

Christ Church News

JUNE 2019



EDITION 14/2019

Welcome to Christ Church News

So often through any month in Christ Church we experience highs and lows. This month is no exception.

We have enjoyed the **Big Brekkie** which was an occasion which would be worth repeating for another cause. Christian Aid do so much throughout the world and as house to house collections become more difficult we need to use these inventive new ideas.

Our "Open the Book" drama team has, this month, done their very first dramatic presentation in Ton-yr-ywen school. The children loved it and this could be the start of a great ministry to schools..

Our church has had to face losing two ordinands this month. Gareth wrote last month about his time with us, and Matt has written a lovely piece in this edition. We shall miss you both very much.

We held a church farewell presentation to Gareth after the morning service on 19th May and the young people had their own thank you party for both of them at the J Walkers evening. Both have done a lot of work with the young people and we are truly grateful for their input into the lives of our youth.



This cake was made by the young people and it is so true that we each fill a special place in a community which no-one else can fill. It won't indeed be the same without Gareth and Matt. We wish

then both every blessing in their new parishes.



"you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1: 8

Sadly we mourn the death of Len Bowker this month. Many will not have known this quiet, kind, unassuming man, who was our Sacristan. He went about his business with loving humility and we shall miss him greatly. Claire was a very close friend and inside this edition she has written a moving tribute to his life.

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We held our BIG BREKKIE on Sunday morning 19th May and those who attended enjoyed a wonderful breakfast. Our thanks go to Justine Ryland, who masterminded the event and also to Julie Waller and Jane Roberts.



We also thank Bea, Lena and Will for being our Barristas and keeping smiling throughout the busyness of so many eagerly coming in for breakfast. Thanks also to Emma & Greg Dixon, for kitchen duties. All made the sacrifice of getting up early to serve us.

We raised £579.70 for Christian Aid and are grateful to all who contributed. Jesus calls us to feed the hungry, and care for the sick, the work of Christian Aid certainly does that.... Against all the odds.

If you want to get involved in this or other events, please volunteer, there is always a place for one more !



We mourn the death of Len Bowker

Len Bowker died peacefully at home on 29th April 2019 aged 88. During the last 5 years he had operations and treatments for several cancers. Recovery was due to his fitness, positive outlook and faith – he often read the psalms when confined to inactivity – he was one that rarely complained.

Len often quoted that *“one was nearer to God in his garden than anywhere else on earth”* (or in his case his allotment or out walking).

A different picture from his time of birth and early days of life in Ebbw Vale – when his father, like so many, was unemployed for 15 years in the 20s/30s – allotments played a big part then. He was encouraged to study, went to Swansea University to study electronic engineering, did National service before working in Coventry for the Hawker Siddeley Group before changing career to teach Maths and Physics at Tenby Secondary School for 24 years. He moved to Cardiff on retirement to be closer to family.

Len had hoped to leave his body for Science but if not, it was his wish not to have a funeral or memorial service but just a short committal. Trystan conducted this short reflective service on Wednesday 15th May at the Briwnant Chapel, Thornhill for his daughter Kim and her 2 sons, his son Rob and wife Dee and myself, a good friend to Len for about 14 years after his wife Val died in 2004.

Len was a rambler, had an allotment, was an excellent bowler and had a wish to go travelling – flying for the first time at the age of 76 to Tenerife was the beginning of travel for him with the walking group – never too late! We walked many areas of Wales, includ-

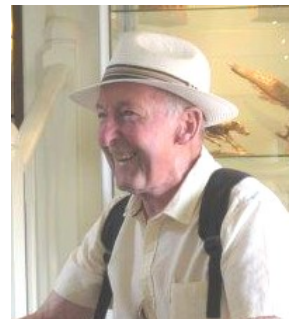
ing Cader Idris and Snowdon in August 2005, Shropshire, North Devon and the Cotswolds in addition to travelling to locations of Europe and the UK often by coach at various times of the year.

Len joined Christ Church in 2005 and was so pleased to partake in the Pilgrimage in 2006 that Sally and Edward organised based in Durham.

When more active, he helped me to improve the Christ Church overgrown car park area, digging the neglected raised beds, clearing the bank area and keeping the weeds at bay around the Church Hall. This was often on a Tuesday when Norma would invite us in for a welcome cuppa with Good Companions. In more recent years Len would offer lifts to members, and despite his health problems continued his duties as sacristan until last Christmas.

His daughter, Kim, and son, Robert wish to thank all who signed the card or sent individual messages from friends at Christ Church - they have been overwhelmed with cards and message from those who knew Len in his various interests. How lucky we were to know someone who thought of others before himself and will continue to inspire us to make the most of each day. A treasured friend, but at peace now, Len.

Claire Edwards



27th Nov 1930— 29th April 2019

Matt Sellers thoughts on being an ordinand here at Christ Church



When I first heard that I would be able to do a placement at Christ Church I was really pleased. I didn't know too much about the church but I knew Trystan well and that I would be in safe hands! From my first Sunday with you I felt so welcome and I think this is one of the many strengths of the church.

I have experienced first

hand the warmth and encouragement of the congregation. Being on placement with you has been a wonderful and rewarding experience. It has definitely felt like home and I thank you all for the welcome and encouragement you've given me.

So what about some personal highlights from my time with you? I have thoroughly enjoyed attending and leading the prayerful and reflective evening services that are held at Christ Church, as well as being part of the wonderful Sunday morning worship. I think that worship is another strength of Christ Church, in its variety and vibrancy and I'm sure that this will continue to be a real blessing to all who come. There have been many moments during my time with you that I've experienced the Lord drawing closer

"What a privilege it's been to work with the fab youth work team and amazing young people at Christ Church. "

to me during worship. This has helped to sustain me and keep me going, both in the valley and in the mountaintop experiences that we can all expect to go through at some point in our walk with the Lord. Being part of the recent Alpha course at Christ Church was another standout experience. I had done Alpha a few times before but it never fails to provide those 'wow!' moments when I'm reminded of the Father's love, the uniqueness of the Son and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. I think for all who took part it was a real encouragement to go deeper in our faith.

When I began training for ordination I thought that I might be leaving behind ministry with young people, having been a full time youth worker many years ago and a secondary school teacher since. But Trystan [and God] had different ideas! What a privilege it's been to work with the fab youth work team and amazing young people at Christ Church. I've really loved the time with J Walkers on a Sunday night, the Youth Alpha course and away day, the weekend away last year and of course the trips to Coco Gelato's! It's been brilliant that my two oldest children, Ethan, 18 and Zara, 13 have been able to get involved too and the youth crossover between my sending church, St. Denys, Lisvane and Christ Church should continue to be a blessing to all involved.

"From my first Sunday with you I felt so welcome "



My prayer for the young people and leaders is that they will continue to know and grow in, God's amazing love for them.

I was thankful for the prayers and encouragement I received last year when my health took a downward turn and I was off work for a while. Being able to just 'be' in church on Sundays during that time was so restorative. I'm also very appreciative of the prayers of the church community when my Dad's health deteriorated and he sadly passed away in October of last year. Being able to visit him in South Africa in August and talk with him about family and faith and Jesus, despite his dementia, was such a blessing. I'm so thankful that my ordination training placement has been a place of encouragement and healing and I appreciate Revd. Trystan and Revd. Jordan's graciousness and concern towards me during this time.

So what's next for me? The ordination as deacon is fast approaching, June 29th. I've transferred from Llandaff to Monmouth Diocese so the service takes place in Newport. I'm particularly looking forward to the pre-ordination retreat at Llantarnam Abbey. I reckon I'll be able to do some serious reading, and catch up on some sleep! **I then join the congregation at St. Mary's Malpas**, where I will be serving as curate for the next season. The plan is to continue teaching RE full time in secondary school with a view to potentially working as a school chaplain again at some point in the future.

As you can imagine with the curacy, full time job and family, things are going to be busy so I would really appreciate your prayers that I would stay close to the Lord and allow him to work through me. Please pray that my wife Soraya and I, and Ethan, Zara and Yasmin would know God's wisdom and direction as we take this next step.

Once again thank you so much! I hope to be able to come to a service at Christ Church in future when I get a Sunday off, so from me it's au revoir!

*We would love to welcome you again in the future....
Thanks for your love to us all.*

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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 Roy Dowell 029 2048265

Flowers: The Flower Group Contact Mary Payne
07813551152

IT support Richard Hill 02920 758080

Christ Church News Editor Linda Alexander 07814759559
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