



Welsh Eucharist / Cymun y Cymry
Podcast transcript

1. Music Gloria (Cymraeg)

2. John Harper I worship in a bilingual church and I know the difficulties we face when both congregations come together. There are a very few songs, and certainly Communion settings, where we can sing the same music in either language with everybody feeling comfortable.

3. Music Gloria (English)

4. John I really wanted to try and set about the problem of providing music that could be sung in either language, and recognising that some people will be in churches with small congregations, and sometimes they come together in big numbers for a diocesan event, and that really was the starting point.

5. Stuart And as well as being bilingual, John Harper has got flexibility in mind as well.

6. John I spoke to someone who said “Well, I put on the CD and I heard organ and choir, and I thought that’s not for us. We use guitars.” Now in fact when you look at the score, the guitar chords are there. There are other people who say “Ooh it’s in four parts.” Well, it doesn’t have to be, and furthermore, it’s not one setting but two.”

7. Music Kyrie *Arglwydd trugarha*

8. Stuart Someone who’s performed the setting liturgically – at the Church in Wales Governing Body conference – is Archbishop Barry Morgan.

9. Barry Morgan I thought it was tremendous that the RSCM had actually produced a setting for the Church in Wales, and I was taught how to sing it in ten minutes, and I haven’t got a terribly good singing voice! So if I can do it, then anybody can do it. I thought that it was accessible and good, and helps the liturgy enormously, and I hope people will use it.”

10. Music (at Nefyn) Dialogue “The Lord be with you.”

11. Stuart And indeed they are – in places like St David’s Church at Nefyn on the Llyn Peninsula of North Wales. Nick Hawkins is one of the clergy.

12. Rev Nick Hawkins We had a long singing tradition here many years back which to be honest, has rather fallen into misuse. Everything was sung originally and I think it’s fair to say that the Harper setting inspired us. And in the most part, people have welcomed this and received it very, very well indeed.

13. Robyn Lambe It is basically very simple, it's pure and it's very catchy...

Stuart voicedrop Robyn Lambe is the organist.

Robyn ...and I think as well there's a timelessness about it. Parts of it remind me very much of medieval music which is very lyrical. And there's a good rhythm in it and people do find it easy to sing.

14. Music Hosanna

15. Stuart For many churches in Wales finding an organist let alone a choir can be a struggle. But it's reckoned that without either, this setting can be taught to the congregation. Now if you're a sceptical priest of the Church in Wales, listen to this message from your leader.

16. Barry Morgan I think it's just a question of convincing them that you don't need a choir and an organ to sing this setting. That actually, it can be done in a simple way because it's just a matter of getting the tune in your head and practising it in the bath or something, then getting on with it.

Segue

17. John Harper If you take the opening of the Kyrie, (*sings* "Lord have mercy") it's very, very easy. You can learn it from the CD. I mean I have mixed feelings about using singing along with the CD, but it is a way people can learn and feel comfortable with it, so use that as a starter. So long as you've got someone to give you a sensible note so that you don't end up either singing with the birds or down in your boots and feeling very embarrassed about it all – if you pick a sensible note then it'll go!

18. Music (at Nefyn) "Let us proclaim the mystery of faith..."

19. Choir members at Nefyn

Voice 1 It's great, it's marvellous and I'd rather sing than speak things.

Nick One or two people did say initially, that there wasn't much to it in a sense, but it gets into your head and it's very easy to remember from Sunday to Sunday. I cannot explain musically exactly why that should be but we know it works.

Voice 2 I can't read music; I know it goes up and down, but I have to follow the organ and the rest of the people, and once I've got it, I've got it.

20. Music up *Agnus Dei I*

21. John Harper If you're in a church that has instrumental accompaniment (certainly the church I worship in – yes, I play the organ but also we have three lads playing the guitar, and as it happens at the moment a cornet and a tenor horn, and they've got used to reading the music and adapting to it. So if you're in a church that uses a music group you shouldn't feel that this is too classical a music! I think it can be brought alive in a different way, and it'll feel different, and it should do!

22. Music up *Amen from Gloria*