



# St Woolos Quarterly

## The Newsletter of Newport Cathedral

*Llythyr Newyddion Eglwys Gadeiriol Casnewydd*

Winter 2014/15

### New Year: from pub to 'hub'

I hope I won't always be writing in this newsletter with matters to do with the Cathedral's buildings. That said, there is need for that at the moment even if there won't always be.

A New Year is always a time to consider new opportunities and this one is no exception. 2015 will see work begin to adapt the old 'Church House' premises into a new 'hub' for the Cathedral's life and ministry on Stow Hill and beyond. It is clear that the Cathedral needs some space for its very small administrative requirements (we have no office at all, at the moment.) We are not a great institution and don't want to become one but we do have a few needs which the ancient church building alone is not able to meet. So we intend to have an office and a real street address and letterbox. It will make life a great deal easier and more efficient.

We also imagine that we shall have a hall with kitchen and toilet facilities. It will almost certainly be possible to rent the hall and we hope to be able to host receptions after funerals and baptisms - though wedding receptions may be beyond us.

Some of the space will be rented out to bring in sufficient income to cover outgoing expenses, etc. though at every stage we shall have an eye on making the space available to groups and individuals who want to contribute to the good of the local community and beyond. I am already in touch with some groups and it won't be possible to do everything we might like - though we certainly will do more than we are doing now.

*I wonder what you think we might usefully accommodate in the space we shall have available? What would you like to see operating within*

*the building when it opens? Do you know of any community groups looking for space in which to operate? Can you think of organizations - small ones or branches of larger ones - that might make their local base in the reconfigured building?*

(We've toyed with the idea of a post office but that looks, alas, completely impractical and it simply wouldn't have sufficient use to



be commercially viable. That is obviously why so many small post offices have gone to the wall in recent years.)

If you have ideas, please let us have them in writing, with your contact details so that we can acknowledge what you send and respond to you. You can send any ideas to us at [enquiries@newportcathedral.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@newportcathedral.org.uk) and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, I hope 2015 has got off to a good start for you and yours and I look forward to finding out more about who our neighbours are on Stow Hill and who the readers of this newsletter are as the opportunities of 2015 unfold for us all.

Lister Tonge.  
Dean

### ARCHITECTURE CORNER



#### John Piper mural & window\*

In 1962, as part of the project to extend the east end of St. Woolos following its elevation to permanent cathedral status in 1949, the Dean and Chapter decided to invite John Piper to submit a design. Piper was already well known as an outstanding contemporary artist working in many different media, including stained glass. His designs were realised by the stained glass maker Patrick Reyntiens, their most famous work being the baptistery window in Coventry Cathedral (1962).

The intention of the architects of the extension, Caroe & Partners, was to create a challenging and exciting reredos and rose window; although Piper's initial design received a mixed reaction from the Dean and Chapter, he was instructed to proceed with the commission, and it was completed in 1963.

Allowing his abstraction full reign, Piper's mural, through the use of a coloured marbling effect, was said to convey aspiration, lightness, airiness and a sense of calm. The window, emphasising a cross within a circle and using traditional tones of yellow and ochre, further enhances the simplicity in its overall effect. One commentator concluded that "each beholder is different ... and reacts according to her or his own makeup ... it is the mind that really does the seeing".

\* Information derived from: Corten, Tony - John Piper and St. Woolos Cathedral, Newport. *Journal of Stained Glass* 2012, Vol. XXXVI, pp. 78 - 92

## **Worship at St Woolos**

Regular service times are below: on special occasions these may change

### Sunday

8.00 Holy Eucharist

10.30 Sung Eucharist

(also Sunday School)

6.30 Choral Evensong

### Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

8.00 Morning Prayer 8.15 Holy Eucharist

5.00 Evening Prayer

### Thursday

8.00 Morning Prayer 8.15 Holy Eucharist

10.30 Holy Eucharist

5.00 Evening Prayer

### Friday

8.00 Morning Prayer 8.15 Holy Eucharist

7.00 Choral Evensong

## **Worship at St Martin-in-the-Gaer**

Sunday 9.30 Holy Eucharist

**W**elcome to the New Year edition of the St Woolos Quarterly Newsletter. Whether you're already a member of the regular congregation, a resident of Newport or a newcomer to the city wanting to know more about the places of Christian worship, or a visitor to this historic Cathedral, the aim of this publication will be to highlight some of the regular and the occasional activities and events that take place here, as well as informing you about this fine building, its past and its future.

## Mothers' Union at St Woolos



Mothers' Union is an international Christian membership charity that aims to promote stable marriage, family life and the protection of children through praying, enabling and campaigning.

There has been a Mothers' Union Branch at St. Woolos for over a hundred years. Its current membership is 21 and is part of the Newport Deanery within the Diocese of Monmouth, which has 36 branches. There are more than four million members of Mothers' Union today in 83 countries around the world.

Our meetings are held in the Cathedral Hall on the first Thursday of each month (except January and August) at 2.30 pm. At each meeting there is always a short service led by one of our members. We have speakers on a variety of subjects, some from our own Church, some from Mothers Union itself

and others from around the area. At other meetings we may have more social events e.g. a tea to celebrate St. David's Day or perhaps an event to raise money for a special cause.

Our Projects are, supporting the local hospitals by donating emergency toiletries and knee blankets for the children in wheelchairs in hospital, and children's nightwear and food to Newport Women's aid. This is our way of showing God's love to all those families who have met with adversity (one of the main purposes of the Mothers' Union).

We hope to see you sometime.

*Barbara Marsh, Branch Leader.*

**Nuthouse**

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Established 1977 [www.nuthousehairdesign-newport.co.uk](http://www.nuthousehairdesign-newport.co.uk)

Restaurant



Station  
Approach,  
Bassaleg

Junction 28 is a tastefully decorated converted railway station, with the lower part of the restaurant decked out to represent an old-fashioned railway carriage. The restaurant is tucked away in a quiet corner of picturesque Bassaleg, on the outskirts of Newport, overlooking the River Ebbw. We aim to give you an excellent dining experience.

**Reservations 01633 891891**

[www.junction28.com](http://www.junction28.com) [enquiries@junction28.com](mailto:enquiries@junction28.com)

### The Cathedral is open to visitors:

Monday to Thursday 8am until 5pm

Friday 8am until 8pm

Saturday 9am until 4pm

Sunday 10am until 8pm

## News at St Woolos

The Newport Cathedral Website - is now launched and you are very welcome to visit

[www.newportcathedral.org.uk](http://www.newportcathedral.org.uk)

The website contains lots of information about the Cathedral, its history, architecture, the clergy and other staff. You can see the Service details for the coming week, as well as the Readings for the following Sunday morning service. There are previews of up-coming concerts and other events. We always welcome feedback and ideas to improve the website.

**The Pub** - The Six Bells, more recently known as Church House, across the road from the Cathedral, is now owned by the Dean and Chapter of St Woolos Cathedral. The Dean's message on Page 1 explains some of the hopes and plans for the new premises.

The newly-appointed Director of Music, Dr Emma Gibbins, will be taking up her post in the New Year, probably at the start of February. We look forward to her working with the choir; and she will also be giving a recital of organ music in July.

### *The Cathedral Shop* is open :

Mon - Fri 2pm - 4pm, Sat 10am - 12 noon, Sun -before & after services

The shop sells a wide range of greetings cards for all occasions, gifts and jewellery as well as a children's corner.

*'We have signed the Fair Trade Pledge'*

## A Christmas Concert given by the Flying Shepherds



There was an air of expectancy among those who gathered in St Woolos on December 13<sup>th</sup> for the latest in the current series of lunchtime recitals and concerts. The Flying Shepherds, led with flair and humour by the Revd Andrew Morton, are well known to audiences in the Cathedral. This local choir has a very varied repertoire and on this occasion, beginning with Michael Praetorius' *Salve Unigentium*, they launched us on an Advent and Christmas journey which included the familiar and the unfamiliar as well as the downright surprising. How many, I wonder, had heard the delightful *I saw a stable* by Alan Woollard? Many of us are familiar with the Boris Ord setting of *Adam lay ybounden* but on this occasion the choir introduced us to something rather different

with a strong underlying rhythmic strength. Of course, there were old favourites such as *Stille Nacht* but also a less familiar but beautiful setting of *The Angel Gabriel from heaven came* by the sixteenth century master, William Byrd. By contrast there was an Eastern European carol based on a Tennyson poem and familiar words such as *There is no rose of such virtue* were brought alive with fresh, if unfamiliar music. But the traditionalists were not forgotten. Bach's *O little one sleep* and the medieval Latin of *Gaudete* were instantly recognisable.

Individual members of the choir were given their opportunity to shine whether as soloists or readers. In particular, the anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War was remembered by the reading of *Christmas in the Trenches* which appropriately preceded *Stille Nacht*. The formal part of the concert was brought to an end by an enthusiastic rendering of *We wish you a Merry Christmas* but the applause tempted the singers back for a final carol, *Ding Dong Merrily on High*, which sent the audience on its way with a warm sense of gratitude to all concerned, not least Andrew Morton whose commentary had held the programme together with characteristic good nature and wit. As the audience left the Cathedral we all felt that Christmas had well and truly arrived

*Malcolm Phillips*

Never go  
hungry again!!

*Slimming*  
WORLD WALES

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24/7

NEWPORT RUGBY CLUB, RODNEY PARADE  
WEDNESDAY 5 & 7pm THURSDAY 8:45 & 10:45am  
A WARM WELCOME WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU



### VITTORIO'S RESTAURANT

*The Italian Experience*

113-115 Stow Hill, Newport NP20 4ED

01633 840261

Lunch Mon to Fri 12 - 2: Dinner Mon to Sat 6 - 11

Opposite the beautiful Cathedral of St Woolos. We cater for wedding parties, informal buffets, after funeral buffets and other events. Please discuss any requirements with Anna. Thank you.

## Who's Who at St Woolos

<b>The Dean</b>	The Very Revd Lister Tonge	01633 259627 listertonge@gmail.com
<b>Precentor &amp; Archdeacon of Newport</b>	The Ven. Jonathan Williams	01633 215206 archdeacon.newport@churchinwales.org.uk
<b>Canon Pastor</b>	Canon Ray Hayter	01633 527883 raymondhayter01@gmail.com
<b>Canon Residentiary</b>	Canon Jennifer Mole	01633 258556 revcanjen63@btinternet.com
<b>Associate Priest &amp; Director of Ordinands</b>	Revd Dr Paul Thompson	01633 252046 revpaulthompson@btinternet.com

### Upcoming events at St Woolos Cathedral :

**Guitar Ensemble (RWCMD) - Saturday Feb 14<sup>th</sup> 12 noon**

**St David's Day Service - Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> 3pm**

**Bone Appetit (RWCMD) - Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup> 12 noon**

**Christopher Williams (Piano) & Catherine Tanner-Williams (Oboe) - April 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Junior Conservatoire Concert (RWCMD) - Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup>**

Enquiries re concerts and recitals at St Woolos, to: [brian.a.cox@sky.com](mailto:brian.a.cox@sky.com)

### Who was St.Gwynllyw?

St. Gwynllyw, known in English in a corrupted form as 'Woolos', was the son of King Glywys. On the death of his father, Gwynllyw became overlord over the other sons, his central area being cantref Gwynllwg named after him.

King Gwynllyw was a feared overlord and raider who knew King Arthur. He was a merciless warrior attacking and raiding nearby kingdoms including his neighbour Brycheiniog.

Determined to take a wife, Gwynllyw requested the hand of Gwladys, daughter of King Brychan. Gwynllyw was enraged by the King's refusal and accompanied by 300 men abducted Gwladys. King Brychan pursued Gwynllyw and in the ensuing battle Gwynllyw lost 200 men. King Arthur, being accustomed to helping the destitute, supported Gwynllyw and terminated the battle.

Having Gwladys as his wife, she soon had a son, the famous St.Cadoc. Once grown, Cadoc was deeply religious and according to some sources, it was his example and preaching that persuaded Gwynllyw to abandon his life of violence and seek forgiveness.

King Gwynllyw had a dream in which an angel spoke to him and he had a vision of a white ox with a black spot on its high forehead. Gwynllyw searched and when he saw the same ox as in his dream, he founded his hermitage on what is now Stow Hill in Newport. To prove their piety, Gwynllyw and Gwladys bathed daily in the cold waters of the Usk.

When the end of his life approached, he sent for his son Cadoc and St Dubricius, who performed the last sacrament to him and Gwynllyw died in the arms of his son on 29<sup>th</sup> March AD 500.

*Jen Robinson*



Please feel free to send us items of interest that relate to the Cathedral - its past, current activities, or news. Articles should be kept short (300 words or less, as a rule) - they may need to be edited prior to publication.

Contact: Brian or Siân King - [contact@newportcathedral.org.uk](mailto:contact@newportcathedral.org.uk)