



St Woolos Quarterly

The Newsletter of Newport Cathedral Newyddion Gadeirlan Casnewydd

Autumn / Hydref 2017

Opera in the Cathedral - Britten's 'Noye's Fludde'



Woolos Sinfonia, as well as strings, trumpets and percussion provided by students involved in Gwent Music ensembles. There were also recorders and handbells.

The whole effect was enchanting. The audience particularly enjoyed the entrance of each group of animals in their colourful masks, especially the ear piercing squeaking of the mice. The billowing waves down the aisle accompanied by impressive percussion gave a real sense of the power of the storm. The entrance of the sun, moon and stars brought a fitting climax to the opera as the audience joined in the final hymn.

Huge credit must go to the performers and backstage crew for bringing together such an

Over two nights in June a packed Cathedral enjoyed a colourful and dynamic performance of Benjamin Britten's opera "Noye's Fludde".

Members of the boy's and girl's choirs at the Cathedral were joined by children from the choir of St John's Church in Maindee and The Gaer Primary School to sing alongside two professional singers, Karl Dymond and Lisa Jones, taking the parts of Mr and Mrs Noye. Three choristers from the Cathedral played their sons and three local young singers played their wives. Two local dancers also performed beautifully as the Raven and the Dove. The Voice of God echoed around the



Cathedral, as provided by the Dean!

The orchestra was led by two pianos and organ and joined by a mixture of string players from St



ambitious project involving over 150 people. And above all it was a triumph planned and conducted by the Cathedral's Director of Music, Dr Emma Gibbins. It richly deserved the thunderous applause that rounded off both performances.

Jonathan Williams

A further selection of photos from the production can be seen under 'Gallery' on the Cathedral website www.newportcathedral.org.uk



Worship at St Woolos Gwasanaethau yn y Gadeirlan

Regular service times are below: on special occasions these may change
Amseroedd Arferol y Gwasanaethau; gall y rhain newid ar achlysuron arbennig

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Sul</u>	8.00	Holy Eucharist	10.30	Sung Eucharist (also Sunday School)	6.30	Choral Evensong
<u>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday</u>	<u>Llun, Mawrth, Mercher</u>	8.00	Morning Prayer	8.15	Holy Eucharist	5.00	Evening Prayer
<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Iau</u>	8.00	Morning Prayer	8.15	Holy Eucharist	10.30	Holy Eucharist
<u>Friday</u>	<u>Gwener</u>	8.00	Morning Prayer	8.15	Holy Eucharist	7.00	Choral Evensong

Worship at St Martin-in-the-Gaer Sunday Sul 9.30 Holy Eucharist

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'

'The Ark of Salvation'

Such was once a commonly-used title for the Church. As, in the Old Testament story of Noah and the flood the chosen people and animals were saved from the flood-waters by climbing aboard the ark and floating about until the flood was over, so the Christian Church was seen as the (only) way that God had appointed to save people from damnation brought about by human sinfulness.

I've been thinking about this since our wonderful weekend of "Noye's Fludde", described on the front page. I am also reminded of it very powerfully since learning of the death, the other day, of Karl Daymond, who played Mr. Noah. Karl was simply a *force*: he made the whole thing come together with such power and his enthusiasm and encouragement were simply invaluable. He is a new friend to us, here, and his loss is simply terrible for being so sudden and of someone so young.

If you are not a churchgoer, or even if you are, you might not like the image of a vessel on which the 'chosen' are saved from destruction and, anyway, you might not believe in such destruction, even if you believe in God. I am in that category myself. I don't see God as someone who has worked out a way to save some from what 'He' (God always shown as a man, in those days) has already fixed on doing to the Baddies. So-called 'Eternal Life' is then seen as a reward for virtue or, at best, a reward for believing in God sending the lifeboat to save us from Himself! Why bother with a 'God' like that, except for the motive of *fear*?

As the years and centuries go by, we learn more and more about who God is and what sort of relationship is on offer with God. We have grown up enough to understand that Jesus shows us what sort of God we have. God is a God with an unending capacity to *forget* the mess we make of things and so to love us, anyway. That kind of welcome despite our behaviour is usually called *mercy*. If we accept it, it makes us flourish and it also makes us the kind of people who can't avoid showing the same thing to others and helping them flourish too. Now that's salvation enough for me. Look at St Woolos's and see a vessel designed to represent and to offer that sort of relationship to anyone who wants it.

Karl Daymond, God love him, will now know what this mercy looks like, face to face. So, *May he rest in peace.*

Lister Tonge - Dean

Upcoming events at St Woolos Cathedral : Digwyddiadau nesaf y Gadeirlan

- Saturday 9th September Open Doors Event and Recital 12 noon - Fumi Otsuki & Petra Hajduchova (Violin & Piano) - music@stwoolos
- Saturday 14th October Recital: Adan Khan (Guitar) 12 noon
- Thursday 26th October Concert: Baron-Rose Duo (Marimba - look it up!) 7.30pm
- Saturday 11th November Recital: Junior Conservatoire 12 noon

*** Please check our website www.newportcathedral.org.uk for details of these and other concerts and events ***

(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



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The Cathedral is open to visitors:

Monday to Thursday 8am until 5pm

Friday 8am until 8pm

Saturday 9am until 4pm

Sunday 10am until 8pm

We were thrilled, and intrigued, to receive this letter from a former Cathedral Chorister:

'A Joyful Visit and Return to the Past'

Last week I did something that I had not done for some 54 years - and it was a huge thrill for me !! Yes, I climbed the spiral stairs of the Cathedral Tower to the first floor; 54 years ago it was the location of the choir changing room, and for 10 years before that I was a member of the cathedral choir as a Treble, and afterwards as an Alto - so I climbed those stairs at least twice every week - often more frequently.



The Choir October 1963

The occasion, organised by John Sexton, was an extended tour of the Cathedral for a group of 'experienced' gentlemen who had shared membership of the Cathedral choir, the wearing of ruffs - and a great deal of fun and friendship - all those decades ago.

We climbed the rest of the way up the tower - all the way to the marvellous views at the top. We visited the robing rooms of the clergy - an inner sanctum to which I had never before been admitted. We were able to admire the Cathedral's plate and silver, and examine the inscriptions inscribed on them - even the scratchings-out on one particular piece.

A magnificent and colourful selection of intricate vestments was also on display in the Clergy Vestries. These included altar frontals in their various colours (to reflect the changing season of the Church Calendar) and a similar selection of priests' chasubles, copes and stoles. All very impressive and obviously made with great skill and devotion.

We were able to appreciate again what a bright, light, so very, very beautiful - almost ethereal - space the nave and aisles of the Cathedral have become since the removal of the pews; it was always a fascinating area, now an exceptional one. These feelings were accentuated by the atmospheric and inspiring organ playing of Jeremy Blasby (Associate Director of Music) - so good to be reminded of the capacity of the Cathedral organ we remember from the days of Charles St. Ervan-Johns, ("Charlie Johns" to boy choristers!) and Donald Bate who served as *Organist and Master of the Choristers* during my time in the Choir.

The whole experience was placed in its appropriate mythical, historical, spiritual and architectural context from Gwynllyw to Rowan Williams in a fascinating and detailed exposition by Malcolm Phillips a Retired History Master and, like John, a very long standing member of the Cathedral Congregation.

My thanks must go to *all* in the Cathedral team who gave of their time and expertise to our meander down memory lane - successful in all respects. Revisiting the past may sometimes be painful, but this visit was immensely joyful



Reunion of 'Experienced Gentlemen' 2017

Michael Clubb (Bridgend)
St. Woolos Cathedral Choir 1952-1966.'

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Who's Who at St Woolos

The Dean Y Deon	The Very Revd Lister Tonge	01633 259627	listertonge@gmail.com
Precentor & Archdeacon of Newport Prif Gantor ac Archddiacon Casnewydd	The Ven. Jonathan Williams	01633 215206	archdeacon.newport@churchinwales.org.uk
Residentiary Canon	Revd Canon Dr Mark Dimond	01633 376977	markdimond@churchinwales.org.uk
Associate Priest St Martin's Offeiriad yn St Martin yn y Gaer	Canon Jennifer Mole	01633 258556	revcanjen63@btinternet.com
Associate Priest & Dir. of Ordinands Offeiriad a Chyfarwyddwr Ymgeiswyr am Urddau	Revd Dr Paul Thompson	01633 252046	revpaulthompson@btinternet.com
	Canon David Neale	07912 104902	revdneale@googlemail.com

A NEW RESIDENTIARY CANON FOR ST WOOLOS

In June we welcomed the arrival of the Reverend Canon Dr Mark Dimond, who brings a new and different dimension to the Clergy team and to the Church Family here at St Woolos.

Born in Japan (his father was on a diplomatic posting there), he was at school in Berkshire while his parents were posted to various European capitals, and he quickly developed a love of travel and an enthusiasm for exploring a variety of cultures and languages. This guided his higher education into European Studies at the University of Kent, then 'Sciences Po' in Paris. He revisited Japan, then travelled back via the Trans-Siberian Railway, through what was then the USSR. He returned to do a Masters Degree at Oxford in Czech and Russian languages.

His particular favourite country and culture was, and still is, the Czech Republic - his Doctorate, at Swansea, was related to an aspect of Czech history and a small gymnastics museum! He returned there to work for a large drinks and distillery company, where he launched the promotional campaign for Bailey's Irish Cream throughout several Eastern European countries.



He had met Sam, his wife, at the University of Kent, and they were married in her home parish in Roath. They now have three children, the oldest at University, the other two still in their teens, all musical - though he himself doesn't play any instrument but enjoys informal singing in choirs. He enjoys writing - has written one novel - playing tennis, painting, and walking. Sam works for 'Visit Wales', to promote Welsh tourism and culture.

Asking himself at times where all this learning and experience was taking him, he realised that his much earlier and deeper 'inkling' of a calling to the Ministry could not be ignored. Indeed he realised he had no choice - this was a vocation. He attended St Michael's College in Cardiff to study theology and was ordained in 2011, serving his Curacy in Penarth, and then appointed to be Chaplain to the Archbishop of Wales.

The Archbishop's retirement meant that, in a sense, he was left high and dry, but he had always felt he wanted to be part of a Cathedral team. Behold, the opportunity presented itself, and we are now blessed with a Residentiary Canon, family man, with a background in academia and marketing! Mark is starting to get to grips with what to do to raise the profile of the Cathedral and to integrate with other aspects, communities and faiths in this Cathedral city.

Brian King

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