



**Cathedral
Annual Reports
2023**

**Annual Congregational
Meeting
2024**

**Newport Cathedral
Church of St Woolos**

CONTENTS

ANNUAL REPORTS OF CATHEDRAL 2023 ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| The Dean's Introduction | 3 |
| Baptism Card | 4 |
| Bellringers..... | 4 |
| Canon Residentiary..... | 5 |
| Choir..... | 7 |
| Communications & Publicity..... | 9 |
| Diocesan Conference..... | 10 |
| Living Church Yard | 11 |
| Mind on the Hill..... | 12 |
| Mothers' Union..... | 12 |
| Music @ St Woolos..... | 13 |
| Shop..... | 14 |
| Thirty-Somethings..... | 14 |

Annual Cathedral Congregational Meeting 2024

Introduction from the Dean

This booklet, prepared for the Annual Cathedral Congregational Meeting, contains a celebration of the life of the Cathedral community and its vibrancy. It has been a joy to read of the energy, the commitment and passion in each of the reports that follow. This is a lively community grounded in the prayer and worship which we offer each day. During the year the Cathedral has been opened again each day from Morning Prayer until Evening Prayer to enable anyone to call in to visit, to pray, to spend time in the still space, and in some cases to find help. The prayers left on the prayer board are placed on the altar at one of the Eucharists during the week, and many are very moving to read.

This past year has been the first full year since the pandemic and footfall through the Cathedral rose from 23,000 to around 36,000. We have welcomed people for special services and a variety of events, as well as to our regular services, coffee mornings and other activities and meetings.

The Representative Body of the Church in Wales has recently changed the financial support it gives to dioceses and cathedrals in Wales. This has enabled us with the Bishop to review clergy roles. We hope to appoint an additional Residentiary Canon as Canon for Worship and Congregational Life with a view to that person joining us in the autumn. This will combine the traditional roles of Precentor (40%) and Pastor (60%). S/he will be responsible for the pastoral care and development of the life, faith and ministry of the congregation. This is an exciting development and will help us grow as a community in faith, caring and number.

Under these changes, Canon Andrew will become Canon for Mission, focussing on the missionary and evangelistic life of the Cathedral, 40% internally and 60% looking beyond the walls to extend our mission into the city.

This new money provides us with an opportunity to raise the profile, presence and impact of the Cathedral in the life of the city and the diocese in a significant way, as well as increasing our capacity to be there for people. It will also release me from the role of Precentor, which I have been fulfilling for the past three years and I need to be able to concentrate more on getting round the diocese. Writing the profile was very encouraging as I found myself celebrating the life of our community and the mission we exercise here.

Life at the Cathedral continues to evolve and change as our new identity without a parish takes shape. The work that has been taking place on various projects to care for the fabric of the Cathedral have been taking shape and I hope to be able to say more at the Annual Meeting on 21st April. I have written further about the year in the Chapter report which is attached to the accounts and the summary accounts.

Thank you to everyone who gives so much to the life and witness of this special place. I commend the reports that follow and join you in celebrating everything they contain.

With my prayers and all good wishes

Ian Black

Dean of Newport / Deon Casnewydd

Baptism Card Report 2023

St Woolos Mothers' Union send baptism anniversary cards to children up to the age of 4 years from the first anniversary of their baptism. Children over the age of 4 and adults receive a card on their first anniversary only.

A total of 20 cards were sent during the year, 19 of which were to children up to the age of 4 and one to an adult. Seven completed during the year, leaving a total of 13 to carry forward to 2024.

Unfortunately, a first anniversary card was returned due to an error with the address. This will be sent out again with the second anniversary card with a sincere apology for the error.

During 2023, 14 baptisms took place, making a total of 27 cards in all to be sent during 2024.

Sandra Toulson

Bellringers' Report 2023

We have continued to ring quite steadily through the year, ringing for 49 Sunday morning services, 33 Sunday evening services and held practices on 45 Tuesday evenings.

In May we rang for the Coronation of HM King Charles, This comprised ringing for the Civic Service on Friday, a peal by the local band on Saturday, and general ringing on Sunday morning. This was followed by a quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples for Evensong. The Cathedral band rang on every occasion that was asked of it.

At the beginning of September there was the CADW Open Doors day event which happened to be the same day that the Llandaff Branch outing visited St Woolos. The tower was open from 10.45 to 11.30 for any visitors to see ringing demonstrations, have a look at the bells, and of course the view from the roof.

Notable services that the bells were rung for during the year included half muffled ringing for Remembrance Sunday, Ash Wednesday and the Ordinations in June.

There were 6 full peal attempts during the year, of which 5 were successful. There were also 27 successful quarter peals during the year.

The bells have been well used in the year, even when the scaffolding in the bell-chamber had an extended stay. Ringing for 84 services, hosting the Monmouth branch ringing course, hosting 4 Llandaff and Monmouth Assn. 12 bell practices, and visiting bands of ringers for peals, quarter peals and general ringing from outside the area.

Our numbers of ringers has remained steady during the year, and while often ringing our "new" Paul Ten on a Sunday morning it is unusual to ring all 12 bells on a Sunday morning. We are continuing to recruit and teach our own learners and others from around the branch, and I honestly never expect this to change.

The annual Bellringers Dinner day was held at the end of November, the meal was held at Mercure Hotel, attended by 32 people, including the Dean and his wife. Many thanks to Gemma for organising this and also the quiz night held at St Johns Church Hall.

St Woolos ringers are also involved in helping and teaching at other Monmouth Diocese towers such as Tredunnoch and St Mellons, and have active roles in both the Association and Monmouth Branch

The project to install an extra treble bell (often referred to as a Zero bell or a -1) in memory of Paul Williams, and donated by Jeff Palmer, visited St Woolos for its baptismal service on 22nd October, before returning to Bridport for its headstock fitting on 23rd October.

The Paul bell was finally hoisted into the tower on the 27th November, and hanging was completed on 30th November, with a successful and enjoyable test ring. My thanks as Tower Warden go to those who were very active in both the planning and the hanging stage of this project, and the rearrangement of the rope circle that ate up many hours of volunteer time.

Two other near future projects that will start their planning stage next year will be the installation of sound control/sound reduction in the bell-chamber, and also the inspection and possible replacement of all the bearings of the ring of 12. The last work on bearings was replacement of the bearings on the No.11 bell in about 1984, at a time when imperial bearings were readily available. The other 11 bells of the ring of 12 have not had their bearings touched since their installation in 1967. The three projects mentioned will have a dramatic effect on the tower fund, which no longer has weddings as a steady provider of income.

We are very appreciative in having such supportive clergy and staff within the Cathedral and we can nearly always allow requests for extra sessions from both local and visiting bands to come and ring on our exceptional bells.

Barry Hayman
Tower Warden

Canon Residentiary's Report 2023

Over the last year the cathedral has sought to embody the Diocesan Strategy and Vision through both congregational development and mission. The five branches of the Diocesan Vision are: Discipleship, Stewardship, Social Justice, Equality and Diversity, and Environment.

This report provides some examples of our activities under each heading:

Discipleship: A Film in Faith Series was held in Lent 2023, which was well attended. There have been occasional bible studies and talks. Ten candidates were prepared for confirmation. Prayer resources have been developed – the cathedral prayer ropes and beads, and resources for prayers at home. Crafting with the Choristers has become a regular feature of cathedral life.

Stewardship: The diocesan vision describes stewardship as 'living as thankful and generous people.' This is probably the area where I have failed to exercise strategic leadership and provided clarity of vision, and I will seek to do better in 2024 and beyond.

Social justice: The diocesan vision describes social justice as 'serving *together* to strengthen our communities.' The cathedral serves alongside a wide number of other agencies: Eden Gate, Mind, Stow Park Community Centre, The Welsh Refugee Agency, The High Veld Link, Puffins at St. Teilo's and others. The cathedral's own 'Pantry on the Hill' provides cereal and rice / pasta to projects run in the Newport East Ministry Area, and at St. Teilo's School. We also support the in-house food initiatives at St. Woolos School. Generosity (see above re stewardship is without doubt a characteristic of the cathedral's community life). The Severn Bridge Peace Walk is a further example of the cathedral's unshakable commitment to social justice.

Equality and Diversity: We have supported the Campaign for the Statue for Lady Rhondda through two events, and hosted the inaugural Pray with Pride in September. The Mind Christmas Concert, hosted at the cathedral, alongside the weekly meeting of Mind on the Hill is central to our commitment to equality and diversity.

Environment: we successfully applied for an A Rocha Eco Award and are working towards silver. The Hedge Hog Hotels, the talk from Home Help for Hedgehogs, the Bug Hotel, and the commitment to only use ethically sourced cleaning products, paper products, and tea and coffee all evidence our growing commitment to the environment.

A further heading has been added to this report: **Spirituality**. In Autumn 2023 Chapter made the decision to launch The Forum for Urban Spirituality at Newport Cathedral to reflect the importance of exercising a spirituality that is context, location, based. The Spirituality we are seeking to foster is informed by the 3 P's: prayerful, pastoral, and prophetic and two animating verses (Jeremiah 29, 7 and Psalm 116, 6), alongside the three vital questions: what does serving in an urban context reveal to us, how does serving in an urban context impact us, and what does serving in an urban context demand of us. The Five Finger Prayer model has been widely adopted both internally and, interestingly, ecumenically. Over the last twelve months we have developed an ecumenical network of friends, an **ecumenical** solidarity of prayer, and held or attended several ecumenical services.

Canon Andrew Lightbown

Choir Annual Report 2023

The choir has had another successful and enjoyable year, continuing to sing at regular Sunday and Wednesday services, major festivals, ordinations and concerts as well as enjoying various extra-curricular events and activities. Chorister numbers have continued to increase and morale and enthusiasm amongst the choristers, their families and the adult members of the choir are great! I am incredibly proud of every single member of the choir for their hard work and commitment and it is wonderful to see how all the members of the choir continue to work together to achieve higher and higher standards and to support and encourage each other.

Recruitment has been good this academic year: 167 auditions took place in schools and 98 places in the choir were offered, resulting in 7 boys and 16 girls joining to attend preliminary new probationer chorister sessions. Currently 20 schools are represented in the choir, 8 secondary schools and 12 primary schools. A few particular highlights from 2023:

February

- Visit of Birmingham Cathedral Choir to sing a lunch time concert, plus an inter-Cathedral Shrove Tuesday pancake race in the Cathedral grounds, followed by eating pancakes in the hall!
- First ever Diocesan Choral Festival, bringing around 100 singers together from the Diocese.

March

- Chorister promotions.

April

- Holy Week services: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, Easter day.
- Easter egg hunt in the Cathedral grounds.

May

- Special service celebrating the Coronation, working with choristers from Llandaff Cathedral and the Gwent Music brass ensemble. Preceded by a Coronation pizza party! Everyone received a certificate and commemorative mug.
- 3 Choirs Festival Evensong in Newport, with the choirs of Brecon and Llandaff Cathedrals.

June

- Building a bug hotel (Bugingham Palace!).
- Successful grant application from Cathedral Music Trust: £28500 to support music department running costs over the next two years.

July

- Sponsored walk across the Severn Bridge to raise money for children's charity Coram. We raised £1600 for this very worthy cause.
- Second intake of new probationers this academic year.
- First Holy Communions for several younger choristers.
- Competition to design a flag for Bugingham Palace.
- Traditional end of term party at the Deanery, with Pimms (adults only!) and ice cream.
- Bursaries awarded from FNCC (Friends of Newport Cathedral Choir) to 6 choir members to support individual music lessons in a range of instruments.

August

- Royal School of Church Music residential summer course in Bath: 3 girls and 4 boys attended, representing the Cathedral.

September

- Release of choir promotional video - please do watch this on the website if you haven't already done so! You'll hear choristers speak about what being in the choir means to them and how it has made a difference in their lives.
- Singing Vespers in Tintern Abbey.
- Installing the flag of Buckingham Palace.

October

- Presentation of CMT grant cheque, at Evensong on international chorister day.
- Welsh language Choral Evensong.
- Singing at our first ever Healing Service.
- Dedication of the new Cathedral Bell, singing Purcell's "Bell Anthem".

November

- Chorister treat - ten pin bowling.
- Hot chocolate and crafting at Canon Andrew's, making the first ever Newport "Posada for the City" an installation for Advent, depicting the journey of Mary and Joseph, travelling past local landmarks.

December

- Lord Lieutenant's Carol Service: it was an honor to be one of only 12 Cathedrals in the UK invited to host a "Together a Christmas" Community Carol Service, supported by the Royal Foundation. We welcomed singers from St Woolos Primary School and musicians from Gaer Primary School and Gwent Music to participate in the service, which was attended by the Lord Lieutenant and local dignitaries.
- Liturgical performance of Bach's Advent Cantata "Wachet auf", with the St Woolos Sinfonia.
- Crib and Christingle service, followed by chorister Christmas tea party.
- Secret Santa!
- Christmas services: the new Christmas jumper "Big Sing" informal Carol Service, the Carol Service, Midnight Mass, Christmas morning.

Sincere thanks are due, as always, to Jeremy Blasby and Steve Harries for their support, hard work, professionalism and musicianship and for everything they do to ensure that the choir runs so efficiently and smoothly.

Finally, can I say how grateful I am to all the members of the choir: the boys and girls and their parents, and the adults for their hard work, commitment and enthusiasm and for the enormous contribution they make to the worship at the cathedral, to the choir chaperones for everything they do and to the clergy and congregation for their support and encouragement.

Emma Gibbins

Communications and Publicity Report 2023

Cathedral Website

The website usage continues to grow. There were 13,122 users in 2023, an increase of 6% from the previous year. The most visited page, by a long way, was “Worship Services”. The governance page now includes the Cathedral Strategic Plan published February 2023, and the final Cathedral Constitution published April 2023. Two new pages have been created on Urban Spirituality and Safeguarding. Regular meetings of the Cathedral Communications Group (see below) have enabled ongoing review of the website.

Narthex screens

These are updated weekly, and continue to be a useful source of information regarding all cathedral events.

St Woolos Quarterly

As expected, four editions have been published in 2023, each with a reduced print run of 800 copies, to avoid wastage. A number are also sent out electronically to key stakeholders.

Enews

The enews email is sent out, via the free Mailchimp service, to around 100 people every Friday. Subscribers sign up from the website which ensures full GDPR compliance. The news focusses on the upcoming events and services in the cathedral.

Communications Group

The Communications Group has met six times during the year. One purpose of the meeting, whose members include the Cathedral’s Chief Operating Officer as well as a member of Chapter, is to ensure that details of Cathedral events are correct and well-publicised. A major achievement in 2023 was an online guide to the Cathedral, accessed via a prominently displayed QR code (for phones). Revised version of two leaflets, *The Cathedral Icons*, *Music at St Woolos*, were created and printed. Stocks of the basic *Newport Cathedral* trifold leaflet are running low, and a replacement is under development. Lines of communication have been opened up with the Heritage Officer of Newport Council, to enable the planning of joint activities.

(Streaming and recording of Cathedral services continues successfully under the management of Canon David Neale. Social media communications are managed by the Dean).

Brian & Sian King

Monmouth Diocesan Conference 2023

This was held at St Teilo's Church in Wales High School on Saturday 21st October 2023.

The Conference comprises all eligible clergy and lay members elected by each Mission Area, or, in our case, Newport Cathedral. The Cathedral's three representatives are: Colin Walsh, Sian King and Robert Cornelius. The Conference has a legislative role, but also plays its part in developing the mission of the Diocese through its vision, "Faith in the Future".

The theme of this year's conference was 'Welcome', in all its manifestations. The theme was explored by Bishop Cherry in her Presidential Address. The main thrust of her address was that a welcoming church must be authentic, with welcoming being an intrinsic part of our DNA. Furthermore, our welcome to the wider community and beyond is an extension of God's welcome to us. The Bishop summed up all that the word 'welcoming' means by quoting from George Herbert's poem, 'Love (III)':

*God bade me welcome. Yet my soul drew back
Guilty of sin.
But quick-eyed Love! Observing me grow slack
From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweet questioning,
If I lacked any thing.*

Following the Presidential Address election results to various positions at Diocesan and Provincial levels were announced. Elections had taken place electronically in the week before the meeting. There then followed reports from the Standing Committee (including news that the last Mission Area had now been commissioned) and the Diocesan Board of Finance (reporting a surplus of £114,000 for 2022/23).

Next, we went on to vote on four proposals brought forward by a number of members. All were passed unanimously (or very close to unanimity):

Motion A - Environment Policy: caring for God's creation; setting achievable and measurable targets in preparation for applying for Arocha's Bronze Award.

Motion B - Continuing the link with the Highveld Diocese.

Motion C - Conference Membership: ensuring that lay members out- number clergy; amendments to refer to Mission Areas rather than Parishes; the Cathedral is now identified as a distinct entity, as it is not part of a Ministry Area; in the last year of a triennial period each benefice ministry area at its Vestry meetings and St Woolos Cathedral ("the Cathedral") at its Annual Congregational Meeting shall elect to the conference the number of lay persons notified to them by the Secretary of the conference no later than 30th June, rather than April.

Motion D - Conference Format: enabling meetings to run in a hybrid fashion, using the most appropriate medium or media.

The business part of the meeting concluded with an update on Diocesan structure. This will, hopefully, be ratified in the Spring Conference.

After a break for delicious tea/ coffee and light bites the meeting transformed in to a workshop, considering the words, "Invitation and Welcome". Groups worked their way through a booklet, guiding us through the practicalities of being a welcoming church, and considering the questions: is anything missing from our church? When we say 'All are welcome', how true is this in reality? A second exercise focused on prioritising which services/events/occasions can be used to bring more people in to our churches.

Robert Cornelius

The Living Churchyard

The Living Churchyard at St Woolos can be found in the northern and eastern areas of the churchyard. Bird feeders and nest boxes may also be found in other areas. Although the wildflowers and grasses are allowed to grow freely in the spring and summer, the area is strimmed and cleared in August/September. (Thanks to Dan for his hard work in this endeavour especially with so much wet weather). The Living Churchyard represents one of the five marks of mission of our Christian community namely to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Probably the most exciting development in 2023 was the construction of the Bug Hotel by the choir with Andrew and Dan's assistance. You can find it at the east end of the churchyard. To attract invertebrates, damp conditions are needed with rotting wood and vegetation. After the very wet winter we have had in 2023/24, it will be interesting to see what residents have been attracted. The Hedgehog Hotels pioneered by Canon Andrew are still in place and the occupants will no doubt welcome an influx of guests to the Bug Hotel in order to supplement their diet.

Unfortunately, we will be saying goodbye to some old friends in 2024 as a number of diseased and unsafe trees must be removed. But there may be a positive outcome as a result of this loss as it has been noticeable that birds have been reluctant to use the bird feeders that Bethan Cole has been helping to replenish. A possible explanation for this is the lack of cover at lower levels for the small birds who may be nervous that predators will be lurking in the branches of our tall trees. With the removal of the diseased trees, it may be possible to provide some modest cover in the form of bushes to encourage the small birds to use our bird feeders.

By the end of 2024, we hope to have an interpretation board to make visitors aware of the rich variety of wildlife surrounding them in the churchyard.

More helpers are welcome and it will be good if we can get local school involvement. Meanwhile, I hope that you all will find some time to slow down and be with nature in God's Acre at the centre of Newport remembering that God is as much present outside the cathedral as he is within it.

Philip Jones

Mind on the Hill

The Mind Wellbeing Group that meets at the Cathedral continues to be very successful. People benefit from activities, such as quizzes and wellbeing discussions, as well as peer support from other members of the group.

There are some regular activities such as an 'on this day' quiz compiled by Canon Andrew but there are also visiting Speakers, relaxation sessions with a Mind worker and a chance for each member to check in about the past week.

In addition to a Mind staff member, service users are regularly supported by volunteers Andrew, Jonathon and Gail. Sylvie also provides wonderful hospitality and a cheery welcome.

This is a valuable service that runs through partnership working between Newport Mind and the Cathedral, helps people to stay well, manage their mental health and form social networks. There are usually around 6 service users as well as volunteers but there are approximately 20 different people who attend at some stage each month.

Managing a severe mental health issue is a challenge every single day and the group is a safe place to be, with a chance to get one to one support when needed. Thankyou to everybody who supports this group in any way.

Hilary Sloan

St Woolos Mothers' Union 2023

The branch meets most months in the Cathedral Hall on the first Thursday in the month at 2.30pm. The total of subscribing members was 17 in 2023 but sadly some of our members are not able to attend meetings for varying reasons. Members endeavour to keep in touch with the housebound and pass on news of MU activities to those whose other activities and commitments preclude them from attending meetings. Membership is open to all baptised Christians but we have yet to enrol the husbands of members who regularly join our fellowship! Members of the congregation have joined us throughout the year.

In February Mrs Gail Fitzpatrick told us about her forbears who were First Fleeters arriving in Australia in 1788.

Our postponed AGM was held in March and in April Canon Andrew was our speaker. In May Rev Audrey Jenkins told us about the Healing Ministry which Bp Cherry has inaugurated in the Diocese. During our June meeting the members assembled 2 dozen toilet bags for the hospital project which were collected by Rev Alan Tyler, Chaplain in the Royal Gwent. A number of syringe bags were also made by members and friends for use in the hospitals of the ABUHB. Members of the branch attended and provided refreshments for the Memorial Service for bereaved families whose babies and children had died in the ABUHB hospitals. This was organised by Rev Carol Taplin a member of the chaplaincy team.

In July Mrs Chistine Miles talked about the World Day of Prayer organisation which arranges the world wide annual Ecumenical Service held on the first Friday in March .

Although there was no branch meeting in August several members attend the Diocesan Lunch at Green Meadow Golf Club on August 9th, Mary Sumner Day. Mary Sumner founded the MU in 1876 and it is now the largest Christian organisation in the world with over 4 million members in 83 countries.

In September and October we once again fell back on our own members when our own Jen Robinson talked about the years she and Peter spent working abroad. In November Helen Dowdell came from Stow Park Church Centre to tell us about the work carried out through their food bank.

The year's meetings concluded with a festive quiz and refreshments in December hosted by one of the members.

Maureen Mahoney

Music@StWoolos Report 2023

In 2023 there were 12 Saturday mid-day recitals and two Thursday evening concerts in the M@StWoolos series. One group of performers, booked for a Thursday evening performance in March, had to cancel at a late stage, too late for replacements to be found.

Students from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama entertained us on six occasions. Dr Thomas Greif, an organist from Germany, included us on his tour of Wales to celebrate the music of Robert Jones and in June Meritxell Noguer, a Catalan pianist, visited from Spain.

The average audience size was approximately 60. The largest one was the 166 people who came to listen to The City of Newport Symphony Orchestra in September.

All the Music@StWoolos performances have free entry and a retiring collection. From the retiring collections in 2023, after the performers' expenses had been deducted, more than £2,000 went into the Cathedral funds.

Perhaps more importantly, comments frequently made by performers and audience alike indicate that this is an arrangement that all appreciate. Students enjoy performing at the Cathedral and they and their tutors see it as an important part of their professional development. Being able to perform in the Cathedral without payment of a fee gives students and other groups who might not be able to afford to pay, the opportunity to perform for an appreciative audience, who in turn are always well entertained and contribute what they can to the collection.

As a direct consequence of these benefits to their students, towards the end of the year senior staff at the RWCMD suggested an arrangement of closer collaboration between the College and the Cathedral for piano students. The details of "RWCMD Pianists in Performance" have been agreed. As all the performers had already been booked for 2024, from 2025 piano students will have guaranteed performance opportunities in the yearly schedule, in January and May.

Brian Cox

The Cathedral Shop Report 2022

The shop has managed to be open on most days in the past year but lack of volunteers makes it a bit difficult on some days. The need for 2 attendants to be in the shop each time has made things more difficult but if you are not busy it is a chance for a chat or a read or some knitting so please consider having a go. Your mate does not have to be a Cathedral worshipper.

Stock taking is finished and every where is now spick and span. We don't have many visitors since Covid but it is well used during concert performances and the choice of cards is appreciated by those who do come in.

If you have any suggestions for cards or books please let me know. I hope to be able to consider stocking a Cathedral Mug but it does depend on the money available of course. Our Christmas card was very well received and my thanks go to Luise and Alfie Bannister for their design work.

Finally my thanks to those who give their time and ongoing support each week, which is very gratefully received.

Christine Thomas

Thirty-somethings' Report 2022

It is nice, once again, as Hon Secretary to be able to report on the activities of the 30-Somethings Group for 2023.

Everyone gathered in the North Aisle of the Cathedral last February for the Annual General Meeting and Pancake Supper with considerably more people attending in 2023 than in 2022 which was so nice to witness. Maybe the last "pangs" of the Pandemic have now travelled into the realms of antiquity and a definite return to normality at last and we all enjoyed the pancakes.

Having experienced the problems with a Pandemic, we now have a cost of living problem with inflation affecting the economy of the country. Due to this fact, the rising costs of transportation etc it became untenable to do a trip for 2023.

The Fish and Chip Supper in October was, as always, a successful evening with Garry providing the Quiz for us as usual with easier questions but difficult enough to stimulate our brains in searching for the answers. A thankyou goes to Garry for his time in putting the Quiz together for us.

We all gathered at Junction 28 on 6th December for our Christmas Lunch with our Chairman, the Canon Residentiary Andrew Lightbown also attending. It was an enjoyable meal supplemented by the Christmas ambience of Junction 28 and all enjoying each other's company.

Overall it has been a good year with an increase of people attending our events, There seems to be a younger element entering into the Cathedral that perhaps we might encourage to participate in the 30-Somethings Group's activities.

Jen Robinson