

THE POWER OF
ZERO



Zero has no perceived value. It holds no authority, yet power lies in its potential. When placed behind any other number, their collective value increases tenfold. This action is the seed of growth that ensures the establishment and rise of a community.

In Character Act

Giya Makondo-Wills

-Article 23.4 The Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948-

Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

Chartist poetry was written for the people, by the people. At a time of political uncertainty, their voices were carried by the press as their boots shook the valleys. Here at St Woolos Cathedral, lie ten men who died on the night of the Newport Rising in 1839, buried in unmarked graves, now reimagined in boxes of light. In collaboration with members of trade unions today, Giya Makondo-Wills has re-interpreted 19th century Chartist poetry, in relation to the 'draconian' proposals of the current trade union bill. In this work Makondo-Wills looks at the parallels between the chartist movement and trade unions today, and history repeating itself.

Where God Imparts to Human Hearts

Chloe Jones

"God doesn't let go of me even if I leave go of Him from time to time." -Sandra

The lack of an agreed physical representation of God causes some to search for His presence within their everyday lives. Then, through actuality we can begin to connect with the otherwise inconceivable.

Chloe Jones has been in conversation with members of the congregation at St. Woolos Cathedral in order to broaden her understanding of the omnipresence of God. These photographs are in response to where these individuals feel a closer connection to Him outside of the Cathedral. These locations are personal places they find themselves feeling an overwhelming sense of otherness, something that is only evoked when there.

A Tender Shoot

Luke Richards

The all male boys choir from Newport's St. Woolos Cathedral make the journey via a minibus emblazoned with the logo of a local funeral services. After frantically waving at passing strangers, they arrive at the Capital's towering Cathedral in the quiet, affluent neighbourhood of Llandaff. There is growing anticipation amongst the boys, who walk open-mouthed around its many chapels before the final rehearsal.

Following a relatively smooth performance, they are led into private dining quarters and sit in the corner of the room. Gathering around phones, their fingers smudge against bright screens, wet from the humus and crisps laid out in the lavish spread. After gazing across at the surrounding tables, Wilfred looks to his friends, "I bet they look at us like we're savages". Aaron's not listening.

A Tender Shoot follows the ages 7-13 boys choir in their busy winter schedule. The series looks at the role the choir plays in their lives aside from its musical education.

Kent Treble Bob

Luke Withers

Prior to modern communication methods, people encountered only one set of stories, in today's Globalised society we encounter multiple narratives. This causes the traditional beliefs to be continually challenged by stories from other Religions and Sciences, which attempt to provide alternative meanings.

Traditionally, Church bells have played an important role in the transmission of messages from the Church to the Congregation, being favoured for their ability to carry information over long distances.

'*Kent Treble Bob*' examines the nature of communication in the modern Church by exploring St Woolos active bellringing community, who operate the largest Peal of bells in Wales. They exist in conjunction with ongoing reforms to The Church in Wales, including the aim to utilise every form of modern communication available, to engage an estranged population.

Most modern communication methods use algorithms to interpret data and in a similar way, bellringers use algorithms to sequence their ringing. These functions are integrated into the globalised infrastructure of communication and defy visualisation in almost as elusive a way as the abstract entities to which Religion attaches such high value. They are observable only in the diagrams which attempt to explain the invisible subjects of their practice.

Some Grow Amongst Thorns

Polly Garnett

Christenings, weddings and funerals; a flower can embody many stages of our lives. Memories, people or events become materialised within them and disguised in their decoration. *Some Grow Amongst Thorns* shows how against adversity we can see the promise of new life within the blossom of a flower.

As a young child, aspects of my father's depression were hard for me to comprehend. One attempt for me to understand his condition was to think of the red roses in our garden. How I would admire the fullness, beauty and detail within the petals; but my father at the time would only be able to see the thorns. This has stayed with me throughout my life and led me to this project.

In a series of still lives and recordings, the women of St Woolos Cathedral share their own connections with florets. The monumental suspension of the flowers captures these fragments of life, in time and memory.

*This exhibition wouldn't have been possible without the generosity
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Thank you.*