

SEPTEMBER 2011





❖ THE SEPTEMBER DIARY

4	15:15	Installation of The Very Revd S.R. White as Chancellor
18	15:15	Commemoration of the Battle of Britain Preacher: The Revd V.G. Stacey <i>Prebendary of Maynooth</i>
23	17:30	Dublin Culture Night Cathedral open 17:30 – 22:00
25	15:15	Harvest Thanksgiving Preacher: The Revd C. Mullen <i>Resident Preacher</i>
26	18:15	Volunteers' Evening Address by Dr Paula Murphy followed by reception in the Deanery

❖ THE SEPTEMBER PRAYER

September 14 is Holy Cross Day. The Crucifixion is depicted in the Jellett window in Saint Peter's Chapel.

'...and when they reached the place called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there, and the criminals with him. Jesus said, Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing.' (Luke 23: 33)

Lord Jesus Christ,
forgive my sin and ignorance that nailed you to the cross;
give me grace and wisdom
to grieve for its tragedy,
to acknowledge its necessity,
and to accept the love
shown to me in your arms stretched wide;
yesterday, today, and for ever. Amen.

CM



❖CATHEDRAL TOURS

From May 17 to 30 September daily guided tours (except Sundays) are conducted in the Cathedral. These begin at 11:30, 12:30 and 14:30. The tours are conducted by volunteers and staff, and we have already welcomed many visitors to the Cathedral over the summer months. Normal visitor admission rates apply.

❖HERITAGE WEEK



Chancing your arm, anyone?

The Cathedral had a very exciting Heritage Week this year; it was a huge success with record numbers in attendance for some of our events.

The week began with a very well attended talk by Albert Fenton on “Jonathan Swift as Dean of the Cathedral”. The talk attracted some of the country’s experts on Swift. Ongoing throughout the week was the Tower Tour, this year hosted by our Education Officer Andrew Staunton-Smith. According to Andrew “the tours could have been filled several times over” and his only regret from the week was that “we can bring only eight people at a time and we just couldn’t accommodate everyone”.

On the Tuesday evening we were treated to a free organ recital with David Leigh and the following evening by a fascinating literary talk and tour with our own Canon Charles Mullen.



Arguably the most unusual element of the week was the presence from Wednesday to Friday of two medieval knights in the Cathedral (see picture). They were re-enacting the story of “The Door of Reconciliation”, which for those who don’t know, led to the coining of the phrase “to chance one’s arm”. Two re-enactments were performed each day and one of our knights, Dave Swift, gave a short talk at the end of each on the arms and armour from the period. The crowds were able to handle and try on a sample of replica equipment throughout the day which made the excited children’s day!

On the Friday the Cathedral hosted a talk by Patrick Hugh Lynch on the “History of the British Legion in Ireland”. Again it was very well attended including Minister for State and Public Service Reform and the Office of Public Works, Brian Hayes TD.

Overall it took a colossal effort by a combination of Cathedral Staff, Volunteers, Speakers and Re-enactors to run Heritage Week and the Cathedral would like to use this opportunity to thank all involved. The Heritage Week programme could not function without the generosity of those who give up their own time to make it happen!

❖LEGACY

The Cathedral Board wishes to acknowledge receipt of €1,000 from the estate of the late Derek Lyster Robinson.

❖CATHEDRAL CHOIR TOUR

The Cathedral choir has recently returned from a successful trip to England. The choir sang a lunchtime concert at Birmingham Cathedral on Friday 5th August and Evensong on Saturday 6th August at Gloucester Cathedral and both services there on Sunday 7th August. Under the able and enthusiastic direction of Mr Stuart Nicholson, the choir was warmly received at both cathedrals. The boy choristers and the gentlemen thoroughly enjoyed singing at the two cathedrals, and some met up with old acquaintances there. This was the first choir trip for some of the boy



choristers, and they enjoyed the experience of singing in different cathedrals, as well as a visit to Cadbury World!



All aboard!



Rehearsal at Gloucester Cathedral

❖FROM THE PRECENTOR'S PEN.....

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Thanks to Mr Nicholson and to Mr Leigh, to the lay vicars, to the choristers and to the Dean's Vicar and supervisors, Vic, Liz, Averill and Bernie, who contributed to the success of the tour. Thanks, of course, to those who subscribed to the costs; namely the Cathedral Board, The Society of the Friends and the sponsors of the choristers as well as to the parents for their fund raising.

It is always a pleasure to accompany the tour for many reasons. Firstly, in support of the choir so that they may sense their value to us all. Most enjoyably is the opportunity to hear the excellent talent in new settings and to realise how fortunate we are in achieving such marvellous standards. Verbal compliments, as well, uplift the spirits. New perspectives on the liturgy are interesting and valuable. There is also the refreshment of interacting with colleagues and to witness the bonding amongst the participants. The leisure activities are equally important and, let's face it; what can beat Cadbury World?

May I reassure every one of the worth of such tours. May I thank those who invested their time in planning, organising, supervising and participating in the memorable event. For the supervisors it was 24/7! Not exactly a holiday! They are worthy of our thanks and praise. Every success to Mr Nicholson with his next venture!

RCR



❖THE CHOIR TOUR: CHORISTER COMMENTS

Team Hewson

I liked the THINKTANK because there was a talking robot - we made it sound really funny. We went to CADBURY WORLD we got to taste the chocolate it was lovely.

Thomas Maxwell (team captain); Rian Middleton & Brad Hennessy

Team Grieg

The best moment was CADBURY WORLD; we went to Cadbury World, one of the best bits was when we got to eat melted chocolate. Another great bit was going through the factory and seeing all of the chocolate bars. We had a great time.

Conor Kostick (team captain); Luke Stanley & Christopher May

Team Dexter

We really liked the cars in Cadbury world, and the chocolate. We liked England (despite the rain). Gloucester Cathedral was huge! We really liked the Hostel. The boat trip was fun!

Jonathan Stanley (team captain); Cameron Lally & Alexander Smith

Team BARLEY

The coolest thing was that Harry Potter was made there (Gloucester Cathedral).Then we went to CADBURY WORLD and it was really cool. We got to see how all the chocolate was made. Then we went on this ride – it was funny. We went to the THINKTANK and it was deadly! We went to a dinosaur exhibition.

James McCormack & Ben Middleton (team captains)



The choristers enjoying their lunch at Birmingham Cathedral

❖SPONSOR A CHORISTER SCHEME

The following people are thanked for contributing to the Sponsor a Chorister scheme that was run to offset some of the cost incurred in funding the choir tour:

Mrs S. Bailey, Mr & Mrs P. Barley, Prof. & Mrs J. Barnes, Mr S. Burleigh, Ms M. Downs, Canon G. Dunstan, Mr A. Fenton, Mr G. Good, Mr A. Graham, The Very Revd V.G. Griffin, Mrs M. Hampton, Miss E. Jenkins, Miss D. Lundy, Mr W. Magowan, Mr & Mrs N. Miller, Mr J. Morris, Mrs C. Mullen, Ms E. O'Connor, Past Choristers' & Pupils' Association, Canon R. Reed, S.J. Rowden, Mr & Mrs M. Ryder, Mr & Mrs D. Seymour, Mrs E.M. Sides, The Society of Friends of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Mr D. Taylor, Mrs C.H. Thomson, Mr & Mrs C.G. Walker, Mr A. West, Ms J. Wilkinson, Mr & Mrs L. Wilkinson.

❖NEW CANONS

The Very Revd Stephen White, Dean of Killaloe, has been appointed Chancellor by the Dean. The Revd Simon Doogan and the Revd Peter McDowell have been appointed to represent the dioceses of Down and Dromore, and Connor, respectively.

The Very Revd Stephen White will be installed as Chancellor at Evensong on Sunday 4 September. The Revd Simon Doogan will be installed as Prebendary of Wicklow at Evensong on 30 October and the Revd Peter McDowell will be installed as Prebendary of Clonmethan on 2 October.



❖ CATHEDRAL APPOINTMENT

We welcome a new member of staff in the person of Mr Colin Chadwick, who has been appointed Assistant Cathedral Manager. Colin joins us from Southwark Cathedral and he has worked previously in Saint Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny. He holds a Master's degree in Tourism Management.

❖ DEANERY ENTERTAINING

On August 13 some 20 members of the Association of Cultural Exchange were entertained to lunch in the Deanery. They were accompanied by Roger White, FSA.

❖ SOMALIA FAMINE

Some €550, the collection on August 7, was sent to Christian Aid for famine relief in Somalia. Those who were not present might care to send their contribution to the Cathedral office.

❖ THE NATURE OF HOMELESSNESS

The word homelessness sounds self-explanatory, but in relation to people who either sleep rough or use hostels and night shelters, homelessness is merely a symptom of a more deep-seated set of problems. For this reason, the solution is more complex and difficult than the provision of housing. If these problems have any common factor it has to do with a failure to become, or to remain, a part of the wider community. People who are homeless have often rejected the conventional values of society or have been themselves rejected. It is not surprising that many have been in prison or mental hospitals or both. In a society which is intolerant, imprisonment or admission to a mental hospital is the usual response. In the view of most people, these 'unfortunates' are failures, failures who are largely to blame for their own misfortunes, failures whose very existence is an embarrassment and shame.



The reality is, of course, different. Once set on a downward path (often as a result of things over which they had no control) such people may readily enter a spiral which ensures that they become more and more distanced from their fellow citizens and have less and less in common with those who have loving families, houses and regular income. They have little reason to trust others, who treat them with disdain. They have little to look forward to and little to remember with pleasure.

It is not surprising that there are no simple solutions to their problems. The provision of a flat does not solve their difficulty. What is needed, perhaps is a slow and often difficult process, which has as its main objective the restoration as a sense of personal worth. That is why the philosophy of Trust centres, not on the important medical, nursing and social service which it provides, but upon the restoration of human dignity to those whom the rest of the world appears to despise.

This takes time, patience and a realisation that rewards may be meagre and delayed. Nonetheless, the rewards are real and, although primarily valuable to the individual, are also valuable to the community, in that the work of Trust makes a contribution to keeping people out of institutions.

TRUST 2003.

The late Professor James McCormick

Former Chairman of Trust

❖SERMON PREACHED BY THE DEAN ON SUNDAY 14 AUGUST 2011

To-day's gospel provides a good opportunity to think about the various miracles of healing which were performed by our Lord-

For some people, I know, they lie at the root of their Christian faith. For them they make a complete nonsense of religion and represent their main reasons for having nothing more to do with it; for them again, miracles represent a puzzle - many people don't quite know what to make of them - whether acceptance of the fact of miracles is basic to being a Christian believer or not.

People outside the church sometimes say that miracle workers are to be found in all ancient religions and were to be found among our Lords pagan contemporaries. And they are quite right in this - No sensible Christian should deny it - all the healing techniques used by Jesus during his ministry are known to have formed



part of the healing procedures of other contemporary wonder workers – for indeed Tacitus records that the Emperor Vespasian performed healings by means of his saliva. Moreover, the New Testament itself ascribes miraculous cures to people other than Jesus. So it can be said that the New Testament was put together in an age which took miraculous happenings and faith healings for granted – indeed here in Ireland we are very close to that sort of environment: because some of us probably know individuals who have a gift of healing which runs in their family in which they feel privileged to practise. – without payment too. The point is that they see their gift – as we should all see our own various skills – as gifts from God to be used to further his purposes of love in this world.

But let's be clear about a difference between our Lord's Day and ours. We are well used to making a division between physical and psychological disorders: indeed, it could be said that we make too much of a division in ignoring the very real connection between our mental state and our physical condition. But in our Lord's day there was no distinction at all. The gospel writers believed, as did the great majority of their contemporaries both Jews and pagans, in the presence of the evil activity of demons - everywhere - and that it was possible to overcome them by miraculous means. The story of the demons being transferred into the Gadarene swine just like a swarm of bees into a skip is merely the most vivid example of that pretty well universal belief. Well, I don't think we believe that any more. The old Book of Common Prayer believes that all physical illness is a punishment for sin: well I don't think many people believe that any more either – which just shows that people will get on with quietly revising their theology in the light of their experience regardless of what the clergy have to say about it. The birth statistics in

this state show that the vast majority of Roman Catholics are ignoring their church's prohibition of artificial birth control.

But to return to the New Testament. Miracles and the question with which I began: Do we have to accept them “in faith”? I hope I have shown that faith-healing then and now is not necessarily a mark of Divinity nor more importantly, an indication of Jesus' uniqueness. What we do have to accept “in faith” is that God works through people as his agents for good in the world and that these people are not exempted or removed from the ordinary assumptions of the society and culture in which they happen to find themselves.

I think you might find it helpful to look at the question of miracles the other way round for a change. Supposing physical miracles were to be the main basis for our faith in God where does that land us? For a start, there wouldn't have been any



need for the life and death of Jesus at all. God could simply have appeared to one or more individuals with a message to call the world to repentance- rather as Mary is said to have appeared to the child Bernadette at Lourdes. But dazzling or frightening us into following his commands isn't God's way with us. He gives us a snap-shot of, as it were, "God in action" living, living and suffering amongst us as one of us. Jesus, his life, ministry and death is a sort of trailer for what a life lived as a child of God should really be like. That's how God attracts us to follow him – not by dazzling us with miracles.

What is, I think, a balanced view of how we should see the miraculous element in the gospels – is indeed in our own lives – is given by the English theologian Geoffrey Lampe who had this to say:

"If on other grounds, we believe that God was actively present in Jesus and that (through Jesus) God's kingdom was being brought within men's' reach, the miracles can be understood as signs of this truth and as confirming it; but the miracle stories in themselves are not an adequate foundation for our belief".

But signs are only for those with eyes to see them. However impressed the people of Galilee may have been by Jesus' miraculous healings, very few of them went so far as to throw in their lot with his. Miracles, it seems, were not enough to convince the unbelievers. Isn't it the same today?



❖ CATHEDRAL SERVICES

Sunday

08.30 The Holy Eucharist (*said in the Lady Chapel*)
11.15 Sung Eucharist / Choral Matins
15.15 Choral Evensong

Monday to Friday

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

Saturday

11.05 The Holy Eucharist (*said in the Lady Chapel*)

❖ CATHEDRAL CANONS-IN-RESIDENCE

September 4	The Revd M.C. Kennedy	<i>Prebendary of Yagoe</i>
September 11		<i>Vacant</i>
September 18	The Revd V.G. Stacey	<i>Prebendary of Maynooth</i>
September 25	The Revd D. Williams	<i>Prebendary of Tymothan</i>

❖ 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 Colin Chadwick (475 4817)

Cathedral Office: Tour Accounts: Mrs Joy Stewart

Dean's Secretary and Office Manager: Mrs Jennifer Hickey

Education Officer: Mr Andrew Staunton Smith (453 9472)

Organist and Master of the Choristers: Mr Stuart Nicholson (453 9472)

Assistant Organist and Director of the Girls' Choir:

Mr David Leigh (475 3298)

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

E-mail: info@stpatrikscathedral.ie

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

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