

MONMOUTHSHIRE Free Press

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

Dear Friends,

As I am writing this on a beautiful and sunny Saturday afternoon, having this morning enjoyed all the activities in Caldicot Town Centre (thanks not least to Aaron Reeks and his fabulous Town Team – how much gratitude we owe them), and then this afternoon a visit through the Food Festival at the Castle, isn't it wonderful how a sunny day in early June gives us a spring in the step to go and *enjoy*?



At the Castle event, I was particularly pleased to hear the music being played, which was very much my kind of music, and no, I am not quite thinking back to Glenn Miller and Spike Jones, more to The Beatles and Rolling Stones and Queen and Elvis. Oh joy, what happy days, and I think I heard them all at the Castle today.

Which made me wonder: what music did Jesus listen to 2,000 years ago? What music and what instruments did they play for worship in the temple? Who was the great song writer in those days? And actually, to take the last first, so many of the Psalms in our Bible were written by King David, and they were written to be sung. And as for instruments, just read Psalm 150 for there they all are – trumpet, harp, lyre, tambourine, strings, flute and cymbals. What more can you want? Which leaves just one question: what was Top of the Pops in those days?

Well, you won't be surprised to hear that I shall pass on that one. However, I do want to share with you that in Matthew's account of the Last Supper we read this, "When Jesus and his disciples had sung the hymn they went out to the Mount of Olives." Many scholars believe that the hymn would have been one of the praise psalms from 113 to 118. In other words, having shared the bread and wine with his disciples, our Saviour set out towards the Mount and ultimately the Garden of Gethsemane with a song on his lips and no doubt a smile on his face. This was His way of preparing for his betrayal by Judas and capture by the enemy with joy and resolve, because He did what he did for you and me.

So when you next hear or sing a happy song, try and hear Jesus' song of forgiveness in your heart.

Rev Preben Andersen