



St Woolos Quarterly

The Newsletter of Newport Cathedral

Llythyr Newyddion Eglwys Gadeiriol Casnewydd

Autumn 2016

Well-earned Retirement for Fr Ray Hayter

Fr Ray, who retired as Canon Pastor at the end of July and is moving back to London, spoke warmly of the many farewell wishes he received; and there's little doubt that he has been a marvellous asset to the Cathedral Clergy team, and greatly appreciated by all who benefited from his pastoral care.

He describes his earlier work, before finally coming to Newport - "On 3 July 1977 I was ordained in Southwark Cathedral. Prior to that I had worked in the Bank of England. At my ordination I never had a clue as to how my future ministry would develop. The late Canon David Watson said once, that FAITH is spelt R-I-S-K.

'I served a curacy at St James Bermondsey and during my first year the vicar went on sabbatical for three months and I found myself running the parish. There were just a few private houses in the parish the rest were council. Bermondsey people were 'down to earth' and told you straight what they felt, but at the same time were friendly and loyal.'

He became Priest in Charge at Holy Trinity, Sydenham, also serving in a Drug Rehabilitation Centre there - 'At first they were suspicious of the clerical collar when I visited, but I built up trust and ended up on the management committee. Through my weekly visits and lunch with the residents, many of whom had served prison sentences, I was led into Prison Chaplaincy.



'I started at Brixton Prison and shortly after arriving the senior chaplain said he hadn't had leave for a long time and so he promptly went away for a month, throwing me in the deep end.

'Nine years later whilst at Maidstone Prison, they encouraged me to have an informal chat with the Chaplain General for the army. A week later I was offered a commission and within a month I was

working in Germany'. He served in UK, Germany, Cyprus, Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Kosovo and Sierra Leone - 'After being in Sierra Leone I was pleased to be leaving, not realising I would be posted back twice more!'

He arrived here in 2011, to be thrown in at the deep end yet again - he writes "With that background I was able to cope when I came to the Cathedral and had to cover two inter-regnms, with the marvellous support of the congregation. The irony of my

story is that I nearly gave up training at theological college, because I didn't think I was good enough. A friend came to my home and persuaded me to come back. So I am reminded of the words of Graham Kendrick's song 'The Servant King' - 'God turns our weaknesses into his opportunities, so that the glory goes to him.'

Our very best wishes go with him - we hope he will visit occasionally and stay in touch.

Prayer Requests

Is there someone on your mind, perhaps ill or in trouble, anxious, bereaved? Through our website (www.newportcathedral.org.uk) you can request prayers to be said during weekday morning services. This will be via one of the clergy team, and in complete confidence.

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

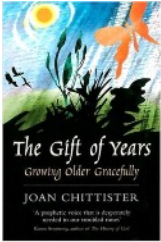
Worship at St Martin-in-the-Gaer

Sunday 9.30 Holy Eucharist

The Book Review

The Gift of Years – growing older gracefully

by Joan Chittister. (London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 2008)



The blurb on the back of this book runs as follows:

"The world glorifies youth and degrades old age. *The Gift of Years* flies in the face of this conventional wisdom. It is a wonderful celebration of the blessings of growing older, clear-eyed and unsentimental about the reality of the ageing process but showing us that our later years are gift, not burden."

This seems a fair summary of a book which takes a very positive and encouraging view of old age. Despite its American perspective, which occasionally irritates the British reader, it draws on many great writers, as well as the author's strong background in Christian spirituality, to demonstrate the value of later life, and what it may continue to contribute to society. It is written as a series of short reflections on different areas such as regret, meaning, letting go, fulfilment, learning (and many others), so that there seems to be something there that would speak to everyone, and address some of the feelings of anxiety, despair or uselessness as the final phase of life approaches, or, indeed, is already being experienced.

Although not ostensibly a "Christian book", it is clear that the author's faith shines through. The chapters on religion, spirituality and faith are especially strong in this regard, but there is certainly no assumption that the reader has any particular religious persuasion. The chapter on wisdom is particularly positive in emphasising the unique contribution an older person makes: "The service of elders is a service of enlightenment, of wisdom, of discernment of spirits. Only the carriers of generations past can give us those things, because wisdom is what lasts after experience ends".

This is the sort of book that can be dipped into, selecting the parts that seem particularly relevant and helpful, or just working through the whole book, reading a short section at a time. It has much anecdotal content, as well as being well-referenced with further reading suggestions. Not only is it recommended for those who are approaching old age, (or already arrived!) but would be useful to carers, family and friends of those who might need some support in the "third age".

Sian King

Upcoming events at St Woolos Cathedral :

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| Saturday September 10th | Open Doors Event 2016- guided tours, visit the tower
- midday concert by Greater Gwent Brass Ensemble - all free! |
| Thursday September 22nd | 7.00 pm Gwent Chamber Strings |
| Saturday October 1st | 6.30pm Mayoral Concert |
| October 8th to 23rd | Art Exhibition: 'Open a Window and Let God In' - Katharine Hall |
| Saturday October 8th | Midday Concert: Byrdsong |
| Saturday October 15th | 7.30 pm Newport Philharmonic Choir - Rossini 'Petite Messe Solennelle' |
| Saturday November 5th | 7.00pm Concert by St Woolos Players |
| Saturday November 12th | Midday Concert - Junior Conservatoire |
| Saturday November 19th | 10 am Cathedral Christmas Bazaar |

Please see the website www.newportcathedral.org.uk for other events and details
(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

- 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
Or phone 07740 923406

The Cathedral is open to visitors:

Monday to Thursday 8am until 5pm

Saturday 9am until 4pm

Friday 8am until 8pm

Sunday 10am until 8pm

***Caring for God's Acre - Living Churchyard
at St Woolos***

Visitors to St Woolos entering the churchyard through the lychgate may hardly notice the neatly mown grass as they walk towards the tower entrance. Should they continue around the north side of the cathedral, leave the tarmac paths and edge past the hall to the east end, they will discover a wilder area where Victorian graves lie amongst brambles and saplings that were taking over before recent clearance work by Dan. But a survey by the Gwent Wildlife Trust shows that this area has in fact a wide variety of interesting plants.

So here, right in the heart of the City of Newport, is a valuable historic and wildlife resource that will become part of a Living Churchyard project to be shared with all the people of Newport. If we just leave this area wild, the brambles will take over and the rich variety of wild plants will be lost. To avoid this and encourage those plants, the area will be managed, grass paths will be established, brambles and other vigorous species will be restricted to certain patches and the rest strimmed and cleared in late summer to encourage the wild flowers. Bird and bat boxes and insect homes may be installed. Notices and interpretation boards will explain to



visitors and the local community that the Living Churchyard is not a neglected area but an area rich in wildlife honouring God's creation.

The area can be used by the local schools and other groups for nature studies and other projects. Members of the local community can be invited to help with some of the work of maintenance and tours arranged on open days. All adding to outreach by the cathedral.

The project will take a while to become established and further updates will follow. Meanwhile, for further information about Living Churchyards see www.gwentwildlife.org/node/3672 or contact Philip Jones on 07875 108951.

With thanks to Gemma Bode and her team at the Gwent Wildlife Trust for their support.

For more (and usually up-to-date!) information about Newport Cathedral, visit our website www.newportcathedral.org.uk

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**

Tel: 01633 254717
Mob: 07949674727



1, Tredegar Wharf
Mill Parade
Newport NP20 2JR



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Telephone: 01633 776677 • Mobile: 07929 200897
E-mail: lex4172@aol.com • Website: www.crescentguesthouse.com

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
Associate Priest St Martin's	Canon Jennifer Mole	01633 258556	revcanjen63@btinternet.com
Associate Priest & Dir. of Ordinands	Revd Dr Paul Thompson	01633 252046	revpaulthompson@btinternet.com
	Canon David Neale	07912 104902	revdneale@googlemail.com

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL CHOIR

Newport Cathedral's musical director, Emma Gibbins, looks back at her first 18 months, and shares her vision for the future in the first of two articles:

Initially the main priority was developing the boys' choir. A few decades ago, boys would have been queuing up to join cathedral and church choirs throughout the land, but times have changed and there are so many different activities for children to get involved in nowadays, many of which take place on a Sunday (annoyingly for us!). And of course, society is increasingly secular, so singing in a cathedral choir isn't on the radar for most families. So recruitment has been a major part of the job, especially here where there is no choir school attached to the Cathedral. We have developed a good working relationship with several local primary schools, especially St Woolos, the Gaer Primary School, Rougemont and Millbrook, who have allowed us to go in to speak to the children, run informal auditions and write to the parents of any successful auditionees inviting them to come along to a first "probationer" chorister practice. I try to sell it to the parents by emphasizing the free musical education that the children get, the chance to develop self-discipline, self-confidence and commitment as well as learning skills and attitudes which transfer positively to school work and other musical activities. Plus the opportunity to travel with the choir, extra-curricular activities and choir pay, which is particularly appealing to the children themselves, as you might imagine.



The existing boys and the new recruits have worked very hard over the last year, developing their vocal skills, musical understanding, expanding their repertoire and achieving a greater musical unity: I have been extremely pleased with the progress they have made. Five of the older boys entered the Bronze Award Royal School of Church Music exams earlier this year and we were very proud that they all passed with 'commended' or 'highly commended'. They will be presented with their certificates at a special ceremony at Llandaff Cathedral next term.

We have also been delighted to welcome two new members to the men's section of the choir in the last year. I plan to continue recruitment, advertising in local secondary schools, the university and music college in Cardiff, in the local press and on-line, and encouraging ex-trebles whose voices have broken to come back to sing alto, tenor or bass in the 'back row': it has been sad to say goodbye to a number of boys whose voices have changed in the last year and we thank them all for their singing, hard work, commitment and dedication and look forward to welcoming them back soon, I hope!

It's not all work though.... we've aimed to hold regular social events for the boys, the choir men and also the choristers' parents: so far the boys have been ten pin bowling and trampolining, the men's social activities have centred around food and drink, as you might imagine, and we have had a delightful afternoon tea at the Parkway hotel with the choir parents.

A new Cathedral Voluntary Choir has been established which exists to sing occasional services throughout the year when the cathedral choir is on holiday. This new choir had its debut performance at Easter time last year. I was delighted that so many people came forward enthusiastically and I know that the cathedral congregation appreciates having a choir to help lead the worship during the holiday periods.

(Read more about the new Girls' Choir, and Emma's plans for the future, in our next edition - Christmas 2016)

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