

LLANISHEN PARISH PROFILE 2019.

The beautiful Parish Church of St. Isan is set in the heart of Llanishen village in the north of Cardiff. The present church was built on previous church foundations going back to the 12th century. It all began in 537 A.D. when a pupil monk named "Isan" established a religious settlement or "Llan" at "The Oval", Llandennis Road. Later in 1080 Tewkesbury Abbey established St. Mary's Church and a Priory in Cardiff and Llanishen church was built as one of the "chapels of ease" to service the tiny hamlet of Llanishen. As the population of Llanishen grew, the daughter church of St. Faith was built in 1958 in Morris Avenue.



The Parish Church of St Isan



The daughter church of St. Faith

Today Llanishen is a popular and thriving suburb within the city of Cardiff. The parish boundaries extend northwards to Capel Gwyllym and southwards to Maes y Coed road where it meets the boundary of the parish of Christchurch. To the east it has a winding boundary that extends south to Rhyd y Pennau road taking in the Llanishen and Lisvane reservoirs with its boundary meeting Lisvane parish. To the west the parish extends to Caerphilly Road sharing a boundary with the parish of Whitchurch.

The 2011 census stated that the Llanishen ward had a usual resident population of 17,417 which at the time was 5% of the Cardiff total. It is an area of Cardiff that is growing and within the parish there have been a number of new developments with a further major housing development planned for the area presently occupied by the tax offices. The housing is varied and comprises private housing, council housing, 5 primary schools + 1 Catholic Faith primary school, 1 high school and 1 special school for pupils with special needs. Also within the parish there are communal flats, sheltered accommodation, 3 residential care/nursing homes and 1 home for adults with special needs.

The church in Llanishen consists of the parish Church of St. Isan and the daughter church of St. Faith. There is one incumbent for the Parish – the Reverend Michael Witcombe who became Vicar of Llanishen in 2002. Fr. Michael will be retiring from the parish at the end of April 2019.

There are 4 Sunday services (3 at St. Isan – 8.00am, 10.30am and fortnightly at 6.30pm with 1 at 9.00am held at St. Faith's). Baptisms are held weekly during and /or after the 10.30 service and at other times by special arrangement. Attendance figures are generally good although variable – approx 30 at the 8.00am service, 100 at the 10.30 am service and 20 at Evensong. St. Faiths church serves a small but consistent number of regular worshippers totally approx 20 in number. There is also a weekday service held on a Wednesday morning.

The make-up of the congregation is spread across all age ranges and there are a number of young families attending church with their children. In addition to church-based services there is a twice monthly Messy church session organised by Iain Crighton, our Child and Family Worker. The church is very popular for weddings.

The church has an active PCC, a Mother's Union branch and many teams of volunteers. The volunteer teams include bell ringers, choir members, servers, acolytes, Eucharistic Ministers, welcomers, Holy dusters, flower arrangers and churchyard gardeners. The church also opens two days a week for visitors. All these people present a warm and friendly welcome to those who enter our church or pass through the churchyard.

In addition there are groups who work outside the church and these include – baptism visitors (these volunteers hold monthly Baptism coffee mornings for families, assist during the Baptisms and follow up those baptised for a 5 year period, inviting them to return to church to relight their baptismal candle). There is a group of Eucharistic ministers who

take communion to residential / nursing homes and to individuals in their own homes and also a bereavement group and a number of parishioners who liaise with local schools.

There is an active outreach group that was originally formed to take forward the work undertaken by the parish in relation to the Seven Sacred Spaces. As time and activities developed it has become a general outreach group – “taking forward mission for all”. This group aims to promote the Christian faith and our church at significant times in the church calendar, take our faith out into the community by participating in local community events, be proactive in creating outreach opportunities and to ensure we maintain, develop and promote our Christian faith by being welcoming and friendly to all those we encounter in our churches and in the wider community. The parish also produces a monthly magazine.

All activities and groups are inspired, established and coordinated by the Vicar. His own ministry to those preparing for confirmation and marriage, funerals and the families of those recently bereaved, initial contact with Baptism candidates and much more seen and unseen ensures that we are a thriving, growing, outreaching church. We offer a warm friendly welcome to all members of the community and have established good relationships with other churches, local businesses, community police and local councillors.