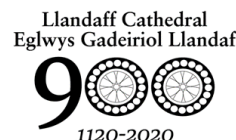


Llandaff Cathedral



19 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Llandaff Cathedral Sunday School – Invitation to Register for 2020/21

As you will appreciate, it has not been possible for Sunday School to open as usual at the beginning of September. Nonetheless, it has been lovely to see some of the children in church for the 'All Age' 9.00am Service on Sundays, and we know that many others have been able to follow services online and complete the 'Sunday School at home' activities which have been sent out.

On 10 September we had an encouraging meeting with the Sunday School leaders to take stock of the situation; and we considered how we might operate Sunday School safely. Our discussions took full account of arrangements in our local primary schools which have now re-opened. Whilst we cannot set a firm date yet for re-opening, in view of the recent upsurge in virus cases, we do want to share our plans with you and **invite you to register children** for the new school year, so that we will be ready to start quickly when circumstances allow. However, in order to achieve a COVID secure environment, Sunday School cannot operate as previously, so when we re-open the following key principles will be applied:

- Years 5 & 6 children should be registered but will not attend Sunday School 'lessons' for the time being. Instead we are inviting them to sit in two separate year bubbles in the choir stalls, on either side of the altar, during the 9.00am Service. A Sunday School leader will be with each group to help them to follow the Service and the format will encourage their participation;
- There will be separate classes in Sunday School for children in Years 1, 2, 3 & 4. These will operate on alternate weeks, with Years 3 & 4 in the first week back and Years 1 & 2 children in the second week. This fortnightly pattern will continue for the time being to facilitate social distancing and the maintenance of the year bubble system; So only two Sunday School classes will operate each week;
- Sunday School classes will end at 9.30 and the children will then come into the Cathedral, with their leaders. They will be brought to the front of the altar in two separate groups, where they will receive a blessing and perhaps say something to the congregation about the activities that week. They will then process out through the West Door (in fine weather) with their leaders, or into the St David Chapel (poor weather) and can be collected at that location;
- We regret that it will not be possible for Sunday School to cater for Pre-School / Nursery and Reception Class children whilst the pandemic continues; one reason for this is that these younger children sometimes need their parents with them, and no parent can be allowed into the Sunday School class in view of the COVID restrictions;
- Children of any age will still be able to come to church, but if for example a family has a child in Year 1 and a child in Year 4, one child would go into Sunday School whilst the other would remain in church throughout the Service, sitting with the adults who had brought them;
- Children must be registered in advance and attendance will be logged on arrival at the West Door;
- Families **must not** come to church if any family member has virus symptoms, is required to self-isolate or has had a recent positive virus test.

No doubt you will have further questions about these plans. We will be including a Sunday School 'Frequently Asked Question' section in editions of the Cathedral Newsletter. But in the meantime we invite you to register your child(ren) on the attached form – one form per family this year – and email the completed form to admin@llandaffcathedral.org.uk

Rev. Canon Dr. Jan van der Lely
Chancellor, Llandaff Cathedral

Dr Gerard Bates
Sunday School Coordinator

