



St Woolos Quarterly

The Newsletter of Newport Cathedral Newyddion Cadeirlan Casnewydd

Christmas / Nadolig 2017



NOT ONLY FOR CHRISTMAS



Where I come from people used to say that Christmas is 'all about the kiddies'. Christmas TV ads often work on that assumption. So, this year, even Father Christmas has been upstaged by 'Moz' the friendly monster. Is it true that it is all about the kiddies? Well, it is and it isn't. Christmas is all about *everyone*. It is only a short step from being 'all about the kiddies' to becoming a sentimental and self-indulgent time to escape from reality. To approach Christmas in that way would be to make it the very opposite of the Christian Christmas.

The Christian Christmas is about celebrating a God who, in coming to us as a baby, was choosing to step *into* our reality – the very opposite of trying to escape from it. Christianity notably describes this as God's self-giving. It is the origin of the idea of giving gifts to one another, reflecting God's gift to us of Jesus, the embodiment ('incarnation' is the technical word) of love.

But God's self-giving is described in the Bible as God's 'self-emptying' which is a very strong kind of giving, far from sentimental. It is not self-indulgent and it is not about excessive consumption; and it is the exact opposite of lots of 'getting'. (I happen to be writing this on the day after Remembrance Sunday and it is worth pointing out that God's self-giving is like the self-giving sacrifice of those we remember on that day. We remember them for their 'self-emptying' love, which is a real giving-away of self.)

God's giving is done with no guarantee of any 'getting' in return and even with no guarantee of gratitude. Fortunately for us, most of us don't have that experience in our giving and receiving of Christmas gifts.

It might be worth looking, this year, at where you might choose freely to give something where there is no expectation of any gift in return and where you feel no need for any gratitude. Newport has plenty of people in great need and with precious little, if anything, to spare materially. Of course, there will be no shortage of

advertisements about the endless needs of the world so you will have plenty of choice. Even one such gift, amongst all the other calls upon your generosity might be a concrete way of making the point to yourself about the Christian meaning of Christmas.

Finally, we are bound to notice that however we choose to pass on our love on Christmas Day, that is not the end of it for another year. For God, born as Jesus, it was only a beginning. Self-giving love is an *identity*, not just

a gesture. It is like the pet which is given on Christmas Day and might be in danger of being cast aside the day after. For Christians, Christmas love is not only for Christmas.

May the blessing of Christmas be with us all this Christmas and every day.

Lister Tonge.
Dean



NEWPORT NIGHT SHELTER

This will be our third year of participating in the Night Shelter rota. We aim to organise a team of volunteers to provide a meal and overnight accommodation in the Cathedral for 12 homeless guests, each Wednesday night during February and March. Your help and support, as a volunteer, or simply with encouragement and prayers, will be much appreciated. For further information, please contact the Cathedral Administrator - 01633 267464



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)	5.00	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'

Outreach is our mission!

Welcome, yet again, to our Quarterly Newsletter, which is now in its 4th year. We are always happy to receive and publish suitable articles and other contributions - please keep them coming! With each succeeding edition, we hope to widen our readership - as has been said before, we see the purpose of the Newsletter is to reach out to all and any who might have an interest in the Cathedral, its work and its life. Please feel free to pass on copies to friends, family, visitors and strangers alike, whether from Newport or across the world.

Quote: "There are only two days in the year that nothing can be done.

One is called yesterday and the other is called tomorrow, so today is the right day to love, believe, do and mostly live."

Dalai Lama

Upcoming events at St Woolos Cathedral : Digwyddiadau nesaf y Gadeirlan

Friends of Newport Cathedral - AGM and talk 'Stuffed with Papists: Abergavenny in the 1600s'
Wednesday December 6th at 7pm

Lovelight Carol Concert Thursday December 7th at 7pm

Middy Recital (Music@StWoolos) Coro Cantabile Saturday December 9th at 12 noon - Free admission (donations)

MIND Concert - Monday December 11th at 6pm

Middy Recital (Music@StWoolos) RWCMD Guitar Ensemble Saturday January 13th at 12 noon - Free admission (donations)

St Woolos weekly rota for Newport Night Shelter begins - Wednesday January 24th

Middy Recital (Music@StWoolos) RWCMD Harp Students Saturday February 10th at 12 noon - Free admission (donation)

Concert 'The Octet' Chamber Choir Saturday February 24th at 7.30pm

*** Please check our website for details of these and other concerts and events ***

www.newportcathedral.org.uk

(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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<http://www.churchinwales.org.uk/resources/gift-direct/>
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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 Residentiary Canon	The Ven. Jonathan Williams	01633 215206	archdeacon.newport@churchinwales.org.uk
Associate Priest St Martin's Offeiriad yn St Martin yn y Gaer	Revd Canon Dr Mark Dimond	01633 376977	markdimond@churchinwales.org.uk
Associate Priest & Dir. of Ordinands Offeiriad a Chyfarwyddwr Ymgeiswyr am Urddau	Canon Jennifer Mole	01633 258556	revcanjen63@btinternet.com
	Revd Dr Paul Thompson	01633 252046	revpaulthompson@btinternet.com
	Canon David Neale	07912 104902	revdneale@googlemail.com

CONCERT REVIEW - THE BARON-ROSE DUO

The Cathedral's programme of musical events throughout the year has some undisputed highlights. Some are one-offs - Noye's Fludde this last summer; others are returning favourites - St Peter's Chorale from Australia last January, and The Baron-Rose Duo who returned for their fourth concert here, in October. Nick Baron and Mike



Rose play Marimbas - these look like very large xylophones, but with wooden bars and acoustic resonating pipes underneath, and struck with mallets, two or even three in each hand. The sound, in the Cathedral space, is magical, perhaps even ethereal. But much of the appeal of these concerts comes from Nick Baron's skill in arranging well-known pieces - pop as well as classical - to sound almost as if they had been written for the marimba in the first place.

Each half of their programme began with Bach: an Allemande from his French Suite, and some of the 2-part Inventions. There was Handel, Grieg, Saint-Saens, Debussy, Faure, Beethoven. And then splendid arrangements of Elvis Presley's 'Can't Help Falling in Love', Dire Straits' 'Sultans of Swing', and John Williams' E.T. Flying Theme, all classics in their own right.

At previous concerts here, Nick and Mike have been joined, for a few of the pieces, by one or sometimes two other performers - on previous occasions a Soprano, or a Cellist. This time we were treated to the woodwind virtuosity of Jenny Weir. She played flute (along with Emily Jenkins, a very talented music student) on Ian Clarke's 'Maya'; clarinet for Paul Reade's 'Prelude and Summer from the Victorian Garden Suite'; and saxophone in Yuyama's 'Divertimento', a complex, highly rhythmical and challenging piece for both instruments. Another highlight to mention was 'Visions', by James Butterworth-Smith, who was present in the audience to hear this 'world premier'. It could almost have been written (perhaps it was!) to be played in the wonderfully resonating Cathedral space - best listened to, I found, with closed eyes, letting the sound carry you up. Fanciful, perhaps, but magical.



And magical perhaps best encapsulates the effect of these wonderful instruments. The Dean, giving a few words of thanks at the end of the concert, said that until today he knew little about the Marimba, and wasn't sure he even liked it, but was now 'a true convert'! The Baron-Rose Duo concerts will convert a good many people to the sound of the Marimba over the coming years - I'm already looking forward to their next one, here in the Cathedral.

Brian King



Archway Vehicle Repairs

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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

**A FEW THOUGHTS ON SOUTH AFRICA -
A PERSONAL REFLECTION**

It was during a casual conversation after Sunday Eucharist last year that I learned of the Monmouth pilgrimage 2017. I associated 'pilgrimage' with thoughts of Santiago de Compostela or a place of historic importance. However, this was to be a visit to our link diocese in South Africa. What experiences such a trip would unfold interested me. On 9th September 2017 our overnight flight from London Heathrow touched down in O R Tambo International Airport. It had been a tedious eleven hours, but we had arrived..... in South Africa.

Our accommodation, situated in Benoni some 40 kms east of Johannesburg at Lumko Conference Centre, was run by the Catholic Archdioceses of Johannesburg. It comprised a series of barrack style blocks, basic but adequate. We received a warm, informative welcome outlining an itinerary over eight days. It was a busy and committed schedule, involving many long hours and miles of travel by minibus. From the outset, and in addition to our host Dean Simon Aiken, it was Penny Heard who appeared to be the key to many of our road trips. I wondered who Penny was, and where did she fit into all of this.

The Highveld Anglican Board of Social Responsibility (HABSR), a non-profit registered company, provided the answer. Established in 2006 and recognising the plight of HIV/AIDS pandemic victims, it is considered an extension of the Bishop's Ministry in the Highveld. Essentially HABSR is driven by Christian compassion in growing and supporting social responsibility. It integrates and works with the needy and most vulnerable within the diocese. Interestingly, the Highveld diocese forms part of the Anglican Church of South Africa, which comprises seven countries ie South Africa, Namibia, Swaziland, Lesotho, Mozambique, Angola and St Helena. Furthermore an estimated 4.3 million people live within the geographical boundaries of the diocese, which is more than the population of Wales.

So Penny's involvement became clear, being responsible for the operational and hands-on side of HABSR. It was now apparent that a great part of this 'pilgrimage' was gaining awareness of both challenges and current operations of HABSR. Though the meaning of 'pilgrimage' was not totally clear to me, it made a significant impression. The remarkable challenges faced by this organisation appear enormous, yet it

is operated by a small group of committed individuals. It was humbling to consider - did we have a right, a constructive purpose intruding and observing abject poverty and squalor? Despite the good intentions of this elderly group of observers, I experienced a sense of unease. Was this running parallel to a tourist attraction, generating our sympathy but little else. What was the purpose, milling around, taking photographs then boarding our minibus and disappearing? The issue is immense and surely real change can only be achieved on a political national/international level.



My mind turned to the Apostle Paul and the virtues of faith, hope and charity. Possibly out of context but my buzz word became HOPE. That is what I held onto for the people we were leaving behind as I boarded the minibus. I trust we left HOPE which might take them

forward in facing tomorrow and their tomorrows thereafter. For if we have no HOPE we have nothing.

Another salient part of this trip was experiencing the enormous warmth, hospitality and fellowship extended by the Cathedral Church of St. Dunstan Benoni under the direction of the Dean. Exposure to good food and of course South African wines together with Christian worship formed a varied and well rounded experience. It is hoped the visit will strengthen our link between Monmouth and Benoni and this will grow through prayer and interaction.

With the pilgrimage complete, a smaller number of the group extended this South African odyssey to Cape Town for a further five days. This time simply as tourists! Touching down at London Heathrow in the early morning, this Pilgrimage had ended..... no doubt it had offered different experiences to many in meeting differing needs and expectations. My concluding thought.....question - has Apartheid ended or has it morphed into something equally undesirable?

Zach Williams

...also a message from the other Cathedral pilgrims: having seen the urgent needs in Dukothole and the tireless work done there by Nomsa, they wonder if anyone would be willing to make a donation toward the teacher training, school uniforms, shoes or school bus? If so, PLEASE contact Patricia Phillips (the link person) on 01633 264799 or patricia_phillips2009@hotmail.co.uk

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