

St Woolos Quarterly

The Newsletter of Newport Cathedral

Newyddion Cadeirlan Casnewydd

Autumn / Hydref 2021

Our Quarterly Newsletter has, for reasons that need no further elaboration, not been 'quarterly' of late. We make no apologies but feel optimistic that we can resume 'service as normal'. At the same time, we wish to warmly welcome Ian Black, our new Dean, who, without any undue armtwisting, has agreed to carry on the customary front-page 'message'. As always, we are happy to receive contributions from our readers for future editions, as well as (hopefully constructive) feedback.

Ed.

From the Dean

One of the things I have been enjoying over the last few months is getting to know the Cathedral and its architecture. It is a beautiful building, catching the light in different ways at various times of the day. One such treat was the mid-summer light shining through the East Window and painting a pattern on the chancel stones during Morning Prayer (depicted). It only happens for a week or two at 8.15am.

St Woolos is the smallest of the Welsh Cathedrals, but it is intimate and versatile. It lends itself to so much imaginative ministry and liturgy. With distancing in July, the choir was able to take over the nave and lay out the chairs collegiate style for an end of year Evensong. After such a difficult year, this enabled them to go out on a musical high.

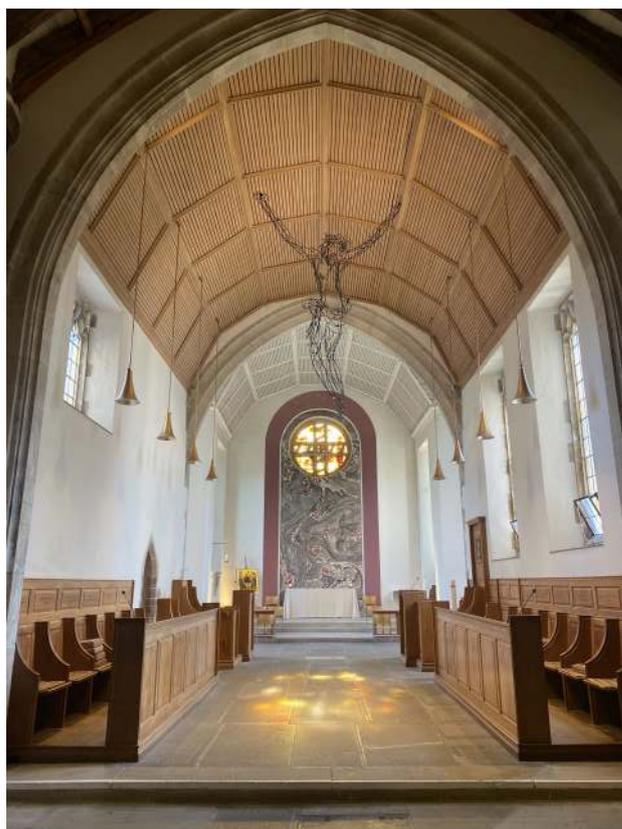
We live in an age when Christian mission needs imagination and flair. It needs to draw on the rich

heritage and give it a voice to speak to this generation. Newport Cathedral has very deep spiritual roots, going back to St Woolos (Gwynllyw). We are the inheritors of this treasure and the challenge to be living witnesses to the good news of God in Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit to make a difference to lives today. To do that, we have to be shaped and nurtured by that faith.

We have a big task ahead of us, but it starts with those morning prayers, caught in the awe and wonder of God's beauty. As the Mother Church of the Diocese and a community of faith our task is to be a place of prayer and worship, open and inclusive welcome and to reach out in faithful and loving service.

I look forward to seeing what the autumn has in store, not least as we re-engage, looking up rather than being locked down.

Ian Black *Dean of Newport*



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The Dean has announced the resumption of Choral Evensong when the Choir returns. As from September 15th, Choral Evensong will be sung on Wednesdays at 6.30pm and Sundays at 5.00pm

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Worship at Newport Cathedral

Gwasanaethau yn y Gadeirlan

Regular Service times are as 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 Holy Eucharist		
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday	Mawrth, Mercher, Gwener				
		8.00 Morning Prayer	8.20 Holy Eucharist	5.00 Evening Prayer	
Thursday		8.00 Morning Prayer	10.30 Holy Eucharist	5.00 Evening Prayer	

Thoughts on Harvest Festivals

I have always loved to see churches decorated for Harvest Festival. Traditionally there were sheaves of corn, plaited ropes of onions, baskets of apples, resplendent marrows, and pumpkins, with other fruits and vegetables piled into pyramids around a traditional harvest loaf. In some churches there were years when we had hedgerow fruits weaved together with Old Man's Beard, or wild clematis.

On the island of Herm, in the Channel Islands, the church was transformed to a pseudo-barn, with most of the islanders participating by bringing the harvest home to their place of worship. Even the ends of their pews had decorations of Michaelmas daisies, montbretia and marguerites.

However, times have changed. With the desperate need to support those living in poverty, and below the breadline,

different strategies are needed. Food banks are unable to store large amounts of fresh food. We must resort to sharing tinned and canned meat, fish, fruit and vegetables instead.



I wonder if I am alone in thinking that this takes away some of the annual 'magic' of God's harvest? Few of us actually 'plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land'. But I fear we risk the younger generation being unaware that peas and beans actually *grow*, thanks to the sunshine and the rain, provided by our Lord. Does the Parable of The Sower really make younger people think about sowing and reaping the harvest. I do hope so.

Might there be space and time to gather some of our spiritual harvest, together with the produce available in our many supermarkets?

Patricia Phillips

Upcoming events at Newport Cathedral - Digwyddiadau nesaf y Gadeirlan

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

Saturday Sept 11th CADW Open Doors event, including midday recital - The Oneira Trio (Harp, Viola, Flute)

Wednesday Sept 15th - Choral Evensong is resumed - 6.30pm, and Sundays at 5.00pm

Thursday October 7th at 7.00pm - Recital: Richard and Thomas McMahon (Cello and Piano)

Saturday October 16th: Midday recital - The Fitzhardinge Consort (Choir)

Saturday November 13th: Midday recital - Fumi Otsuki (Violin)

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Who's Who at Newport Cathedral

Dean of Newport/Y Deon	The Very Revd Ian Black	01633 259990	dean@newportcathedral.org.uk
Precentor & Archdeacon of Newport Priv Gantor ac Archddiacon Casnewydd	The Ven. Jonathan Williams	01633 215206	precentor@newportcathedral.org.uk
Assistant Priest	Canon David Neale	07912 104902	apriest@newportcathedral.org.uk
Administrator	Sandra Toulson	01633 267464	enquiries@newportcathedral.org.uk

We can be grateful to Colin Jenkins for rescuing a good number of old photos of the Cathedral and its clergy. Here we present just a few. What we don't have



for many of them, is information such as date or context - so it's over to you to help us out. When were they taken? What was going on? And, what's to be done with all the other photos? Perhaps an exhibition in the Cathedral, or a permanent display somewhere? Does anybody have old Cathedral photos they would like to share with us?



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.

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St Woolos - a poem by Bill Fouweather

October 2020

It stands on top of the hill,
Majestic and proud.
It's ancient walls drip and ache with history and secrets.
Many of these secrets can never be revealed,
For they are held by people long dead and departed.
Standing inside the Lych Gate the autumn chill attacks me.
The trees have lost their leaves.
Autumn can be really cruel.
I walk up the slight incline, past the carpet of yellow and brown leaves,
And the neat manicured grass,
Until I reach the door.



As I enter,
The silence is beautiful and haunting.
This building commands respect,
I see a plaque in the floor,
Dated 1666.
In this year of a new pandemic,
The person buried in 1666,
During the Great Plague of 1665,
And the Great Fire of London 1666.
The leper's window,

Reminds me, that in the past, sadly,
Not everyone could enter the church.

With the pews removed,
The nave looks vast and spacious.
A magnificent grand piano,
Generously donated
By a parishioner, demands
a prominent position.
A future king of Britain, Charles,
Has visited this place.

And what of the present?
Some remarkable people I have met
Who worship here.
They don't just practice their faith;
They live it, it is a privilege to know them.
Christine, the brilliant organiser,
Jeannie the 'flower girl',
Whose magnificent arrangements
Fill the cathedral,
With scent and light and beauty.
Dan, the quietly spoken
Talented gardener.

The people of this Parish
Are blessed and lucky,
To have such a beautiful
Tapestry to worship in.

I close the door slowly,
And silence descends like a blanket.
What a beautiful experience.
I will visit again.



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. Deadline next edition November 20th 2021

Contact Brian or Siân King: contact@newportcathedral.org.uk