



St Woolos Quarterly

The Newsletter of Newport Cathedral

Llythyr Newyddion Eglwys Gadeiriol Casnewydd

Christmas 2015

Jesus, Prince of peace? A Merry Christmas as we go to war again?

As I think about this topic, I write on the eve of the House of Commons vote on extending bombing raids to I.S. in Syria. I am so glad I am not in the shoes of our MPs as they have to be responsible for such a decision. So I am making no political point here. But how can the birth of Jesus make any difference to our warring world?

Jesus came into this world as the lowest of the low. His was an unmarried mother. The birth was in a back-street shed. The little family soon became political refugees fleeing for their lives. It certainly looks as though when God came to us in the form of the baby Jesus, he was showing us that being 'a nothing', 'a nobody', was good enough for God. So being 'a somebody' is entirely unnecessary for showing off humanity at its best and most effective. Throughout his life and right through to his death, Jesus showed us what it was like to be free of the trappings of status and power. He told the truth as he saw it and made enemies of those who took offence or who felt threatened by his sheer openness.

It is a well-known fact that bullies are insecure people who have to make others look smaller and weaker than they themselves feel, deep inside. Whether we think of our society as a whole or about ourselves as individuals, we constantly face things that threaten our sense of security and we retaliate to 'get them' before they get us. It's the stuff of fights in families (and church congregations!) and between nations. It is when we feel powerless and without influence that we start to puff ourselves up artificially into

'someone to be reckoned with'. Bullying is one such game we play. Taking offence is another, more 'respectable' form (popular in churches).

I have met in my life just a small number of people whom it is almost impossible to offend. Say what one likes; accuse or misrepresent them as one will, they are not to be ruffled. They seem to soak it up like a sponge and just to carry on, without in the least changing the way they treat those who mistreat them. It is both remarkable and *incredibly humbling*. They challenge our values and attitudes, let alone our behaviour.



At Christmas we celebrate the coming, as a child, of God who is at our mercy and who refuses to maintain any kind of status or position. Quite the contrary, he will only let go of it. Instead he shows us that being vulnerable, being at the mercy of others – say or do what they will – has about it a quality of humanity that takes our breath away. It shows us how life *might* be lived; how love *might* be shown, if only we had what it takes. As we see that kind of human being we see a quality of freedom and we feel ourselves drawn to it – drawn, even, to want to be like it.

Is it possible that the gift of the Christ-child to you, this Christmas, might be to help you be free of putting yourself in the centre? Might we each be able to put that child at the centre instead and to learn from him how to be a free human being needing never to drag anyone else down to make us feel better; never needing to attack in order to make ourselves feel better. It won't solve the MPs terrible dilemma about the bombing of Syria but it might mean that, for each of us, the coming of the Prince of Peace has made a real difference, starting here, starting with you and me.

Lister Tonge *Dean*

Chairs-for-Pews - We're nearly there!



The last whole week of November has seen a transformation in the Cathedral which, we all hope, will be accepted and enjoyed by everybody. Not just the regular congregation, but visitors, people attending concerts and recitals, special events such as Carol Services, Conferences, fairs and bazaars....it's up to you to encourage the very best uses for this marvellous new open space.

The chairs arrived, and were stacked up neatly in a corner, while the pews were removed to the Pub, to be modified and made ready for those who have asked to buy one. The floor has been made good, though it will need a thorough sanding and sealing, after Christmas. By now the

chairs will have been deployed and will have seen their first use on Advent Sunday - Sung Eucharist, St Woolos Players Concert in the afternoon, and Advent Carols



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

Services for Christmas 2015 at St Woolos Cathedral and at St Martin-in-the-Gaer



Sunday December 20 th	4.0pm	Christingle Service
Christmas Eve	3.00pm	Nine Lessons and Carols
	11.30pm	First Eucharist of Christmas
Christmas Day	8.00am	Holy Eucharist
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist
Sunday December 27 th	10.30	Parish Eucharist

Sunday December 13th 4.00pm Community Carol Service
Sunday December 20th 9.30am Communion Service
Christmas Day 9.30am Christmas Day Communion
Sunday December 27th No service



Upcoming events at St Woolos Cathedral :

Saturday - Sunday 12th to 13th December: USW Student Photographic Exhibition in the Cathedral
Saturday 12th December 12 noon Music@St Woolos Recital - Ben Teague (piano)
Saturday 9th January 12 noon - Music@StWoolos - Peter West (Baritone)
Tuesday 9th Feb 2016 and throughout Lent: 'Stations of the Cross' Exhibition in the Cathedral
Saturday 12th March 12 noon - Music@StWoolos - Bute Clarinet Quartet
(Enquiries re concerts and recitals at St Woolos, to: brian.a.cox@sky.com)

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 enquiries@junction28.com



VITTORIO'S RESTAURANT

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113-115 Stow Hill, Newport NP20 4ED

01633 840261

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

Being close to the Cathedral, we also cater for after-funeral refreshments - from £8.90 per head including tea and coffee. With sensitivity and a caring manner to look after family and friends alike. Please contact Anna 01633 840261

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

New on the Website - Prayer Requests

Something or somebody on your mind? Your special prayer requests will be sent, in confidence, to the clergy, and will be prayed for at Morning Prayer in the Cathedral.

www.newportcathedral.org.uk Click on 'Worship', then 'Prayer Requests'

'Thirty-Somethings'

With its quirky title of 'Thirty-Somethings' a group was set up by Dr Richard Fenwick shortly after he became Dean of the Cathedral; its aim being to enable worshippers at the cathedral and at its Daughter Church of St Martin-in-the-Gaer to mix together in friendship and fellowship. Since its inception dozens



and dozens of coach outings have been organised in the Spring and Summer months to castles, museums, stately homes and places of interest in and out of Wales and, as winter approaches, there is a popular quiz indoors and a well-supported Christmas Dinner. The group is run on a non-profit making basis by a small Executive, currently comprising Canon Ray Hayter as its Chairman, Dr Gwyn Thomas and Sister Avice Denniss [Secretary] and Reg Oakes as Treasurer.

In May 2015 there was an enjoyable boat trip organised along the River Avon at Bristol with lunch at the Quayside Cafe and a sumptuous cream tea on the boat as it returned.

In September a full coach went to Clevedon to appreciate its seaside atmosphere with a splendid two-course lunch at the waterfront pub followed by an interesting visit to Clevedon Court, a National Trust property of remarkable antiquity.

Come and join us!

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.

Historic quarter peal on the cathedral bells

On 9th November 1915, a quarter peal of 1260 Grandsire Triples was rung at St Woolos. This was the first quarter to be rung on the newly recast bells. On Sunday 8th November a quarter peal of 1260 Grandsire Triples was rung on the same back 8 bells at the Cathedral prior to Evensong. As it was Remembrance Sunday the bells were half muffled. The method composition this time was by Sergeant Albert P. Wakley and was composed in the trenches whilst he was serving in the army. The ringers were: Wendy Reilly, Jenny Mole, Jane Craddock, Ken Phillips, Anne Jones, Nick Jones (conductor), Jonathan Lewis, Barry Hayman.



Archway Vehicle Repairs

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Who's Who at St Woolos

The Dean	The Very Revd Lister Tonge	01633 259627 listertonge@gmail.com
Precentor & Archdeacon of Newport	The Ven. Jonathan Williams	01633 215206 archdeacon.newport@churchinwales.org.uk
Canon Pastor	Canon Ray Hayter	01633527883 raymondhayter01@gmail.com
Canon Residentiary	Canon Jennifer Mole	01633 258556 revcanjen63@btinternet.com
Associate Priest & Dir. of Ordinands	Revd Dr Paul Thompson	01633 252046 revpaulthompson@btinternet.com

Bell or Blast Furnace?

At the east end of the north aisle by the window is a stone tablet in memory of Benjamin Pratt. Bell ringers see a bell in the up position. Steelworkers see an inverted blast furnace. The steelworkers are right, Benjamin Pratt was one of three who founded the iron-works at Blaenafon in 1788.

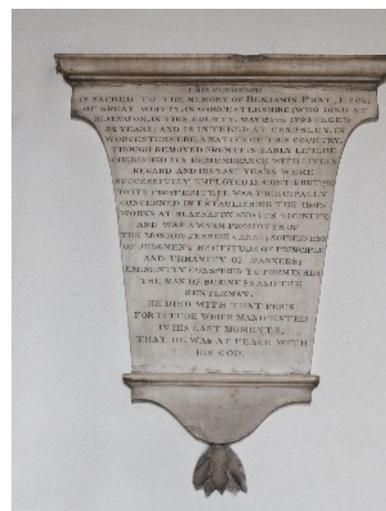
With the others, he came immediately from Worcestershire, but had lived in Monmouthshire and loved it. They chose to build in Blaenafon because around it were plentiful supplies of the iron ore, limestone and coal needed for iron-making.

They leased land from Lord Abergavenny and built two blast furnaces initially. Blast was supplied by bellows driven by a Boulton and Watt steam engine. Using coke rather than charcoal in the furnaces, steam rather than water to drive the blast bellows, and one engine to serve several furnaces were innovations.

They brought in men from West Wales, England and Ireland to supplement the workforce, and built houses and a works shop. An initial workforce of 300 rose to 1,000 by 1833. The population of the town increased to 1,000 by 1800, and 5,115 by 1840. Just over half spoke Welsh, the rest spoke English. Interestingly, on the memorial the name of the town is given in Welsh, Blaenafon - rare in the town itself.

Over the years more furnaces were added, Big Pit was built to supply coal, more houses and shops were built, a forge was added to convert pig iron to wrought iron, and new processes were developed. For a time the works was the largest in the world.

So Benjamin Pratt helped make Blaenafon an important centre for iron-making, a source of employment for many and of wealth in the local area. People remembered his sound judgment, upright principles and urbane manners, courtesy and head for business. He had courage and strong faith, noted when he died suddenly in the Angel Hotel, Abergavenny in May 1794, at peace with God. His other memorial is Blaenafon itself, now a World Heritage Site.



Bob Paul

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