



North Wales International Music Festival - World class line up for a musical reflection

The North Wales International Music Festival, founded in 1972 by Welsh composer William Mathias, is a festival of classical music held annually in September at St Asaph Cathedral. The theme for this year's festival, taking place from September 15 – 30, is 'Reflections'. Artists include **Côr Glanaethwy**; vocal group **VOCES8** with a programme of remembrance to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armistice - 'Hymn to the Fallen'; pianist **Freddy Kempf**, 'Requiem Reflections' with **Welsh National Opera**, the Festival Community Chorus and our orchestra in residence NEW Sinfonia; guitarist **Craig Ogden** & jazz singer **Jacqui Dankworth** performing 'Reflections of Love'; soprano **Elin Manahan Thomas** & pianist **Jocelyn Freeman**; Family Affair featuring **Brian Hughes**; cellist **Raphael Wallfisch**; **Trelawnyd & Bro Glyndŵr Male Voice Choirs**; A5 Brass Quintet; **Côr Cytgan Clwyd** and actor **Jonathan Pryce**.

The festival also features a lecture entitled 'Lloyd George and Wales', piano, vocal and instrumental workshops, children's and tots concerts, musical steps sessions for babies to 7 year olds, and our annual community tour.

To find out more about the North Wales International Music Festival visit www.nwimf.com. Tickets are available online, from Theatr Clwyd, Mold – 01352 701521 or Cathedral Frames, St Asaph - 01745 582929.

Free summer musical workshop 6-10 August 2018 for 5 to 12 year olds, 9am to 3pm each day, performance in St Paul's Church, Colwyn Bay on the Friday at 5pm. This year it's *Crikey Moses!* In addition to singing, dancing and drama there will be a variety of activities during the week including arts, crafts and scenery-making. If you have children that are interested in attending, please contact Elin Cutler on 07874 376692 or via [email](mailto:elin@nwimf.com). No charge, food and craft materials all provided; registration essential as places are limited.

Coming soon in the cathedral....

1st September - Visiting Choir to sing Orthodox Evensong in honour of St David

2nd September - Mayor's Civic Service

23rd September - County Civic Service

We will be celebrating Harvest on 7th October



Resources spot.... *The Bible in Transmission* is magazine from the Bible Society. The current issue contains a whole lot of interesting material about church growth. One of the articles, by Dr Rhiannon McAleer, Head of Research at Bible Society, includes some information about the growth in congregations in English cathedrals. If you want to learn more about this or other aspect of church growth, why not look it on-line or send for a hard copy? It can be found at www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/bible-in-transmission/the-bible-in-transmission-spring-2018

Looking for a summer outing?

Why not try **Mary Jones World** just outside Bala

An award-winning visitor centre where you can discover the story of Mary Jones – and the impact of the world's best-selling book—the Bible—on Wales and beyond. Set on the edge of Lake Bala with a picnic area, facilities and children's playground, Mary Jones World offers a great time out for children and adults alike.

Mary Jones World is open daily (including Sundays) between 10 am - 5 pm. Last entry at 4 pm.

See www.bydmaryjonesworld.org.uk

Coming up soon.....

Gospel Street

People are out on the street. Another generation is looking for answers—a rich young executive, an angry gang leader, religious fanatics streaming live, baristas, professors, youTubers, activists, a surprising refugee and a pizza delivery bloke who bought some seriously expensive jewellery.

Despite their differences and social divisions, everyone wants to meet an extraordinary person: Jesus has arrived on their street. There's always trouble on the street and he's looking to do something about it...

Gospel Street is a powerful mix of theatre, comedy and spoken word—a breath taking ride through all important issues of life and death... and miraculous street food. Good news with wisdom, laughter, energy and insight.

Coming to a Cathedral near you on 1st November!



For further information

Contact: 01745 532581 (Diocesan Office)
Parish Church stasaphparishchurch.org.uk

Cathedral stasaphcathedral.wales
Editor rev.heather@outlook.com

Hello and welcome to the summer holidays issue of our Mission Area magazine!

I hope you are enjoying this warm weather, although I expect, like ours, your garden has been suffering from the lack of rain!

This is the first year of exploring our garden and finding out what Adrian and Christine Dann planted there. Adrian was an excellent garden designer and we have been enjoying his handiwork whilst trying to make it our own too. The latest addition is our herb garden outside on the new kitchen patio. It is all a bit of an adventure! (For those of you who knew the Danns, as Adrian was a local Baptist minister, you may like to know they have moved to Lincolnshire and now have a very convenient parking space for their narrowboat on the canal at the bottom of their garden!)

Like our garden, I hope this magazine will be a bit of old and a bit of new. I am the planner who designs the magazine but with things which come from various people, of whom I hope you could be one! So please don't leave me alone to cut the grass, trim the hedges, identify and get rid of the weeds, reconfigure the veggie patch etc. Let us work on this together, reconfiguring and incorporating the foundations laid by others.

Heather



Messy Church happens at 11.00am at the Parish church on the first Sunday of each month. The long hot spell has meant that we could hold our service and activities outside for a change, in the churchyard, which was an extra layer of fun! Messy Church is an opportunity for families to share time together hearing about God, making some crafts, singing and enjoying a picnic afterwards. Indoors or out, there is always an informal and flexible approach to our service which is especially suitable for very young children. If you are considering coming back to church, why not come and join us? We would love to meet you! The next Messy Church will be on August 5th, and you can follow our events on Facebook at "St Asaph Messy Church".

Messy Church Holiday Club runs between 10.30am - 12.30pm every Wednesday morning in the school holidays until August 29th. We will be continuing to explore Bible stories that help to explain the "fruits of the spirit" in between playing games, making 'things', having fun, and eating together. If you are stuck for something to do in the holidays, why don't you give it a try?

Gyda'n gilydd -



Together

Elwy Mission Area

August and September 2018

What do you do with Sunday's sermon? Do you think about it during the week? Do you talk about anything that has struck you or question parts that you disagree with? Could you take an idea, story, word, phrase into your prayers?

Here is something that Margaret wrote after a sermon Manon preached in the Cathedral recently. The reading was Mark 5:21-43

The hem of his garment

'This is my body...'
A bell rang three times,
A formal acknowledgement that something happened.
And God walked in
Through the west door of the cathedral
Up the central aisle
With a lilt in his step as though dancing.
He wore a garment of many colours
Moving around him as he walked through the bowed heads
Like a tipsy rainbow.
Where his swirling hem brushed against one and another
The air fizzed
Like raindrops caught in light.
Afterwards people spoke of music and sermon,
Greeted friends and drank coffee;
But God, silent in a corner, smiled
Knowing what had really been going on. MCH 3/7/18



Summer holidays activities in the cathedral

Lorna, the new Activities Coordinator, is launching some summer drop-in events to help visitors make the most of the building. On **Monday August 6th** the theme will be 'discovering lost treasure', and on **13th** you can make your own stained glass! Both events, which are free, take place between 1.30 and 3.30pm. You could even make a longer outing of it by having lunch in the Tea Room beforehand, or a cuppa there afterwards!.

What you did not know about Dorothy Sayers. 'The One-Tenth Gospel'

How', wrote the great Dorothy Sayers, whose 125th birthday anniversary is celebrated this month, 'can anyone remain interested in a religion which seems to have no concern with nine-tenths of his life?' How indeed?



It was 1942 and Sayers was already nationally famous as a ground-breaking detective novelist, a genre-breaking evangelistic broadcaster, a forthright, if reluctant apologist, and a formidable public intellectual. The sentence quoted comes from her seminal essay on work where she lamented 'the church's failure to understand and respect the secular vocation'. Her logic is irrefutable. Why indeed would anyone remain interested in a religion that only addresses one-tenth of their life?

Her point, however, was not just about work. It was about the gospel. And it applies today. The failure to teach a rich vision for daily work is part of a wider challenge to offer a rich, whole-life embracing vision of life in Christ to believers and non-believers. Of course, there are all kinds of reasons why people may not be gripped by the gospel, but might one of them be that the message presented and the teaching offered rarely include any compelling vision for the transformation of ordinary daily life? Might it be that we are much clearer about what we have been freed from by Christ's glorious self-giving on the cross than what we are freed for?

And one of the things we are freed for, Sayers argued, is to celebrate the significance and dignity of our daily work – the pipe laid, the meal cooked, the algorithm written, the sentence crafted, the customer served. Work matters in itself to God: not only work as a platform for evangelism, or as a means to generate funds for church initiatives but work as work. For Sayers this is rooted in the biblical portrait of a creator, worker God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, co-labouring in creation and cosmic redemption – and doing good work that declares his glory. How could we doubt it? Has any generation ever seen more evidence of the finesse, beauty, grandeur, generosity of God's work? To this God, work matters. And good work matters. As she wrote:

'No crooked table legs or ill-fitting drawers ever, I dare swear, came out of the carpenter's shop at Nazareth.' Sayers summoned the church to live and share the mysterious, reassuring, liberating grandeur of the ten-tenths gospel: everything we do really does matter to him (Colossians 3:17).

She summons us still.

Mark Greene Mark is the Executive Director of LICC. © Mark Greene, LICC *used with permission*

Find out more about LICC from their website www.licc.org.uk

Re-ordering (Renovation) in the Parish Church The proposals to reorder the church building remain on track. These include levelling the floor, installing under-floor heating, and roof. There will be toilets, a kitchen and a quiet room, with a mezzanine floor above; and the seating arrangements changed to allow more flexibility.

Grant applications to the National Churches Trust and the St Asaph Diocese were successful and we are extremely grateful for their support. We are now waiting for the outcome of the 2nd stage grant application to the Big Lottery People and Places Fund. If successful, it will allow progression to the final stages prior to development. In the interim, an "expression of interest" has been submitted to the Welsh Government's Community Facilities Fund that will assist with the ancillary elements of the project. A slight revision to the internal design meant that a second Faculty (the Church in Wales's regulation of works to church buildings) would need to be provided and this is being submitted to the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee) for consideration at their next meeting; we are grateful for the advice they have provided.

More details of the proposals for the re-ordering can be found on the church's web-site - <http://stasaphparishchurch.org.uk>



AND also..... - for all "budding" Flower Arrangers! On September 21st, Mrs Anne Hughes, well known national figure in flower arranging, lecturing and judging will be beginning a six week course in arranging flowers in six different designs (basic triangle, posy, continental, modern, wreath and a pedestal arrangement).

We are privileged to have secured this one-off opportunity to learn from Mrs Hughes here in St Asaph. The course will be held in the Parish Church. The cost will be £10.00 per 2hr session or £50 for all six lessons and will include refreshments. There are only 20 places available - book early to avoid disappointment, by emailing marionkh@btinternet.com or ringing 07841160430.

The Lord's Prayer Part 2 Rev Heather Fenton

'Thy Kingdom Come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven'



As we mentioned in the last issue, during Lent some of us looked at the Lord's Prayer. Mostly we thought of it as a personal prayer but in the context it can be understood as a group prayer. Jesus told his disciples, gathered with him, 'when you pray, say....'. So we will continue to think about this with this next phrase.

One of my favourite Kingdom scriptures is from Luke. 'Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.' Luke 12:32 (NIV). I discovered it when I was reading the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) in preparation for my 'O level' exams, as they were known in the 60s! The verse stuck with me for a number of reasons, not least because I was in a Youth Fellowship Quiz team against the neighbouring Tonbridge Parish Church, and everyone was very impressed because I knew what came after 'fear not little flock! I suppose in a way I have been learning about 'fear not' as a sign of the presence of the kingdom ever since, even if I still do not always grasp the idea well.

'Fear not' is a message we need to hear in our world. The events of the past few weeks will influence much of what happens in the world way into the future. Deep divisions, isolationism, fear, aggression, bias and many other uncomfortable things seem to enmesh this world more and more tightly. Hope seems the last thing we can or should be feeling - the best we can perhaps imagine is some sort of 'damage limitation' scenarios. This is not just personal – it is 'big picture' stuff.

The New Testament has plenty to say about this Kingdom. Luke tells us (17.20) that is silent and unseen, 'like leaven in bread'. John 18:36 (NIV). John tells us that Jesus said 'My kingdom is not of this world now my kingdom is from another place. (Jn 18:36). In fact the word 'kingdom' appears 162 times in the New Testament.

There are also references in the Old Testament, including the 'enthronement psalms' 45, 93, 96-99. Perhaps the best known OT reference, which we usually read around Christmas, is Isaiah 9:7

⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace

there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne

and over his kingdom,

establishing and upholding it

with justice and righteousness

from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.



'Thy Kingdom come' is definitely big picture stuff! With things as they are developing in our world at the moment the anticipation of God's kingdom is a very positive and helpful thing, a focus for unity in spite of division. However standing up for kingdom values can be a scary thing. Many years ago I met someone who took this so seriously she ended up in a Nazi Concentration camp. Corrie Ten Boom came to the publisher Hodder & Stoughton, where I was working at the time. Her family were Dutch Christians who helped many Jews escape the Nazi Holocaust of WWII. Eventually betrayed, the entire family was imprisoned in a notorious Nazi concentration camp. She was miraculously released from prison just days after her sister had died there. God brought incredible beauty and healing through her difficult experiences, and her words still have great relevance and impact in our world today.

Note however that the Kingdom of God will come 'at a time when you think not...' (Matt 24:24) - a big surprise then! That makes Advent the most *unlikely* of times..! So 'when would be the most likely time then?' I hear you ask?! Well I think that time would be *August*! We would all be too busy not being busy, too outside our usual pattern, too distracted by holidays, children, and annual visits from relatives... Yes, a time when you think not, and in the direction we are heading in our world, soon could be good too! *The Lord's Prayer can be found at Matthew 6:9-13*

Information re Corrie Ten Boom can be found at <https://www.corrietenboom.com/en/home>



...for all stitches - a National Day of Stitching!

The Embroiderers' Guild National Day of Stitch sees branches of the Embroiderers' Guild stitching in many places throughout the UK. The parish church will be one such place, and the events will take place **10.30am – 4.00pm on Saturday 4th August.**