



St Woolos Quarterly

The Newsletter of Newport Cathedral Newyddion Cadeirlan

Easter / Pasg 2019

We are 'open for business'

You could be forgiven for thinking that the Cathedral is unable to function properly, at the moment, whilst we deal with the complicated (and expensive) problem of the dry rot which currently affects an entire half of the nave's lovely parquet floor of 1913. That part of the building will be inaccessible until further notice as we work out how best to remedy the situation.

Nevertheless, if you step inside the building you will soon see that it is largely still, 'business as usual', except for the bigger events which have of necessity had to relocate. Otherwise, we are adapting to try to meet the needs of those who come to make the most of this wonderful, sacred space.



Are you someone who comes into the Cathedral? If not, have you ever? There are plenty of people who come and say that it is their first visit 'even though I've lived in Newport all my life' - as many of them seem to add.

A church is essentially a place where people come to seek God. It is set aside especially for that purpose not because only churches can offer that possibility. Churches are among those places where people often come to learn how to find God everywhere else as well.

Lots of people who drop in to churches reckon to have no 'sense of God' or of believing in God's existence. Nevertheless, something of the purpose

of the place seems to work on them and they often come back. The poet, Philip Larkin puts it stunningly well in, 'Church Going', where he writes as someone who just happens to 'drop in':

... someone will forever be surprising
A hunger in himself to be more serious,
And gravitating with it to this ground,
Which, he once heard, was proper to grow wise in,

You don't need to buy into religion, let alone into the institutional Church, to find yourself perhaps more peaceful, somehow reassured, by dropping into the Cathedral. If 'God' means anything at all, it is at least about the meaning of life. Over the centuries, people have come here to seek after meaning and to wrestle with it, to be thankful or sad, to feel bewildered, lost or angry with the life they have. Some people just come and sit and like to come and do it again for reasons they don't seek to pinpoint.

We are open for business, open for you. Perhaps you might learn what Larkin meant when he said such places are 'proper to grow wise in'.

Lister Tonge *Dean of Newport*

Recent comments from the Cathedral Visitors' Book:

- * 26/01/19 "Very beautiful. Great feeling of holiness in the presence of God"
- * 01/02/19 "Such a warm welcome to your beautiful cathedral. A lovely place to sit in quiet, gentle, reflection"



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

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

Our recently-appointed Organ Scholar - Agnes Miles

Many Cathedrals and large churches will have on their staff an Organ Scholar, to assist the regular team with playing Voluntaries, accompanying Services, and training the choir.

Agnes joined us recently, at the same time as starting her music training at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, specialising, she tells us, in the Viola.

Born in London, she says she has been involved in music since the age of six. She studied as a junior student at Trinity College London and sang as a chorister at All Saint’s Parish Church Kingston. She told us “I had organ lessons at the Royal College of Organists, and also became Organ Scholar at St Mary’s Parish Church Hampton, which gave me an insight into what



it’s like to be a church organist”. Studying at the RWCMD, she says “I have great enjoyment participating in different ensembles, and in being trained as an orchestral musician, which is quite intensive.” But she says that taking up an active part in the musical life of a Cathedral is of equal importance as it provides a spiritual base for development of her faith. “I believe that the contribution of music greatly enhances the worship of a community”. Agnes is eager to get

used to her role as Organ Scholar and hopes that she will make a positive contribution to the music team here at Newport.

Welcome, Agnes!

Upcoming events at St Woolos Cathedral : Digwyddiadau nesaf y Gadeirlan

*** 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)

- Saturday 9th March: Coffee Morning in the Cathedral 10.30am - 12.30
- Saturday 16th March: Recital by ‘Philomel’, orchestra from Purcell School, Hertfordshire 12 noon
- Thursday 21st March: Recital by Christopher (piano) & Catherine Williams (oboe) 7.30pm
- Friday 29th March: Celebration of St Woolos Day** - Solemn Eucharist including Haydn “A Little Organ Mass” with Cathedral Choir and St Woolos Sinfonia
- Saturday 6th April: Concert by St Woolos Sinfonia 7.30pm
- Saturday 13th April: Recital by Eastern Winds/Sextetta 12 noon (music@stwoolos series)
- Sunday 21st April - Easter Day:** Festal Eucharist (10.30am) and Festal Evensong 5pm
- Saturday 11th May: Recital by students of RWCMD 12 noon (music@stwoolos series)
- Saturday 18th May: Spring Concert to celebrate 30 years of Newport Philharmonic Choir 7.30pm
- Sunday 19th May: Newport Cathedral Choir at the Three Choirs Festival - 4.30pm in Brecon Cathedral
- Thursday 23rd May: Choristers’ Concert - Newport Cathedral Choristers 7pm

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



Supporting the work of your church

through the Church-in-Wales ‘Gift Direct’ scheme
Pick up a leaflet in the St Mary Chapel, or go to
<http://www.churchinwales.org.uk/resources/gift-direct/>
or phone 029 2034 8216



Who's Who at St Woolos

The Dean Y Deon	The Very Revd Lister Tonge	01633 259627	deanofnewport@churchinwales.org.uk
Precentor & Archdeacon of Newport Prif Gantor ac Archddiacon Casnewydd Residentiary Canon	The Ven. Jonathan Williams	01633 215206	archdeacon.newport@churchinwales.org.uk
	Revd Canon Dr Mark Dimond	01633 376977	markdimond@churchinwales.org.uk
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

Cathedral News

Artists in Residence, Alison Richards & Rob Taylor (ARRTDUO) have installed a new piece of work in the Cathedral. It is called "After Dark in Andalusia".

The poetry that is part of the work describes the Holy Week and Easter passion processions in Andalusia; their ancient, cultural origins find a place in the modern world.

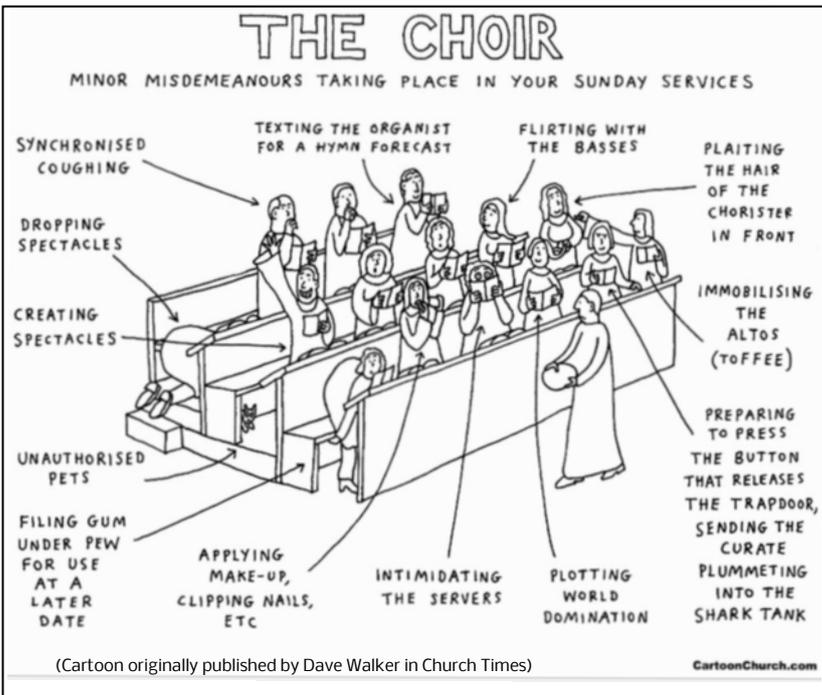
The sculpture depicts the colourful history of Granada. The wooden element is in the form of three lobes, each one representing one of the monotheistic religions; Christianity, Judaism and Islam. Each one frames a space that represents the common search for peace and fulfilment and connection to a supreme being. They meet to form a common space which represents the three religions coming together respecting each other's differences and celebrating a common humanity.

The story of Granada is told in the fused glass. The first starts with 'Indalo Man'; cave drawings, representing a stick man holding a rainbow; man's special relationship with God. Each piece of glass in turn illuminates a narrative relating to each of the three monotheistic faiths and their place in the history of Granada.

The artists encourage you to read the poetry, engage with the wider description of the work and consider the form and narrative of the sculpture.



It won't have needed a sharp and discerning eye to notice that the present altar is, in purely material terms anyway, nothing more than a temporary affair put together from left-over sheets of chipboard and a lick of paint. In prospect is a new altar, of similar size and shape but professionally-designed and -constructed, commissioned from Dovetailors in Leeds. We hope it might be in place by Easter - fingers crossed.



Meanwhile a Rood (/ru:d/ noun A Crucifix, especially one positioned above the rood screen of a church, or over the entrance to the chancel) has been commissioned from a specialist sculptor in Singapore. Transporting it here, once it has been completed, could be an issue. Anyone returning from holiday in Singapore with at least 500Kg surplus baggage allowance, please contact the Dean!

Those of you who occasionally, or regularly, visit our website will have to contain their excitement, as a new, more vibrant and (hopefully) more informative website is on its way. The website address will be the same (www.newportcathedral.org.uk). As webmasters, as well as editors of this newsletter, we always welcome feedback and suggestions for useful content. Don't be shy.

Archway Vehicle Repairs

Tel: 01633 254717
Mob: 07949674727

1, Tredegar Wharf
Mill Parade
Newport NP20 2JR

ARCHWAY VEHICLE REPAIRS
SERVICING TO ALL TYPES OF VEHICLES
TEL: 01633 254717
M.O.T REPAIRS - WELDING
TAXI'S PRE PLATES
GENERAL REPAIRS
24HRS RECOVERY

COFFEE LOUNGE
AND LICENSED RESTAURANT

3 CORN STREET
NEWPORT
NP20 1DJ

01633 670601

Continental
Coffee - Patisserie - Catering



The Cathedral is open to visitors:

Monday to Thursday 8am until 5pm

Friday 8am until 8pm

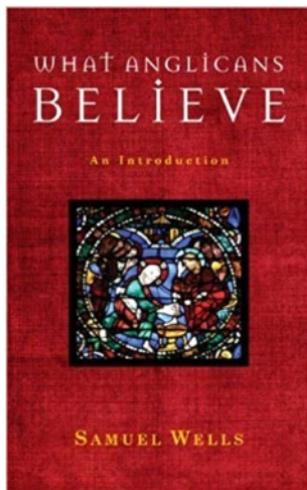
Saturday 9am until 4pm

Sunday 10am until 8pm

The Book Review

What Anglicans believe: an introduction

by Samuel Wells. London: Canterbury Press, 2011



The intended audience, and indeed the intention of this book is clearly stated in the author's preface:

'This book is written for anyone who wants to know more about the Church they don't belong to, wants to know more about the Church they belong to but don't always understand, or wants to know why they should continue to be a part of the Church given that they've become all too aware of its imperfections ...'

This book is divided into four sections, the first and longest of which is simply entitled 'The Faith'. As Professor Wells explains in his introduction, another way of saying this is that it concerns the fundamental doctrine of Anglicanism. He attempts here to explain the basics of Christian beliefs, and does not shrink from discussions about a range of theological concepts puzzling to some, such as salvation and heaven. He presents a number of answers to commonly asked questions, for example 'How does Jesus save us?', and attempts answers of his own in a sympathetic and inclusive manner. The second section on 'Sources of

Faith' focuses on scripture and tradition which, combined together, underpin the practice of Anglicanism today in all parts of the world. The third section, 'The Order of Faith', addresses worship (in all its many forms), ministry and mission, explaining what is meant by these terms. The final section examines, very briefly, the history of the Anglican Church itself, starting in 664 AD with the Synod of Whitby, and thereafter picking out key dates in its development to the present day. The global dimension of Anglicanism is also covered here.

This book is not an easy read, but it is a rewarding one. Although not, perhaps, recommended (as claimed by the author) for someone starting out on a journey towards some sort of faith, it would certainly be helpful for Christians of other denominations, as well as people of other faiths, to explain to them exactly what being an Anglican means. The author does not claim to have any particular authority in this matter, and takes particular trouble to represent the breadth of the Church, and to remain open-minded in many areas, although quite prescriptive in others. This is a book especially useful to 'thinking Anglicans' who may have been members of that Church for many years, yet still feel uncertain as to what are the distinctive characteristics of Anglicanism, and how they have emerged, over time, to the distinct yet broad church that we know today.

Sian King
November 2018

A date for your diaries:

Friends of Newport Museum & Art Gallery invite you to a talk on Tuesday April 9th entitled "The View from the Hill: Frances Hawkins and Victorian Newport". Frances Hawkins was wife of Edward Hawkins, Vicar of St Woolos for much of the second half of the 19th century, and she was an accomplished and very prolific watercolourist. Many of her paintings depict St Woolos and the surrounding area.

The talk previews an exhibition with the same title which will run for a couple of months at Newport Art Gallery from April 30th. Two paintings by Frances, currently hanging in the vestry at St Woolos, will feature in the exhibition.

The talk will be held in the Art Gallery (Newport Museum) at 7pm - April 9th.

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

Deadline for the Summer 2019 edition - May 20th

The Cathedral Church of St Woolos Newport is a Registered Charity No. 1133935