



# St Woolos Quarterly

*The Newsletter of Newport Cathedral*

*Newyddion Cadeirlan Casnewydd*

Easter / Pasg 2022

## Invisible, radiant and prominent – The Newport Rood

At the end of lockdown in 2020, the new Rood was installed at the entrance to the chancel arch. This striking modern work of art by the Singaporean artist Tay Swee Siong, is made from wire and hangs near the site of the medieval Rood, adjacent to the high-level doorway. Its appearance is highly dependent on where the viewer stands. In some places it almost blends into the background and becomes invisible. When the sunlight shines through from the south it can appear radiant. With the roofs as its backdrop it is prominent and full, hanging in the heart of the Cathedral.

Invisible, radiant and prominent, is a metaphor for how the cross stands in the heart of our faith and life. "Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?" (Lamentations 1:12) could be the words of a culture which sees Good Friday as another day, a sanitised faith that jumps from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday without passing through the passion of the cross. We want Easter without the pain, but such a faith has nothing to say to the darker sides of life.

"Inscribed upon the cross we see in shining letters, 'God is love'", from Thomas Kelly's Good Friday Hymn (We sing the praise of him who died), brings the radiance of a love

that will give most deeply of itself. This radiance holds out hope to the suffering, who can know that they are not alone, that God enters into the depth of their pain and holds it. They share in the passion of Christ, and so he shares in theirs.



The cross has become prominent in our faith. Its prominence is that its shame becomes its victory. What can almost be unnoticed stands at the heart of the Cathedral. All who come are able to gaze at it and marvel at its simplicity and power. As it stands at the gateway to the chancel, so it stands as the gateway into the heart of God, and so we cross ourselves at moments of blessing, sacrament and affirmation.

Due to the pandemic, the Rood has not been dedicated. We will put that right on Passion Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April, when Bishop Cherry will dedicate it during the Cathedral Eucharist at 10.30am.

May the cross be present and radiant for us at the heart of our faith as we journey through Lent to the Easter joy.

Ian Black  
Dean of Newport

Welcome to our 29th (yes, I counted them) edition of the Quarterly Newsletter. We hope that they continue to interest and inform you, keep you in touch with the Cathedral life, and provide useful lists of clergy and staff as well as upcoming events. We often begin putting the next edition together wondering if we'll have enough copy, but very soon we get articles and photos, sometimes more than enough. We thank you all for keeping us supplied. We are about to welcome our new Residentiary Canon, Andrew Lightbown, and we'll be asking him to introduce himself in our next edition in June. *Ed.*



## 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 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

On 26th October 1962, HM The Queen visited the Cathedral, as part of her day in Newport. She also saw the Llanwern Steel Works and Alexandra Docks.

Now, 60 years on, we are also celebrating the 70th year of her Accession to the Throne. Special prayers were said at Evensong on the Anniversary.

Preparations are in hand for a Celebration Concert in May, and a

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Service on June 5th. Details will all be on the Cathedral website in due course.



## Society of Women Organists

On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March, the Society of Women Organists will be visiting Newport, for an afternoon of talks, recitals and choir rehearsal, followed by Evensong. Starts 2.30

The Society of Women Organists (SWO) is dedicated to celebrating female organists in all areas of music-making, aiming for a world where women and men experience equal training, opportunities and encouragement, resulting in confident, ambitious and passionate players. SWO is inclusive, empowering, challenging and open-minded and the key objectives of the society are to support all female organists, promote women in the organ world and to recruit girls and women of all ages and backgrounds to study the organ.

Please visit [www.newportcathedral.org.uk](http://www.newportcathedral.org.uk) for more details. If you plan to attend please let the Cathedral office know, for catering purposes.

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

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

\*\*\* Sunday March 6th at 4 pm: Installation of the Canon Residentiary

\*\*\* Saturday March 12th at 12 noon: Midday Recital by students of the RWCMD

\*\*\* Sunday March 13th: Visit by the Society of Women Organists: talks, recitals, choir rehearsal and Evensong

\*\*\* Saturday April 9th at 12 noon: Midday Recital by students of the RWCMD

\*\*\* Saturday April 23rd at 7.00 pm: Concert by St Woolos Sinfonia, our own Orchestra-in-Residence

\*\*\* Thursday May 5th at 7.00 pm: Friends of Newport Cathedral Annual Lecture

\*\*\* Saturday May 14th at 12 noon: Midday Recital by Junior Conservatoire of the RWCMD

\*\*\* Saturday May 21st at 7.00 pm: Lord Lieutenant's Jubilee Concert

\*\*\* Saturday June 18th at 12 noon: Midday Recital by Lotus Chamber Brass

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FAIRTRADE



## 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	01633 267464	enquiries@newportcathedral.org.uk
<b>Facilities Manager</b>	Alan Brustad	01633 267464	facilities@newportcathedral.org.uk

## Cathedral Post-Covid Mission

Visitors and regulars alike, entering the Cathedral, will immediately be struck by seeing a large basket in the Narthex (ante-chapel) asking for contributions of food and goods for distribution to those in great need.

The Covid pandemic was already building up right at the beginning of January 2019. We were shortly to begin our winter Night Shelter, offering hot meals and a warm place to sleep, to some of Newport's homeless. This was a regular part of our mission, and it was devastating to learn we had to cancel that winter's hospitality to conform with regulations to reduce the spread of Covid-19. Our attention immediately turned to other ways we could help the more vulnerable and disadvantaged in our community, as

Patricia Phillips reports. "Since the brief Argos initiative, collections have been made for the local Food Bank....support has been very generous....thank you". Help has come from all sides, "however, with the much greater need, at the present time, there is no let up. Whilst our local centre has sufficient donations of certain items, donations of tinned meat and fish, pasta, soup and ready made sauces are much appreciated. Tea, coffee and biscuits would also be very welcome."

At the same time, the number of arriving refugees has created a far greater demand. "Support for the Welsh Refugee Centre is vital. Refugees receive just £39.63 for


each person per week; choices must be very difficult," she says. "Basics such as soap, shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, toothbrushes and toothpaste, nappies and sanitary products are really essential." Patricia, along with Ruth Willis, collect and deliver "children and baby clothes, warm coats, scarves, hats and gloves" each week, and those items are very much welcomed.



Meanwhile the Cathedral's Mothers' Union has continued, despite the pandemic and the restrictions placed on organised events, to support the Welsh Refugee Centre, Womens' Aid and others, including "the provision of knitted and sewn items and toiletries for Emergency Hospital Admissions." The Mothers' Union "also send Anniversary of Baptism cards with the aim of keeping contact with families of those recently baptised."


The Hospital Chaplaincy at the Royal Gwent have in the past organised a Hospital Memorial Service in the Cathedral and we hope that will be able to resume, "and we shall be able to support the recently bereaved personally."





### Archway Vehicle Repairs

Tel: 01633 254717  
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Newport  
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Restaurant



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Bassaleg**

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## Opinion:

## What can Newport Cathedral do to combat Climate

As I am writing this Storm Eunice is raging outside and rare red alerts have been issued for southern Wales. I hope that you have all come through it safely. This storm and other major weather events around the world are likely to be increasing as a result of global warming and without action this could reach dangerous levels. There are actions we can take as individuals but what should we do as a Church?

I understand that the Cathedral intends to follow Church in Wales and Diocesan policy on Climate Change. Details of these policies can be found by following these links [RBCW Net Zero Policy.pdf \(contentfiles.net\)](#) and [Becoming better stewards of God's creation - Monmouth Diocese \(churchinwales.org.uk\)](#). The Church in Wales website Climate Change page found at [Climate change - The Church in Wales](#) has links to a number of resources including the Eco Church project that some Ministry Areas are already taking part in. What does this mean for the Cathedral? Climate Change policy for the Cathedral is the responsibility of the Chapter and I would urge them to communicate this policy to the congregation especially as some practical implementation may come down to us.

But climate change will not be reversed by policies and websites but by practical action. For the Cathedral, this will include in the areas of building, especially heating, supplies, waste, travel and meetings. It will be set for us as a Chris-



tian community in the context of worship and theology. All sorts of practical issues arise relating to matters such as the cost of new heating systems, and travel to and from our link Diocese of the High Veld.

However, we don't have to wait for the Chapter to start taking actions in our own lives in areas such as recycling, transport and home heating and insulation. Cost can be a problem for us individually and as a society and restrictions on our activities may not be welcome, but there are many advantages to combatting climate change that include:

- Quieter roads with less fumes through electric cars and vehicles.
- Hydrogen fuelled trains, planes, ships, lorries and even JCBs whose exhausts will be only water.
- Hydrogen replacing in part CO2 emitting natural gas.
- Reliable energy supplies through wind, solar and tidal, with supply evened out by giant batteries, thereby reducing reliance on countries with unfriendly or questionable governments.
- Reduced pollution resulting in better health in many countries.
- Employment and investment opportunities in the new industries.
- A slowdown in growth of extreme climate events.

Philip Jones

The photo above, Philip Jones suggests, is wood-sorrel growing in the churchyard. But he wonders what other readers may think? Philip supervises and designs the Living Churchyard project. In 2017 the Gwent Wildlife Trust identified 16 species of grass and sedge, and 56 species of wildflower. You can read more about the Living Churchyard by going to: <https://www.newportcathedral.org.uk/living-churchyard/> And of course all are very welcome to spend some quiet time exploring the churchyard, especially in the Spring, and enjoying the many plants and flowers growing there.

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: June 24th 2022 Contact Brian or Siân King: [contact@newportcathedral.org.uk](mailto:contact@newportcathedral.org.uk)  
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