

# St Woolos Quarterly

*The Newsletter of Newport Cathedral*

*Newyddion Cadeirlan Casnewydd*

Christmas / Nadolig 2021

## The Dean's Christmas Message 2021

I've noticed a trend in the Christmas adverts on the television this year. Quite a few are emphasising meeting again, gathering and sharing special moments together. After last year, which was for many of us spent in lockdown – either official or because travel was just not possible – this is an understandable desire.

Many families develop their own customs and traditions for Christmas. As time marches ever onwards, these inevitably have to change and adapt, so whatever mental picture we may have, all of us know that the reality is often different.

Not everyone will find the advertisers' idealised images match their reality. For some there will be an empty chair at the table, for others distance still being beyond bridging, and working patterns can mean the catch-up has to wait (as is the case for us).

This year, I will be discovering Christmas in a new place and with

some unfamiliar customs. Our building doesn't have a lot of stained glass, but I was delighted to spot this angel high up in St Luke's Chapel during a concert recently. It is one of a series of musical angels, accompanying the love-song of heaven.



If that sounds a familiar phrase, that's because it comes from the carol, 'It came upon a midnight clear'. It calls for the noise of the 'men of strife' to be hushed and to hear the love-song which the angels bring. The volume on the angry voices seems to have been turned up at the moment and, at its most extreme, this has led to violence, even murder, including of MPs. The narrative needs to change, for a kinder rhetoric and deeper respect, especially when there are disagreements.

Christmas brings a love-song from God, sung by angels telling of the birth of Christ, God among us. Listening to that love-song, being hushed by it, letting it enter our hearts, can change us and in turn the story we tell and the way we live it.

*Ian Black - Dean of Newport*

## Residentiary Canon appointed

We are delighted to announce the appointment of the **Revd Andrew Lightbown** to be Residentiary Canon. He is currently rector of Winslow in Buckinghamshire. The Dean reports "We look forward to welcoming Andrew and Sallyanne in the Spring and to working with him in the service of Christ and to help build up the life and faith of the Cathedral community." He and his family will be moving to Newport in the New Year and he will be installed on 6<sup>th</sup> March. Further background details can be found on our website ([www.newportcathedral.org.uk](http://www.newportcathedral.org.uk)).





## 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

<b>Sunday Sul</b>	8.00 Cathedral Eucharist	10.30 Holy Eucharist	5.00 Choral Evensong
<b>Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday</b>	<b>Llun, Mawrth, Iau, Gwener</b>		
	8.00 Morning Prayer	8.20 Holy Eucharist (but 10.30 on Thursdays)	5.00 Evening Prayer
<b>Wednesday Mercher</b>	8.00 Morning Prayer	8.20 Holy Eucharist	6.30 Choral Evensong

## New Cathedral Architect appointed

Cathedrals and churches throughout the land constantly need repairs and alterations. And if they are old buildings, perhaps of historical or architectural significance, they need specialist advice and guidance. Following the retirement of our previous architect, Chapter have recently appointed Emma Mullen to the post. She is an accredited Conservation Architect, specialising in the repair and alteration of ecclesiastical and historic buildings. One of her first tasks will be to undertake the 'Quinquennial Review' of every aspect of the Cathedral's state of repair - or disrepair!

Emma completed her undergraduate and Masters degrees at the Welsh School of Architecture in Cardiff,

before developing a passion for conservation by working on notable church and listed building projects in London.



Since joining St Ann's Gate Architects in 2014, Emma has taken on the role of Inspecting Architect to over 30 parish churches within the south of England and is an approved architect in the Winchester and Salisbury Dioceses. She has worked on a wide range of ecclesiastical building projects including Westminster Roman Catholic Cathedral, Project Pilgrim at Gloucester Cathedral and the recent conservation works to save a 15<sup>th</sup> century roof structure at Amesbury Abbey.

Emma has a passion for responding to the complex demands of historic buildings and sensitively managing change through creative thinking and a thorough understanding of building, people and place.

## Upcoming events at Newport Cathedral - Digwyddiadau nesaf y Gadeirlan

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

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Thursday December 2nd at 7.00pm   | - Tenovus Lovelight Christmas Concert            |
| Saturday December 11th at 12 noon | - Midday Recital: Emily Harris (harp)            |
| 7.00pm                            | - Newport Philharmonic Choir - Christmas Concert |
| Monday December 13th at 7.00pm    | - Newport MIND Charity: Christmas Concert        |
| Saturday December 18th at 7.30pm  | - Newport Symphony Orchestra : Concert           |
| <u>2022</u>                       |  |
| Saturday 8th January at 12 noon   | - Midday Recital - RWCMD Guitar Ensemble         |
| Saturday February 12th at 12 noon | - Midday Recital: Mathern Mens' Choir            |
| Thursday February 24th at 7.30pm  | - Concert: The Fitzhardinge Consort              |

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## Who's Who at Newport Cathedral

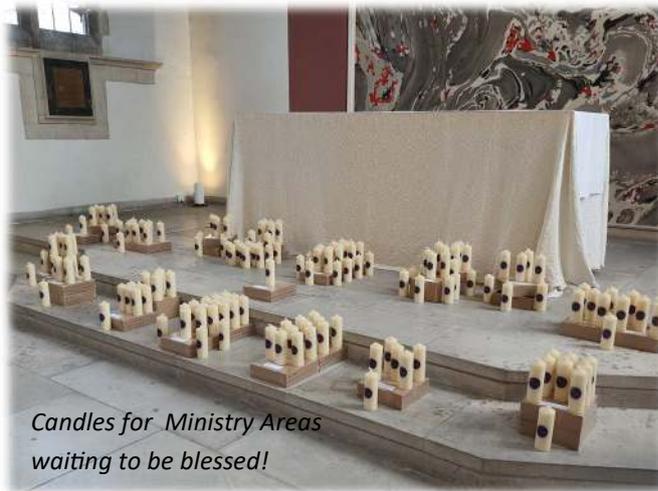
<b>Dean of Newport / Y Deon</b>	The Very Revd Ian Black	01633 259990	dean@newportcathedral.org.uk
<b>Assistant Priest</b>	Canon David Neale	07912 104902	apriest@newportcathedral.org.uk
<b>Administrator</b>	Julie Guy	01633267464	enquiries@newportcathedral.org.uk
<b>Facilities Manager</b>	Alan Brustad		facilities@newportcathedral.org.uk

## Cathedral News - New Appointments and Diocesan Celebrations

Since the arrival of the new Dean, the Very Reverend Ian Black, there have been several changes to the Cathedral Team with some new appointments. On Page 2 you will have read about the new Cathedral Architect, **Emma Mullen**. Our Administrator, Andrea Keene, left in January and, after a period of 'stand-in' by ex-Churchwarden Sandra Toulson, we now have in post **Julie Guy**. Our Cathedral Verger, Graham Brown, has also had to relinquish that role, but continues as Sacristan. His other work has now passed to **Alan Brustad** as Facilities Manager.

The 17th of October just gone saw the 100th Anniversary of the Diocese of Monmouth. Instead of the usual Choral Evensong, a Service of Songs of Praise was held. On Sunday

31st October the Sunday Eucharist was followed by Candle Blessing for Ministry Areas, led by Bishop Cherry. Work continues towards instituting Ministry Areas throughout the diocese, and a special order of Service was used by all churches of the diocese on Sunday 21st November to symbolise unity and shared purpose.



*Candles for Ministry Areas waiting to be blessed!*

In our last edition we showed a few old photos and asked for feedback and information. Thank you to those who responded. The photo of workmen moving timbers was probably taken during restoration work in the late Victorian period. The St. Mary Chapel was used as such with chairs and an altar, within memory for Christenings. Later, Christening parties were placed in with the main congregation. The Facebook group 'Pictures and Memories of Newport' has information and photos showing the area, as it was, around the Cathedral.

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES - 2021/2022

Sunday December 19th - at 8.00am  
at 10.30am  
and at 3.00pm

Friday December 24th - **Christmas Eve** - at 3.00pm  
and at 1.00pm

Saturday December 25th - **Christmas Day** at 8.00am  
and at 10.30am

Sunday December 26th at 10.30am

Sunday January 2nd at 8.00am

Holy Eucharist  
Cathedral Eucharist  
Crib Service (no Evensong)

Festival of Lessons and Carols (tickets)  
Midnight Eucharist (tickets)

Holy Eucharist  
Christmas Day Eucharist (no Evensong)

Cathedral Eucharist (no 8.00am or Evensong)

Holy Eucharist





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### 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



## Music@StWoolos - its history and the Cathedral's concerts and recitals

Our Music@StWoolos series of concerts and recitals is part of the Cathedral's continuing process of welcoming people into the building, and raising funds to restore and maintain it so that it can continue as a place of worship, and fulfil its role in the community.

Music@StWoolos, the name and the concept, were brainchildren of the late Prof Brian Peeling. He thought that larger audiences would be attracted to free recitals with a retiring collection than to the ticketed organ recitals that were held infrequently at the time. It was difficult to pitch the price of admission tickets so that they were not so high that they deterred people from coming, nor so low as to be insulting to the performers.

The idea was conceived partly as a means of raising funds for the Rescue Appeal to restore the Cathedral's roof. The first recitals were

held in 2005 and the first contact list was based on Brian's connections with local musical personalities. The Rescue Appeal benefitted quite substantially from the early M@StW recitals.

The St Woolos Players (later the Sinfonia) was created at about the same time, again as a result of Brian's love of music, his expertise and his medical and musical contacts, but the orchestra and M@StW soon diverged.

At first the recitals were held at mid-day on the last Saturday of the month and were arranged a few months in advance, but as Brian's attention focussed on the Sinfonia a small team of four or five individuals from the Cathedral congregation emerged to organise and staff the recitals. They were moved to the second Saturday of each month (thus largely avoiding Bank Holiday weekends), with three or four Thursday evening concerts at intervals throughout the year, and a complete year's programme usually finalised and publicised by the autumn of the previous year. The recitals are usually about an hour in length and the concerts are longer, with an interval.

Brian's original contacts included staff at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff and through those contacts he arranged for students to perform in the Cathedral. The students' travelling expenses were paid out of the collection, and their recitals became situations in which everyone was a winner: the students had performance experience, the audiences were entertained and the Cathedral had a small financial benefit. Those contacts have been maintained and over the years the number of RWCMD staff who recommend student groups

to come to perform for us has increased and graduates often ask to return.

As the size of the audience, and therefore the collection, cannot be foreseen our musicians usually perform for a share of the collection instead of a fee but as knowledge of our programme

has spread audiences have increased and so have the collections. Audiences are invited to "give as they feel" and in proportion to their enjoyment.

Of course performances ceased in the first lockdown in the spring of 2020 and recommenced last summer. Performers who had been disappointed in 2020 have made up the bulk of the performers this year, and in recognition of the impact the pandemic has had on performers the proportion of the collection they have received has been increased temporarily.

The schedule for 2022 is almost complete. Performances of note include "The Fitzhardinge Consort" (24<sup>th</sup> February), "Cor8" (All-female French Horn Octet, 23<sup>rd</sup> June), "The National Youth Guitar Ensemble" (16<sup>th</sup> July), and "Ystradivarius" (Baroque Ensemble, 3<sup>rd</sup> November). Please check the Cathedral website for regular updates.

*Brian Cox*



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 (400-500 words or less, as a rule) - they may need to be edited prior to publication.

Deadline for copy for next edition: Feb.24th 2022 Contact Brian or Siân King: [contact@newportcathedral.org.uk](mailto:contact@newportcathedral.org.uk)

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