



# St Woolos Quarterly

## The Newsletter of Newport Cathedral

*Llythyr Newyddion Eglwys Gadeiriol Casnewydd*

Summer 2016

### Re-Roofing the Galilee Chapel

Any building as old and architecturally diverse as the Cathedral will always be in need of maintenance and repair. At Newport Cathedral the tower, the main roof, the downstairs facilities will all be vying for scarce funds. We have been lucky to be able to make use of Government grants to help repair the St Mary Chapel roof, and this is



currently under way. The Cathedral Architect, Michael Davies, reports:

“The latest phase of re-roofing got underway in

February and is due for completion on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016. The extensive scaffolding, which completely encapsulates the working area, is necessary to ensure that the building is protected from poor weather, and provides the contractor with a good working environment, which should result in better quality workmanship.

The first part of the work is to strip everything away so we can get at what needs repairing. This is often the most

interesting part of the project as it often reveals some facts about the building’s history, and more importantly, reveals the full extent of structural defects. One of the first things we noticed was a date of 1914 scratched into a lead rainwater spout. This ties in with the last time the cathedral went through a major restoration .



We can now also see that only half of the original 15<sup>th</sup> century oak roof trusses have

survived, the other half having been replaced during the 1870 or 1913 restorations. Being able to get up close to the roof structure means you can see things you would not normally have an opportunity to see, such as the carpenters’ assembly marks.

These are a numbering system, very similar to Roman numerals, that helped the carpenters identify which parts of the



trusses slot together, having been made on the ground and hauled up to the roof in pieces, ready for assembly.

The contractor has also been busy repairing the main oak trusses by cutting out rot and stitching splits in the oak; filling voids with sheep’s wool insulation and fixing



hundreds of wooden laths ready for plastering. These are very traditional materials and techniques that the original carpenters would have recognised.

We are now starting to re-tile the roof, closely followed by rewiring for the new lighting, and lime plastering between the trusses.”

## 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

## Friends of Cathedral Music Concert - St Paul's Cathedral

Hello my name is Jack. I am a senior chorister of Newport Cathedral Choir. When I was asked I was thrilled that I was going to represent my choir and sing in the grand St Paul's Cathedral at a special concert in April. One chorister from every Cathedral in the country was invited to make up a special choir to launch the Diamond Fund to raise £10m to support cathedral music.

I had to learn a lot of music to perform and Dr Gibbins and Mr Blasby helped me to learn the pieces during the school holidays. There were pieces by Parry, Stanford, Tippett, Allegri, Britten and a new piece composed by Philip Stopford and some of them were quite challenging to learn.

I went to London to meet all the other choristers (about 75 of them!) and have our first practice which lasted... 6 hours! It was really good fun, but I'm glad I knew the music before I went!

The day of the concert came and I felt super excited but not nervous. Then the lay clerks from St Paul's choir came to practice with us in the cathedral. The sound in there was amazing. We were given dinner in the school and then it was time to get robed.



The concert was the most spectacular concert I've ever been to and to sing in it was superb. There were over 2000 people listening, including The Duchess of Gloucester. Aled Jones and Alexander Armstrong presented and spoke about what being a chorister had meant to them. Allegri's 'Misereri' was sung all over the cathedral, including the Whispering Gallery and the sound echoed all around.

My favourite piece was Parry's 'I was glad', the organ was so loud but brilliant. We sang Rutter's Gaelic Blessing as an encore.

It was great to see my family and the Music Team there and they loved it too. I had a fantastic time, meeting lots of other choristers and singing in such an historic building is something I will never forget.

Jack Templar-Johns

### Upcoming events at St Woolos Cathedral :

**Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup> 3.00 pm** Service of Thanksgiving for the 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday of HM The Queen

**June 18<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am** Summer Fayre: also on same day 7.30 pm Salvation Army Concert

**Sunday July 31<sup>st</sup> 3 pm** St Woolos Players Concert

**Saturday September 10<sup>th</sup>** Open Doors Event 2016- tours, visit the tower, midday concert

**Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm** Newport Philharmonic Choir - Rossini 'Petite Messe Solennelle'

Please see the website [www.newportcathedral.org.uk](http://www.newportcathedral.org.uk) for other events and details

#### 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)

- Fundraising Concerts
- Weddings
- New members welcome!



We are a small Newport-based mixed voice choir that sings accessible and inspiring sacred music. To find out more about booking a concert or joining in please visit our web page [www.cantorion-sanctaidd.org.uk](http://www.cantorion-sanctaidd.org.uk) Or phone 07740 923406

**The Cathedral is open to visitors:**

**Monday to Thursday 8am until 5pm**

**Friday 8am until 8pm**

**Saturday 9am until 4pm**

**Sunday 10am until 8pm**

## **COME AND SING MESSIAH**

**SATURDAY 27th FEBRUARY 2016**

We have recently been informed, through the media, that singing is beneficial for you. It enhances our feeling of well-being, our general health and gives us a positive outlook on life! Those of us who attended the Messiah event in the Cathedral have known and experienced this "new" phenomenon time and time again.

About 100 singers (from all over the area) got together to rehearse and perform this seminal work. Every music lover has had some experience of Handel's work - whether through performance or by simply listening to the work. Our maestro for the day - Tianyi Lu - proved more than capable of the task given to her. Under her



expert direction, music that we had long perhaps taken for granted was given new life and grandeur. Each individual item was given meticulous attention thereby giving the singers confidence to "give of their all" in the evening performance. Miss Lu is one of the rising stars of the conducting world and we were lucky to share in this rise.

Before the performance began, we were treated to a brief talk, given by Professor Stephen Walsh on the work. This gave us further insight into the history of this work from its humble beginnings in a small concert hall in Dublin to its worldwide recognition and performance in most (if not all) of the world's great venues. In this talk he spoke of how the work was received - rather quietly initially - and how it gained in popularity culminating with the performance before King George the Second. Amusing anecdotes were interspersed with well-documented evidence - a typical Stephen Walsh approach.

The St. Woolos orchestra played with their usual panache and professionalism. Under the watchful eye of their leader Christoph Madler, they accompanied sensitively and musically, their ensemble sound blending seamlessly with the voices. Jeremy Blasby - (our own Associate Director of Music) - provided the all-important continuo part.

The boys of the Cathedral choir sang the aria "How beautiful are the feet" - showing that this music speaks to all - both young and old. They also joined forces in the final choruses.

The three fine soloists "told" the musical story expertly - their voices reaching to the furthest parts of the cathedral - their vocal dexterity, lending brilliance to the work. From the beauty of "He shall feed His flock" (soprano - Anne Wilkins) through the sublime "Comfort Ye" (tenor - Richard Allen) to the vocal dexterity of "The trumpet shall sound" (bass - Andrew Matthews) - they held the audience in the palm of their hand.

This performance was possible because of the "new" nave arrangement in the Cathedral - one which has had the old pews taken out and new chairs put in their place. This change has created a space that is ideal for concerts and performances of this kind. We have to thank Dean Lister for his vision which has been fulfilled - (albeit partly) - in creating an area in which these sorts of events can take place. Long may that vision continue.

S.D.Harries

*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'**



### **Archway Vehicle Repairs**

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### **THE CRESCENT**

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## 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	01633527883	raymondhayter01@gmail.com
<b>Associate Priest St Martin's</b>	Canon Jennifer Mole	01633 258556	revcanjen63@btinternet.com
<b>Associate Priest &amp; Dir. of Ordinands</b>	Revd Dr Paul Thompson	01633 252046	revpaulthompson@btinternet.com

## The Dean's Message

### How do you pray?

My friend the Dean of Hereford has kindly allowed me to quote a recent, excellent article he wrote about his regular walk up a local hill.

"I find that the rhythm of walking, on my own, allows me to let go of concerns and worries and the walking 'takes over'. Often, when I return from a walk, I've written a sermon, solved a problem, worked out the next step in a project – and yes, prayed. I've not always used words in these prayers – but I feel very close to God during this time and somehow, the repetition – the regular footsteps, the same old route – conspire together to make my Dinedor walks a vital part, not only of keeping fit, but also of finding prayer in the world around us. "



*Dinedor Hill, Herefordshire*

Perhaps Dinedor isn't as steep as Stow Hill, and Dean Tavinor probably isn't carrying the shopping home at the time. But what he writes chimes in very well with my own experience. I've found myself recently trying to give a little time to listening to music several times a week. I give a moment or two to paying attention to my mood before I consider what to play. Then I just

relax into the music and let it work its 'magic'. I don't work at anything or concentrate on anything. Quite the contrary, I try to ease off and let go, trusting that the music will in some way address my needs and even speak for me when I'm too weary to do it myself.

I know a high-powered politician who just sits in his garden and lets it do the same sort of thing. The hardest work for him was letting himself believe that God would accept this as prayer. But it is his time of 'letting God loose' in his life.

Some people come and 'just sit' in the Cathedral with some sort of 'agenda', or none. As the old story goes, one such person once said, 'I look at Him and He looks at me'.

Is there something you do – or wish you got round to doing – to let God loose in your life? And if you don't 'do God', might it not be good just to 'let life loose' for a while?

Lister Tonge

*Dean*

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)