

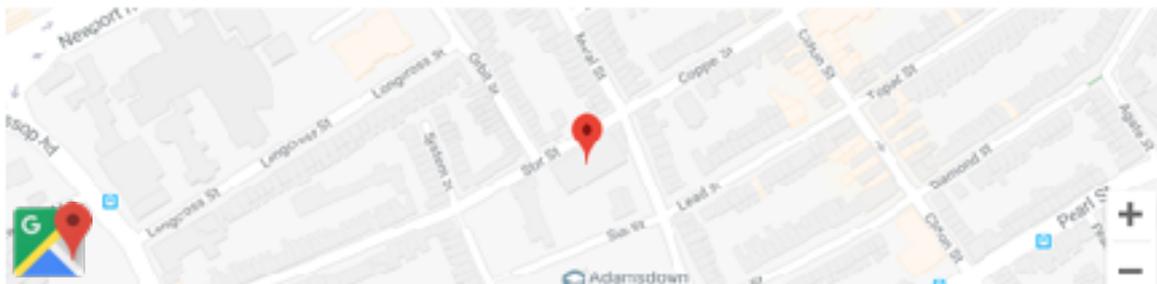
St German's Parish Church
Christmas Greetings



Community Magazine
Christmas 2018

'Peace and Joy to you and your family'

Where we are and Contacts:



St German's Church and Hall
5 Star Street, Adamsdown,
CARDIFF, CF24 0JY

Parish Priest - Fr Phelim O'Hare - 02922 411229 - phelimohare@gmail.com

Website - www.saintgermanwithsaintsaviour.org (for other contact details)

Community - The Church, the hall and, in recent years, the Memorial Garden were built and designed for the local community to use and celebrate key moments of life - happy or sad.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals - If you live in the parish and are interested in having a child baptised or even celebrating your wedding in our Church you are entitled to do so. Please contact the parish priest who will do all he can to help you in this regard. The Church is also used frequently for funerals.

St German's Hall - is used extensively by the Adamsdown Day Centre (Monday to Friday) but there are occasions (mainly weekends and evenings) where other events can be catered for.

The Church - has a very fine organ and a wonderful acoustic and so is very widely used by the BBC, S4C and other groups to host choral broadcasts and other concerts. Details of these and how to hire the hall can be found on our website.



www.saintgermanwithsaintsaviour.org

Welcome from Fr Phelim

Welcome to St German's relaunched parish magazine. Many years ago such magazines were a regular feature in the life of many people who lived in what is now the ward of Adamsdown. Yet times change and now St German's Church is linked with St Saviour's Church in Splott and the pressures of an ever changing world challenge us always to be the presence of Christ in every community.



Our parish is part of the Church in Wales diocese of Llandaff which, in turn, is part of the worldwide Anglican communion. We hope this magazine reveals something about who we are and what we do as well as some practical information about services and events in the build up to Christmas and a New Year. We extend a warm invitation to you to come and see. Our church, hall and Memorial Garden are places of quiet and peace and they are open every day if you would like to visit, or pray, or even simply enjoy the stillness.

Both St German's and St Saviour's give thanks for over a century of prayer and worship at the heart of the communities of Adamsdown and Splott. They continue this to this day and through their desire to reach and tend to the needs of the poor and hungry they seek a hope filled future. The heart of our life together is prayer and worship, with the Eucharist, or Holy Communion, at the centre, coupled with a strong tradition of social justice. In a few weeks time we will open our Church and Hall once more to become a Saturday evening shelter for the homeless, hosting up to twenty souls at a time.

Our community life is diverse, with a place for everyone. Our services and other events are based on the conviction that God's love, seen most clearly in Jesus Christ, is for each of us, and that it is God's will that we enter into a loving relationship with him. We are all special in God's sight, and loved.

Why not find out more by coming to one of our services during Advent and Christmas, joining us in our work with the homeless or simply coming along to any of our social events or concerts.



With every blessing,

Phelim

(Parish Priest of St German's and St Saviour's Churches)

www.saintgermanwithsaintsaviour.org

CHRISTMAS & ADVENT SERVICES 2018

ST GERMAN'S CHURCH, METAL STREET, ADAMSDOWN

Sunday 16 December **

7.00pm Praying the 'O' Antiphons - *O Sapientia* (O Wisdom)

Wednesday 19 December

7.00pm Praying the 'O' Antiphons - *O Clavis David* (O Key of David)

Thursday 20 December

7.00pm Praying the 'O' Antiphons - *O Oriens* (O Dayspring)

Saturday 22 December

7.00pm Praying the 'O' Antiphons - *O Emmanuel* (O God With Us)

Sunday 23 December - 4th Sunday of Advent

8.00 am Said Mass

11.00 am Sung Mass

Monday 24 December - CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00pm Messy Christmas - a fun service of craft activities for all the family to enjoy with refreshments.

11.00pm Midnight Mass

Tuesday 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY

11.00 am Sung Mass for Christmas

ST SAVIOUR'S CHURCH, SPLOTT ROAD

Wednesday 12 December

7.00pm Advent Healing Service

Monday 17 December **

7.00pm Praying the 'O' Antiphons - *O Adonai* (O Lord)

Tuesday 18 December

7.00pm Praying the 'O' Antiphons - *O Radix Jesse* (O Root of Jesse)

Friday 21 December

7.00pm Praying the 'O' Antiphons - *O Rex Gentium* (O King of the Nations)

Saturday 22 December

12 Noon Carols and a Cuppa

Sunday 23 December - 4th Sunday of Advent

9.30 am Sung Mass

Monday 24 December - CHRISTMAS EVE

6.00pm Crib Service & First Mass of Christmas

Tuesday 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30 am Sung Mass for Christmas

**** Praying the O Antiphons is a time of quiet reflective prayer each evening in the week before Christmas that reflects on the prophecies of Isaiah that later became titles of Jesus Christ. We gather and pray for about 35 minutes and it is meant to be an antidote to the schmaltz of the Christmas 'shopping' season. More details on this can be found on our website www.saintgermanwithsaintsaviour.org**

Churches Together Nightshelter at St German's



What - A bed for the night with two hot meals for those who are homeless in the Cardiff area.

Why - This year we have an average of about 80-85 individuals who are homeless. Some go to established centres, others stay on the street and some come to the Churches for shelter and refuge. Each person has his or her own reasons or causes for their plight. Regardless, we open our doors because it is part of our mission and identity as followers of Christ - the itinerant, homeless Jesus.

Where - St German's Parish Hall each Saturday night in Winter (other churches throughout the city host the shelter on the other nights of the week)

When - From December to March - 7pm until 7:30am the following day

Who - Our volunteers are either church goers or family or friends of churchgoers. We are truly ecumenical with helpers from different congregations: Baptist, Anglican, Roman Catholic, Seventh Day Adventist, City Church to name just a few.

If you would like to help us and, perhaps, join in this year please come along to our information session in St German's Church on Monday 10 December at 7pm or contact Fr Phelim phelimohare@gmail.com . Even a few hours once or twice in the season would make a great impact.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A NIGHT SHELTER - 17 MARCH 2018 **by Mrs Hilary Lovitt (Parishioner of St German's, Adamsdown, Cardiff)**

The banging on the door was persistent and I couldn't ignore it any longer. I glanced at the kitchen clock as I dried my hands and went to the front door. "It's only 4.30 Carl, and you know we can't open the door till 7.00pm, those are the rules and we can't change them. "But it's snowing and I've been out since 8.30 this morning" It was with a heavy heart that I closed the door

saying I would bring him a cup of tea and a sandwich. When I returned, there were now five of our guests waiting and the snow was falling quite thickly. Even though we were far from ready and we were short of volunteers, it was agreed that we should open the doors early and welcome our guests. In they came, cold, tired and hungry, grateful to be out of the bitter weather.

So began the last evening shift of our Night shelter project which had begun 13 weeks before. For this last night Angela and I had promised to cook a roast chicken dinner with all the trimmings, followed by apple crumble with custard and there was much still to do. The requests for teas and coffees came thick and fast and with them the ever polite enquiries” How are you ladies?” and “Have you had a good week?” along with the now familiar good humoured banter. It was good to see their friendly faces and to know they were safe and in good health. In the main hall we could see the preparation and setting up of the beds was well underway and as the weather continued to deteriorate so more guests were arriving and more beds were being made ready. The volunteers worked together, knowing exactly what had to be done to get our night shelter ready to receive our guests. In the foyer, we could hear the buzz of conversation and the front door opening and closing as more guests arrived.

Now all was ready and Fr Phelim called the volunteers together for a brief meeting to go over our duties and as always, concluded with a welcome few minutes of peaceful prayer that summoned our resources and strength for what ever challenges the night might hold. We learnt that so far we had fifteen guests and they were all hungry and looking forward to their meal. Many of our guests were quite overwhelmed that they were going to have a “proper” dinner. “It’s just like my Nan used to make” and “Are we really having roast chicken?” or “Could I have a leg then, please?” were just a few of the comments we heard. We knew it was a success by the empty plates that came back. Then came the apple crumble... “Did you really make this just for us?” The pleasure that they had because someone had done something ‘just for them’ is hard to describe. We who take so much for granted should learn from guests like Anton. “We do appreciate this” he said “that was the best meal I’ve had for months”. Then it was time for bed, lights were dimmed and the room grew quiet as they drifted into an exhausted sleep. Back in the kitchen as we washed the last of the pans and put away the plates and cutlery, we reflected on the evening. Tired but exhilarated, we knew we had achieved something good and we were the richer for it. Time to go home now, as we were back in the morning for the breakfast shift. We left, leaving our night shelter in the very capable hands of the night shift team: a loyal volunteer and Fr Phelim, who had stepped in at the last moment to replace another volunteer who was unable to make it because of the snow.

It was quite dark when we left home at 5.15am on Sunday morning and the snow had settled quite heavily. All was quiet at St German's and Fr Phelim said the night had passed peacefully without any undue incidents. Our night shift volunteers left to go home for some well earned rest and we began to prepare for our breakfast shift. I always dreaded the moment when the lights were switched on, it seemed so cruel to rouse them from their sleep as all they had to look forward to was another day on the streets of our city. But as usual I was surprised and gladdened by their good humour even at this early hour. Cups of tea and coffee were made as quickly as possible, and as fast as they finished one cup they were asking if they could have another. Soon the smell of bacon and sausage was enough to prompt the questions "When will breakfast be ready please Miss?" or, "Ladies, any chance I can have two fried eggs please?" To keep up with the demand we both manned a frying pan as the orders for a full "Welsh" just kept coming. Conscious as always of the time, we saw that Fr Rhys Jenkins had arrived to take the 8am Mass in place of Fr Phelim. We were nowhere near close to finishing the task of clearing up and many of our guests were reluctant to leave the warmth of the shelter. We really wanted to go to Mass but how could we leave our guests. Two of our regular volunteers told us they would stay and see our guests out. With gratitude we accepted their generous offer and with tears in my eyes I said goodbye to those guests who were remaining. Accompanied by three of our guests we went to Mass and the peace and spirituality of our beautiful church washed over me. When we exchanged the Peace I was engulfed in a bear hug "thanks for everything you've done for us" was the gruff response. How strange that I was the one who felt privileged and that it was me who had gained so much from this experience.

When Fr Phelim first told us about the Cardiff Churches Night shelter scheme and how it could be part of our mission at St German's, little did we realise what that would entail. On reflection, so much can be achieved as long as the key ingredients are present: a bit of vision, much enthusiasm and powers of persuasion, enormous goodwill and a willingness to put time and energy into a worthy cause. We are delighted with our hosting of a Night Shelter this year although it was a lot of hard work. It was made so much easier because of the many volunteers from the different parishes of Cardiff Deanery, as well as from other churches and traditions who took part. I think we can honestly say that rather than looking on and doing nothing, we stepped up and made a positive difference to the lives and wellbeing of just some of the homeless men and women of Cardiff.

ALL NAMES OF OUR GUESTS HAVE BEEN CHANGED

‘One is nearer God’s heart in a garden than anywhere else on earth’. (Dorothy F Gurney)

St German’s Memorial Garden Recreated

Hidden behind a two metre fence is a haven of peace and tranquility known as St Germans’s memorial garden.

The garden is open from Monday to Friday, 9am to 3.30pm and on Sundays from 10am to 12 noon. The next time you are in the area, you are welcome to take 5 minutes to experience for yourself the beauty of this space that lies in the heart of Adamsdown.



It was established by the parish priest at the time, Fr Roy Doxsey, some twenty years ago as an additional welcome space for Church use. Garden parties, afternoon teas and sometimes even church services have taken place there.

Once Fr Roy retired, the garden ceased to be used on a regular basis and it soon became overgrown and overrun with weeds. A parishioner of St German’s, Hilary Lovitt, herself a keen amateur gardener, took upon herself the challenge to restore the garden. “It upset me to see this once beautiful garden neglected and unloved, so with the help of my husband Peter, the task of restoring the garden began’.

After months of hard work that included an ambitious replanting scheme the transformation was complete. Since then, a number of enthusiastic fellow parishioners have joined us, with collaborative working parties a few times each year, to ensure that the garden maintains its well-kept appearance. If you’d like to join us please let us know.





Please join us for Messy Christmas in St German's Church on Christmas Eve at 4pm.

Messy Church is very different from other types of services as people are free to wander where they want as the chairs are pushed to the side. We have about ten different craft based stations where children and adults can get Messy exploring the meaning and themes of Christmas. There may even be a Christingle included as one of the craft challenges. It is perfect for children and young families to explore and celebrate Christmas and get into the spirit of why this feast is so joyous for Christians. Light refreshments will follow afterwards. For more details see our website.



THE ADAMSDOWN DAY CENTRE

The Adamsdown Day Centre has been running for over 45 years and, in its present form for over 16 of those years. As its name depicts, it is based in Adamsdown and based at St German's Church Hall in Star Street. It is mainly for 'older' people although our motto 'For the Young at Heart' speaks volumes. Everyone is welcome! It is open not only to the Community of Adamsdown and surrounding areas but to anyone who would like to join us.



The Day Centre is open from Monday to Friday each week from 9:00am onwards to 3:00pm (closing slightly earlier on a Friday), and offers a friendly environment for people to come together with others of a similar age. There is a welcome cup of tea or coffee on arrival, a mid morning cuppa with cake/biscuits and a two course lunch at 12:00noon. There follows the much-awaited game of bingo!!!

Many who attend have little or no family and rely on this service, as not only do they get a hot nutritious meal but it also enables them to be as independent as possible, embracing life to the full and thus avoiding social isolation. By attending the Day Centre, it also provides much needed respite for their families. We welcome everyone through our doors and cater for **everyone**. A hot meal is also taken to those who are not able to attend due to illness; we can also arrange doctors appointments when we recognise a problem that may lead to a worsening situation.

The number of people who attend say they feel less isolated and vulnerable and many say their confidence has increased due to having somewhere to go and to have friendships. Many say they feel as if we are their "second family". Local schools/colleges also come in to put on entertainment and thus establishing an all important link between the older/younger members within our Society; it is a joy to witness this interaction.

The Day Centre offer other activities such as day trips to places of interest, meals at local eateries, theatre trips, a much loved annual holiday away, the venue which is chosen by the members themselves and of course as already mentioned, the "daily dose of bingo!" Rubicon Dance come in every week to provide exercises to music and Goldies Cymru, a nationwide charity, come in to provide a "feel good" singalong which is well loved. We have a weekly hairdresser and aromatherapist sessions and Chiropractor who attend on an ad-hoc basis. These are key services for many.

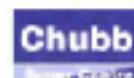


The local V.E.S.T. Service provide transport for our members for a small charge and groups and social work teams often refer people who may benefit from our service. Regular meetings are held to identify problems and all members of the Day Centre are asked to contribute with suggestions that they feel would be of benefit and these are always carefully considered and when possible, taken on board.

Have we whetted your appetite? Would you like to hear more? Then why not speak to the Day Centre Manager, Marisa Parry on 02920 482899 during the working day or by email on marisajparry@hotmail.co.uk or just call in and see Marisa and speak to her as she'd love to hear from you.

with the compliments of

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“All God’s Creatures have a place in the choir ...”



Fr Phelim with Llandaff Cathedral Choir for the celebration of Choral Evensong for Candlemas (Friday 2 February 2018)

****New for 2019** ‘Community Choir’ at St German’s Church Thursdays during Term Time at 7pm**

If you can carry a tune and don’t mind having a bit of fun whilst singing hymns and arias from Wales and beyond, then please know you have a place in our choir. We are not ‘Pavarottis’, nor in any way precious or prima donna-ish, but we just love to sing.

If you are interested, or want to know more, contact Brian (St German’s organist) at b.williams538@gmail.com or call: 02920 703429, 07491 661582.

**Opening meeting in St German’s Church on
Thursday 10 January 2019 at 7pm**

www.saintgermanwithsaintsaviour.org