



The Archbishop's Enthronement

Our bishop, Cherry Vann, was enthroned as Archbishop of Wales at St Woolos Cathedral, Newport, on Saturday, 8th November. (She will also continue as Bishop of Monmouth).

The Archbishop was greeted at the entrance to the cathedral by a young member of the Choir at the font in the oldest part of the Cathedral, where Gwynllyw (Woolos) founded his church in 5th century.



The oaths of office were taken using the Monmouth Archbishops' Bible used at the enthronement of all previous Bishops of Monmouth who have become Archbishop of Wales - Edwin Morris, Derek Childs and Rowan Williams. Cherry was enthroned in the Archepiscopal Chair in front of the High Altar.

Once formally pronounced as Archbishop, Cherry was visibly moved by the warmth of the applause and cheers from the large congregation, which went on for several minutes. She then gave an address, based on a poem "In search of a round table" (see the box).

Attending the service were clergy and lay representatives from across Wales, as well as representatives of the Church of England, the Church of Ireland, the Scottish Episcopal Church and the Archbishop of Uppsala, representing the Porvoo Churches, an ecumenical fellowship of European Anglican and Evangelical Lutheran churches.



The music for the service was led by the Director of Music, Tom Coxhead, and the Cathedral Choir and included The Call of Wisdom by Will Todd, composed for the Diamond Jubilee of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second. A welsh-language Kyrie composed by Paul Meallor, was sung by the young Welsh bass-baritone Owain Wyn Rowlands. The former Royal Harpist, Alis Huws, also took part. Hymns were sung in a mixture of Welsh and English (a bit of a challenge for those of us who are not Welsh speakers, but we gave it a good go!)

Prayers were led by pupils from schools in Cardiff and St Davids. The service concluded with an Act of Commitment to the mission of the church and with a chorister asking the Archbishop if she will promote the wellbeing and unity of the Church and be a Good Shepherd to her people after the example of Christ.

The Cross of Wales, a processional Cross given by The King as a gift to the churches in Wales for its centenary, led the procession into the cathedral.

Originally from Leicestershire, Cherry was ordained as a deacon in 1989. She was then among the first women to be ordained as a priest in the Church of England in 1994. After serving in various roles in the Diocese of Manchester, including as chaplain to the deaf community, she served as Archdeacon of Rochdale for 11 years before being consecrated as Bishop of Monmouth in 2020.

An extract from “In search of a Round Table” by Chuck Laythrop

Concerning the why and how and what and who of ministry, one image keeps surfacing: A table that is round.

It will take some sawing to be roundtabled.

Some redefining and redesigning, some redoing and rebirthing of narrow-long Churching can painful be, for people and tables.

It would mean no daising and throning, for but one king is there and he is a foot washer, at table no less.

And what of narrow-long ministers when they confront a round table people,

After years of working up the table to finally sit at its head

Only to discover that the table has been turned around?

They must be loved into roundness,

For God has called a People, not ‘them and us’.

‘Them and us’ are unable to gather round; for at a round table there are no sides and ALL are invited to wholeness and to food..

Roundtabling means no preferred seating, no first and last, no better,

And no corners for the ‘least of these.’

Roundtabling means being with, a part of, together and one. It means room for the Spirit and gifts and disturbing profound peace for all.

You can still watch the service in full by going to the Church in Wales website, under News. The video of the service can be found by scrolling down the page.