

**JANUARY 2011**



## ❖ THE JANUARY DIARY

|    |       |  |
|----|-------|--|
| 1  | 17:30 | Evensong sung by<br><b>Pembroke College Chapel Choir</b>   |
| 2  | 15:15 | Choral Evensong sung by<br><b>Pembroke College Chapel Choir</b><br>Preacher: The Revd J.T.D. Gardom,<br>Dean & Chaplain, Pembroke College, Cambridge |
| 6  | 17:30 | <b>Choral Eucharist of The Epiphany</b><br>Sung by the Cathedral Choir   |
| 9  | 15:15 | <b>Epiphany Carol Service</b><br>Sung by the Cathedral Choir   |
| 30 | 15:15 | <i>A Ceremony of Carols</i><br>Benjamin Britten: <i>A Ceremony of Carols</i><br>Sung by the Cathedral Choristers<br>with Dianne Marshall <i>harp</i> |

## ❖ THE JANUARY PRAYER

*18 January is the Feast of Saint Peter ad vincula: Saint Peter's Chains. Saint Peter is depicted in chains in the lower half of the Ussher memorial window in the north choir aisle.*

*All at once an angel of the Lord stood there... he tapped Peter on the shoulder to wake him. 'Quick! Get up!' he said, and the chains fell away from Peter's wrists. (Acts 12:7)*

Almighty God,  
who freed Peter from his chains  
so that he could preach the good news of your Son;  
loose us from the chains of our sin,  
that we may rise up, go forth, and follow you;  
through the same, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CM



## ❖EVENTS



*A full nave for one of the many concerts at the Cathedral in December*

During December there was a series of events in the Cathedral which, of course, our very willing staff coped with splendidly.

Attendances at the two evening performances of *Messiah* by the Culwick Choral Society were much reduced because of the snow, but the nave was almost full each evening. The Christmas concert in aid of Father Peter McVerry's work for homeless youths was well attended by some 400 people. The compère was Pat Kenny.

On Sunday December 12 the anthem at Choral Evensong took the form of Part I of Handel's *Messiah*. This was performed by the joint cathedral choirs of Saint Patrick's and Christ Church, as *per* the first performance in 1742. The lessons were read by the canon-in-residence, Canon David Williams, and by the Dean of Christ Church. There was a reception in the Deanery afterwards.

On the following Sunday and on Christmas Eve the Cathedral was full again for the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols; on the latter occasion it was broadcast on RTÉ Radio 1.



### ❖ **DEANERY ENTERTAINING**

The following were entertained to lunch on December 11:

Judge Patrick Clyne, Mr Robin Gordon, Mr & Mrs Aidan Matthews, Mr Justice Murphy & Mrs Murphy, Miss Susan Parkes, Dr & Mrs Mervyn Taylor.

### ❖ **THE ORDER OF ST LAZARUS**

An Advent service for the Order of St Lazarus was held in the Cathedral on December 11. The Dean officiated. The cantor was Paul McGough and the organist Stuart Nicholson. The Bishop of Cork, who had devised the service, was prevented from attending by a sudden illness.

### ❖ **THE PREBENDARY OF TASSAGARD**

The Very Revd Leslie Forrest is retiring from Ferns at the end of January and this will entail his retirement from the canonry in the Cathedral to which he was elected in 1991. We have not seen much of him in recent years but he served a term on the Board, and was chairman of its Fabric committee.

RM

### ❖ **TRUST**

The Cathedral is keen to build up its relationship with a local charity, Trust. Trust helps homeless men, and is reliant on donations and fund-raising. The Cathedral is taking the initiative of advertising this and is accepting donations of items from the public, especially men's clothes that can be given to the charity which is located around the corner from the Cathedral. Please leave any items that you may wish to donate with a member of the Cathedral staff at the Welcome Desk and these items will regularly be delivered to the offices of Trust.



## ❖ VISITING CHOIR

We were glad to have the choir of Pembroke College, Cambridge, singing the services for the first weekend of January. Members of the choir were accompanied by their Chaplain, the Revd James Gardom, who preached at Evensong on Sunday. He stayed at the Deanery as he is a friend of the Dean from Oxford days.

## ❖ NOTES FROM THE CATHEDRAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

As we prepared for Christmas the weather was certainly seasonal. The Grammar School yard was cleared of snow and ice by a digger. The snowy weather did mean that winter examinations were postponed. The bad weather also meant our second round rugby match was postponed. As this is a cup match we were supposed to play it before Christmas. We are hoping another school will have a pitch that is playable that we can 'borrow' because our home ground in Crumlin is unplayable for the foreseeable future. The lads in schools are full of enthusiasm and are looking forward to their next match.

During November the Cathedral Girl Choristers took part in a joint concert with Dublin University Choral Society. The programme comprised works by Ralph Vaughan Williams including *Hodie*, *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*, *Serenade to Music* and *Willow-Wood*. This was a great honour for the girls and they really enjoyed the event. The performances were excellent and the Girl Choristers are a great credit both to the Grammar School and the Cathedral.

Friday 17 December was Open Day. We had large numbers of parents and prospective pupils to visit the school that morning between 9.30 and 11.30. Mr Kirwan and the art students did a wonderful job decorating the school for the festive season. Students prepared all sorts of experiments, music and dramatic performances, games and displays for the visitors. Open day was followed at noon by the Grammar School Christmas Carol Service, in the Cathedral. At 12.45pm the Grammar School Prize Distribution took place, also in the Cathedral. Senator David Norris presented the prizes.

SH



*Cathedral Grammar School Rugby Team 2010–11*

❖ **AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM...**

The transcript of the interview with Mr David Leigh in November's *Close News* stated that Mr Trevor Crowe was *the organ builder*. This was the error of the Dean's Vicar, whose transcription skills were no match for the mellifluous delivery of Mr Leigh's responses. Whilst Mr Crowe is an organ builder, he is not the builder of the Cathedral organ. This was built in by Willis – in 1902. I apologise to Mr Crowe for the implied exaggeration of his age, and I hope that he will not have been offended; though not nearly as offended as Mr John Beauchamp, the cathedral architect, could have been...

CM



## ❖ THE FLOWER GUILD IN ACTION



*Mrs Bannister and Mrs Kane hang the Christmas Wreath from the pulpit*



*Members of the Flower Guild preparing the Cathedral for Christmas*



## ❖ THE FLOWER GUILD

As you will see from the photographs opposite, members of the Flower Guild were hard at work to make the Cathedral look good over the Christmas season. Many favourable comments about the Flower Guild's work were heard from regulars and visitors alike. The six-million-dollar question is: *How do they do this?* We're immensely grateful, as ever, to Mrs Pat Kane and her team for all they do for us, particularly at Christmas, Easter, and Harvest.

EL

## ❖ FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

I should just like to wish all staff members, volunteers and *Close News* readers a very happy New Year. We look forward to 2011 with the hope of a great year ahead.

The commitment shown by all staff and volunteers over the past 12 months has been extraordinary. I should also like to thank all those who have given me such unqualified support and assistance.

Finally, a big thank you to all who made such a heroic effort to get to work through the arctic conditions during the past few weeks! It is very much appreciated.

At this time of the year our thoughts go to those less fortunate in life than ourselves and I would urge all of you to assist in our appeal for *Trust* detailed above.

GW

## ❖ THE CATHEDRAL SHOP

The Cathedral shop is in the process of being re-vamped and re-stocked which we hope will improve its look and provide a wider variety of goods for purchase, whether as gifts or souvenirs. We will be choosing a charity whose products we hope to sell at the shop and we hope to develop the brand 'Saint Patrick's Cathedral' on some of our food products so, please keep an eye out over the next few months as to the changes taking place in the Cathedral shop.



## ❖ **MIRANDA, COUNTESS IVEAGH**

We record, with very much regret, the death of Miranda, Lady Iveagh.

After the death of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Iveagh in 1992, Lady Iveagh kept the Guinness flag flying in the country and particularly in Saint Patrick's Cathedral, which has benefited greatly from the support of the Guinness family ever since Benjamin Guinness magnificently restored the Cathedral in the 1860s. She herself restored the drawing room of the Deanery in Dean Stewart's time; it having being derelict for more than 50 years.

A former member of the Cathedral Board, which has contained a representative of the Guinness family ever since it was established, she has happily been succeeded by her son, the Hon. Rory Guinness, who was elected to it in 2009. Lady Iveagh recently celebrated her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday at a party in the Guinness Storehouse at which the Dean was present.

## ❖ **BELLS**

Minor bells were rung on Sunday 2 January as a mark of respect to the late the Dowager Lady Iveagh.



## **❖SERMON PREACHED BY THE DEAN IN THE CATHEDRAL'S PARISH CHURCHES ON ADVENT SUNDAY**

We begin the season of Advent which is a penitential one with a strong note of expectation. For it looks forward in the first place to the birth of Christ at Christmas and also to the second coming of our Lord in judgement at the end of time. So in contrast to the mad spending spree to which the world of commerce would devote December, the church calls for a period of quiet reflection about the ways in which God comes to us individually and to mankind as a whole. To help us to do this the traditional themes for the preacher on these four Sundays of Advent are the Four Last Things – heaven, hell, death and judgement. You have probably had enough about death at the recent Remembrance Sunday so today I want to say something about the other three – heaven, hell and judgement. People believe a number of things which must be removed before they can make progress in the faith. Parish visiting must surely have told us clergy that parishes are largely populated by half-believers and from this springs much of the parochial malaise with which we are familiar.

Two prime examples are Heaven and Hell. In the popular mind, the religious Heaven is located on the far side of the grave. It is either an everlasting holiday camp or else it is largely given up to the twanging of harps – even by people with no previous experience of that instrument. It is surrounded by high walls pierced by a set of pearly gates and a good deal of its attraction lies in the fact that there is always a large crowd outside the gates trying to get in. Admission to this delightful club is on the basis of good reports for moral effort and “general niceness” in this world.

Hell, on the other hand, is a sort of Grand Canyon where the wicked, and particularly the morally-depraved, meet their come-uppance hereafter. The water supply is non-existent and the campers are tormented by unquenchable prairie fires which never actually consume them.

Those of us who are slightly more church oriented or theologically minded will stretch to notions of a Last Judgement – with paradise and purgatory as holding stations for sheep and goats, respectively, during the interval.

The fact that all this is believed less and less has not shaken the conviction of the casual churchgoer that this is what he or she must disbelieve in.



We have, I think, to do better than mutter something about Heaven and hell being states not places and leave it at that. We have to tackle the idea of God as a hander-out of rewards and punishments which has under-pinned these concepts for so long. God is seen as the headmaster we all wish to forget. A morality based on rewards and punishments cannot, I believe, make sense in this world or the next.

But at first sight the New Testament would seem to suggest that it does. As you can probably recall, each of the Beatitudes appears to culminate in a promised reward. In his instructions to his disciples, Jesus introduces the idea of rewards in this world and the next in an entirely unambiguous manner while his moral precepts are equally reward-conscious.

Yet equal emphasis is given to the disinterestedness of Christian discipleship: “Whoever of you does not renounce all that, he cannot be my disciple.” What are we to say to such a flat contradiction? A clue to the way forward may be had from the judgement scene depicted in chapter 25 of St Matthew’s gospel – those placed at the King’s right hand are all oblivious of their righteousness – clearly, they had not done their good deeds in hopes of a reward. The fact does seem to be that Jesus promised rewards only to those already prepared to follow him from other motives.

Heaven and Hell as manifestations of a doctrine of “just desserts” ought not, I believe, to be retained in Christian thinking; if only because such a concept must necessarily give way before the image of self-sacrificial love conveyed to us in the pages of the New Testament.

Is there any point then in bothering further about Heaven and Hell? In fact, the current secular use of the terms has a good deal more to offer than the religious geography which I have just caricatured. Don’t we all respond “here, here” to the remark “Hell is other people” meaning thereby the people who bring out the worst in us, who grind us down, who lay on us burdens too heavy to be borne.

And when we say “It was heavenly” aren’t we thinking of an occasion which brought out the best in us, when we felt most at ease with ourselves – and aren’t the happiest times of all, spent with other people with whom we enjoy a deep sense of Communion? However we put it, the beginning of a man’s eternal life is to be found in his response to the everyday demands of this world. Heaven points



to a future fulfilment not possible on earth; and Hell points to a final self-destruction, towards which we can give ourselves a head-start in this life if we set our minds to it.

But if we are at all observant of ourselves or others, we must know that we are, each of us, two people (at least) – one who cleaves to the good with varying success; the other to the bad rather more consistently. Very few indeed in this world would seem to have either achieved sanctity or gone utterly to the bad. But here we should remember that the mills of God grind slowly towards perfection. There is probably a place for what Anglicans delicately describe as “the middle state”. But even there we will not be deprived of the Divine freedom to go to the Devil if we so choose.

But is it all a matter of our own choice whether we set out for Heaven or Hell? Doesn't God take a hand to? What about all those pictures of the last Judgement with God dressed up as the Lord Chief Justice presiding at the Great Assize?

Our capacity to tell Good from Evil is very shaky and our ability to delude ourselves is strong. We see our condition illustrated in the story of the two worshippers in the Temple – the publican thought himself to be on the road to Hell – and wasn't. The churchman thought he was on the track of Heaven – and wasn't either.

Consciously or unconsciously, we can turn our backs on the light that has come into the world. God does take a hand, but not as assize judge. He alone must be the final arbiter of all our choices – hampered as they are by flaws of character and environment and his merciful Judgement is more like an arbitration to be welcomed, not feared.

But in the end, God doesn't trample on our freedom. To attain Heaven is to renounce ones self-concern – to go to Hell is to make oneself the centre of the world and to attempt to make everyone else serve one's own needs. As Milton put it, there are those who say “Better to reign in Hell than serve in Heaven”. I believe that C.S. Lewis summed the matter up when he wrote: “There are only 2 kinds of people in the end: those who say to God ‘Thy will be done’ and those to whom God says in the end ‘Thy will be done’.”



## CANONS-IN-RESIDENCE

|            |                          |                                   |
|------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| January 2  | The Ven G.L. Hastings    | <i>Prebendary of Kilmactalway</i> |
| January 9  | The Revd R.C. Reed       | <i>Precentor</i>                  |
| January 16 | The Revd W.D. Sinnamon   | <i>Chancellor</i>                 |
| January 23 | The Revd H.C. Mills      | <i>Treasurer</i>                  |
| January 30 | The Archbishop of Dublin | <i>Prebendary of Cualaun</i>      |

## SERVICES

### *Monday to Friday*

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| 09.00 | Sung Matins ( <i>during school term</i> )  |
| 11.05 | The Holy Eucharist ( <i>said in the Lady Chapel on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saints' Days and Festivals</i> ) |
| 17.30 | Choral Evensong  |

### *Saturday*

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| 11.05 | The Holy Eucharist ( <i>said in the Lady Chapel</i> ) |
|-------|---|

### *Sunday*

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| 08.30 | The Holy Eucharist ( <i>said in the Lady Chapel</i> ) |
| 11.15 | Sung Eucharist / Choral Matins                        |
| 15.15 | Choral Evensong                                       |

## CATHEDRAL CONTACTS

**Dean:** The Very Revd Robert MacCarthy (475 5449 / 453 9472)

**Dean's Vicar:** The Revd Canon Charles Mullen (453 9472)

**Administrator:** Mr Gavan Woods (453 9472)

**Cathedral Manager/Verger:** Mr Louis Parminter (475 4817)

**Cathedral Assistant Manager:** Mr Chris Nicholson (475 4817)

### **Cathedral Office:**

Dean's Secretary and Office Manager: Mrs Jennifer Hickey

Tour Accounts: Mrs Joy Stewart

**Organist and Master of the Choristers:** Mr Stuart Nicholson

**Assistant Organist and Director of the Girls' Choir:** Mr David Leigh (475 3298)

**Office numbers:** Telephone: 453 9472 Facsimile: 454 6374

**E-mail:** [info@stpatrickscathedral.ie](mailto:info@stpatrickscathedral.ie)

**website:** <http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie>

**Twitter:** <http://www.twitter.com/stpatsdub>