

**Yr Eglwys Gadeiriol Sant Gwynllyw Casnewydd
The Cathedral Church of St Woolos Newport**

Charting *the way*

**A beacon of faith, hope, love and truth
for over 1500 years:
serving the city and Diocese.**



‘You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden... Let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.’ Matthew 5:14,16



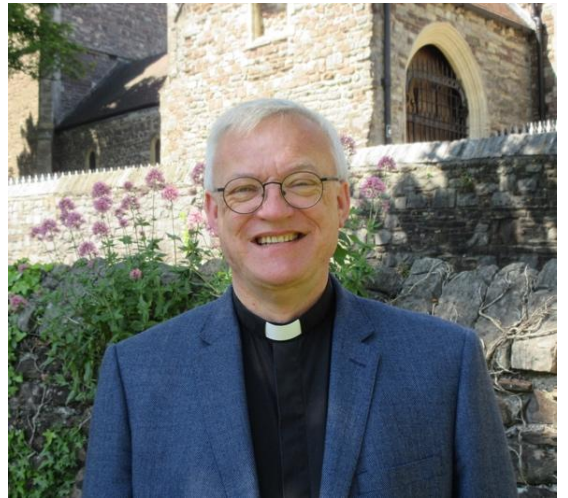
TO THE MEMORY OF
FRANCIS JAMES MITTS
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
JULY 20 1849
AGED 80 YEARS

IN MEMORY
OF
PHILIP BEVAN
Died October 19 1811.
Aged 53.
ANNE BEVAN
died December 1st 1823.
Aged 41.
SUSANNAH WILLIAMS
died January 15th
1826. Aged 80.

Introduction

From the Dean

This strategic plan is the fruit of consultation, collaborative reflecting and careful planning. It builds on and expands the previous one prepared in 2023. The title ‘Charting the Way’ resonates with our location and history. The Welsh name of our patron saint, Gwynllyw



(Anglicised to Woolos), can mean ‘Virtuous Leader’. His was a life that changed direction in response to God’s call and he set his course to follow his Saviour and ours. As a port city, Newport is a place where ships chart their courses to arrive and depart.

It also links with the first followers of the risen Christ who were known as people of ‘the Way’ before they were called Christians (Acts 9:2; 11:26).

Newport has a rich heritage, which includes the Chartists and Suffragettes, and their plans for political representation. A number of those shot in the ‘Newport Rising’ of 1839 were buried in the Cathedral grounds. Their legacy calls on us to continue to seek to ensure that the voices of all are heard and honoured, and that decision making is free from corruption. These remain relevant today and inspire us in the causes of justice and freedom for the flourishing of all God’s people.

The Cathedral is a busy place, a community of communities, each with a strong sense of belonging and we want to strengthen that. We want to grow in faith, hope and love as well as numerically – to be people who worship God, have a life-changing story to tell and live this in a myriad of ways of love and care.

Welcome

From the Bishop

I am a firm believer in the power of sacred spaces and of sacred buildings in particular. The Cathedral, like so many church buildings in our Diocese, carries within its very fabric the history of the surrounding community and the memory of countless ceremonies which have marked significant events in the lives of those it has connected with: baptisms, weddings, funerals and all manner of national and civic services.



Standing at the top of Stow Hill, the Cathedral has overseen, both literally and metaphorically, the life of the City of Newport over centuries and has served the city in a myriad of ways. It has been a place for people to come to pray and to worship, to celebrate and to commemorate or simply to sit in silence amidst the ancient arches as they search for and seek to connect with God in the joys, sorrows and challenges of life.

The Cathedral also offers an extraordinary space of hospitality in which those who come can encounter God, explore the Christian faith and find community and a place to belong.

This strategic plan outlines the ways in which the Cathedral community of today intends to make this a meaningful reality for all who live and work in Newport and beyond. I pray that God will bless its outworking for the good of the city, the Diocese and all who see it as their spiritual home.

The Rt Revd Cherry Vann
Bishop of Monmouth

Who *we are*

Newport Cathedral is the seat of the Bishop of Monmouth and the Mother Church of the Diocese which is part of the Church in Wales. Founded as a house of prayer by Gwynllyw (St Woolos) in the fifth century, the Cathedral has deep spiritual roots and has been a sacred site for over fifteen hundred years, serving the people of the town, now city. It is one of the oldest Christian sites in Wales linking us with the early days of the Christian faith in this land.

Today Newport Cathedral is a vibrant house of prayer and worship, offering open and inclusive welcome to all, and reaching out in faithful and loving service. These three are at the core of who we are and what we aim to do.

The Cathedral serves four constituencies:

- The Diocese of Monmouth as Mother Church and Bishop's Seat
- The City of Newport as the historic focal and civic church
- The region and the nation of Wales as a significant ecclesiastical building in the Church in Wales
- The regular congregations who contribute so much to its life and witness and are growing in size, diversity and faith

In developing our strategy, we have identified four key ways of being through which to focus our planning:

- **Prayerful**
- **Proclaiming**
- **Pastoral**
- **Prophetic**

To underpin these, we also need to be resilient in terms of governance, finances and buildings.

Situated in the centre of one of Wales' major conurbations along the south coast, we are unique among the Welsh Cathedrals for our overt urban context. This leads us to reflect on what it means to have an urban spirituality, as well being cognizant that we serve a diocese that stretches into the Monmouthshire countryside and the Gwent Valleys. Newport is the gateway to South Wales, and we also sit in the borderland of faith and the world Christ saves.



How *we are*

‘As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Bear with one another... Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.’ Colossians 3:12-14

This is a Christian community.

- The bedrock of everything we are and do is our **prayer** and worship.
- We aim to **proclaim** the Good News of Jesus Christ, to tell the story of our faith and share this with others.
- Christ calls us to love and to show this to the world as well as one another, to be **pastoral**.
- Justice is truth in action and so our prayers, story and love naturally lead to **prophetic** action – words and deeds.

Everything we aim to be and to do is inspired and animated by our faith. In this we aspire to key values, which will characterise the tone and manner of how we are with one another and relate to others. We will be:

- **Kind**
- **Gracious and generous in listening and speaking**
- **Inclusive**
- **Outward looking and loving**
- **Joyful**

We seek to be a place of light and hope, looking for the flourishing of all people – individually and together. We wish to be people who

speak and bring the peace of God, agents of healing and reconciliation in a broken world in need of Christ's redeeming love. With joy in our hearts, we will display the praises of God and thanksgiving for salvation through Jesus Christ.



Prayerful

‘Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God for you.’ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

We seek to be a people of faith.

The wellspring of faith is prayer and worship; it is the heartbeat of all we are and do.

As we commend ourselves, our Diocese and the world to God, we listen and respond to the Holy Spirit.

Focus for prayer

Almighty and eternal God, by your Holy Spirit you have revealed to us the gospel of your Son, Jesus Christ. Awaken our hearts so that we might ceaselessly grow in faith with joy and thanksgiving. Amen



Charting *the way*...

Area of focus	Desired outcome
Accessible and inclusive Worship	All people in the Cathedral can fully participate in, engage with, and be challenged and uplifted by worship.
Sustainable and vibrant Music	A sustainable and vibrant choral tradition, held in balance with other musical styles, provides for different congregations worshipping at the Cathedral.
Practical and transformative Prayer	A prayerful community both in services and at home. The Cathedral building provides opportunities for prayer.
Broad and varied Tradition	A variety of worship styles, ranging from traditional to contemporary within an inclusive catholic spirituality, draws in a wider diversity of people to the worshipping life of the Cathedral. Diocesan services reflect the diversity of the Diocese.

Proclaiming

‘In your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence.’ 1 Peter 3:15-16a

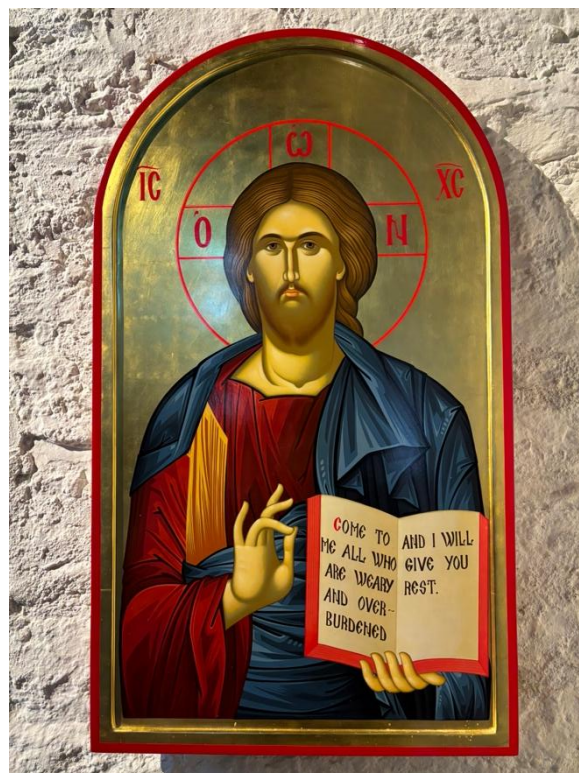
We seek to be a people of hope.

The basis of hope is the good news of Christ; this is the story that we tell with joy.

We share the Gospel so that lives are shaped and transformed.

Focus for prayer

Heavenly Father, with your Son Jesus Christ enthroned on our hearts, may our voices declare the good news of his love and our lives bear faithful witness to him. Amen



Charting *the way*...

Area of focus	Desired outcome
Nurturing and formational Teaching	People are confident in their faith. There are many opportunities to encourage one another. Preaching is of exceptional quality.
Inspirational and instructive Building	The building tells the story of our faith and invites moments for reflection and enquiry. The history is used to tell the story.
Authentic and enthusiastic Ecumenism and interfaith engagement	We work effectively in partnership with other Christian churches in Newport and the Diocese. This is extended to include all people of goodwill - those of other faiths and no declared faith.
Proactive and creative Evangelism	The Cathedral community holds a common understanding for what it means to be an evangelistic people who tell the story of our faith with joy.

Pastoral

‘God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them... We love because he first loved us.’ 1 John 4:16

We seek to be a people of love.

The source of love is God’s grace; we express love in our welcome and in our care.

We aim to be a safe and inclusive community, where anyone can come and be drawn into the love of Christ.

Focus for prayer

O God whose name and nature is love, teach us to love you and to love one another without limit; that all may know the fulness of life Christ came to bring. Amen



Charting *the way*...

Area of focus	Desired outcome
Safe and affirming Community	The Cathedral celebrates diversity, cultivates belonging and promotes equity so that every individual can participate safely, free from discrimination and abuse.
Multi-generational worshipping Family	All ages feel fully part of the community and are able to participate in the life and worship of the Cathedral.
Responsive and collegial Pastoral care	Pastoral needs are met through visiting, sacraments and counsel. This work is shared by the clergy and commissioned lay teams, making the most of natural networks.
Considerate and warmhearted Culture	The Cathedral is a place where people want to be. It is an open and inclusive community where all feel welcome and safe.

Prophetic

‘Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.’ Proverbs 31:9

We seek to be a people of truth.

The foundation of truth is the wisdom of God; we find this through scripture, tradition and reason.

We stand alongside the marginalised and oppressed, speaking and acting as God would have us do.

Focus for prayer

God of justice and peace, give us the courage to speak out for all those suffer in our world today. Help us to bring in your Kingdom of peace and justice on earth as it is in heaven. Amen



Charting *the way*...

Area of focus	Desired outcome
Compassionate and loving Service	A serving community that stands in solidarity with those on the margins.
Rights-respecting Advocacy	A community that advocates for justice through engagement and lobbying, bringing to light wherever structures and practices are leading to harm.
Generous and thoughtful Giving	A community characterised by generosity in gratitude to God's bountiful goodness. Giving is realistic – both to the Cathedral and for causes addressing human need.
Pragmatic and earnest Creation care	The Cathedral is net zero and stands out as both champion and prophetic challenge in terms of sustainability and creation care.

Resilient

‘The wise man built his house on the rock. The rains fell, the floods came and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall because it was founded on the rock.’ Matthew 7:24-25

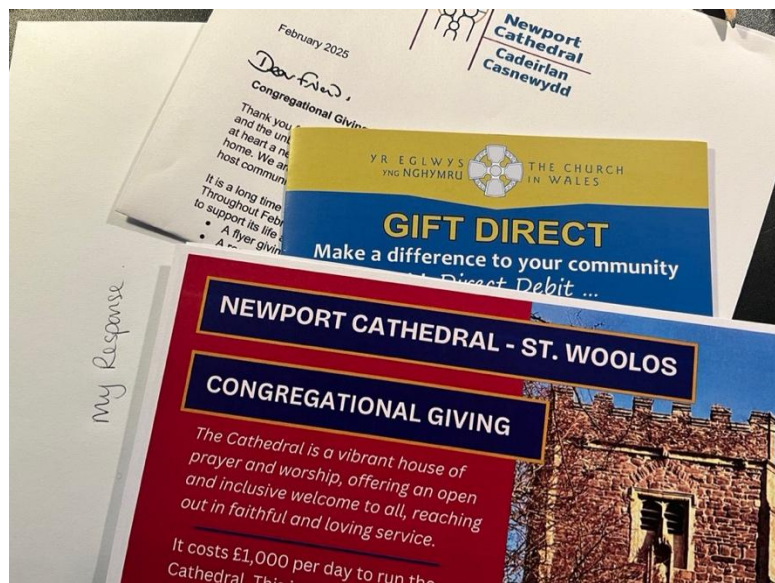
We seek to be a people of **resilience**.

The true bedrock of resilience is Jesus Christ; all we are and have is placed in the service of the Gospel.

We treasure and tend to the riches of God’s grace entrusted to us to enable the mission and ministry of the Cathedral to flourish.

Focus for prayer

God our Father, this holy place was established by your servant Gwynllyw on the sure foundation of your Son Jesus Christ: bless all our work in your name that it may stand firm as a beacon of faith, hope, love and truth today, tomorrow and to the ages of ages. Amen



Charting *the way*...

Area of focus	Desired outcome
Conserving and Developing Buildings	The buildings are in good repair, with a maintenance plan, and they are fit for our needs.
Resourcing and Generous Finance	There is a balanced budget to match this plan. Financial resources sufficient to enable our work to be maintained and developed.
Ordered and Functioning Governance	The structures are in place to be compliant and to function effectively.



2025

Charting the way

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