonderful opportunity for calm and reflection over the past few weeks. The last one finishes on 11th April. To get a flavour of what's been happening here's a picture of the story

about Abraham called "THE GREAT FAMILY" which was used in one of the sessions.



## Alpha

Alpha has now come to an end and it has been a wonderful journey for those involved. Many have come to a new understanding of their faith with a new depth of love in their hearts. Watch out for the next Alpha if you missed this one.



## Thank You Lord, for life of Thelma Tagg



Thelma was born and brought up just around the corner from Christchurch in Llandennis Road, and followed her father into the Police Force where she met and married a fellow Police Officer, Graham. On their marriage they moved to Crystal Glen, and went on to have 4 children.

Thelma gave her whole life to the service of others, from initially being a Police Officer, to being Vice President of NARPOL the Association of retired Police Officers; working in the George Thomas (now City Hospice) Charity shop and active in the Trefoil Guild of former Girl Guides. At Christ Church she was responsible for organizing the Christingle Oranges, upwards of 200 made each year; making the Cross in my Pocket; the wonderful Banners used for each Season; the Costumes for the

life size figures in the Nativity Tableau; the Pockets used for our collections each week; repairing cassocks and oh so much more.

No Christchurch celebration would have been complete without Thelma's wonderful talent for cake making and decorating. Her delicious cream scones were always welcome at a coffee morning or cake stall. She was the lynchpin and support of her expanding family, who regularly gathered with her for Sunday lunch.

All this done in the quiet, unassuming way we knew of Thelma. We will miss her. Our prayers go out to her family at this sad time. R.I.P.

*13th December 1929 - 5th February 2019*





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

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**Priest in charge: Rev. Dr Trystan Owain Hughes Tel: 029 20758588**

**Curate: Rev. Dr Jordan Hillebert Tel: 07936 288330**

**Lay Reader   Dominic DeSaulles**

**Parish Secretary Denise Searle: at Parish Office**

**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

**Sacristan** Len Bowker Tel: 029 20758493

Roy Dowell 029 2048265

**Flowers:** The Flower Group   Contact Mary   Payne  
07813551152

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email : linda@familyalexander.co.uk

**Choir and Youth Choir :** Contact Sue Hurrell: 029 20485171

**Music at Christ Church** is coordinated by Sue Hurrell & Jane Roberts [Youth choir and main choir rehearse separately once a month: youth choir on Tuesday evenings and main choir after the 10am Sunday service. We'd be delighted to welcome new musicians and choir members.

**email : hurrell.sue@gmail.com**

**Church Society (Talk & Buffet)**

As advertised, on various Wednesdays in the Hall. Open to all, family and friends.   Contact: Howard Kilvington   02920 317301

**Ladies Keep Fit**   Light exercise. Mondays 7:30pm

Contact: Gill Kilvington 02920 317301

### **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

**Child Protection Officer**

Contact: Colin Francis   Tel: 02920 751773

### **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, Alison Peters or Julia Matthews

Val Jones Tel: 029 20747021

Alison Peters 029 20761277

Julia Matthews 029 21157213

### **SCOUTS**

**Beavers**

Thursday 5:30pm

**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