


NORWICH
CATHEDRAL



CENTENARY CELEBRATION
OF
THE NORFOLK FEDERATION OF WIS
FRIDAY 12 APRIL 2019 AT 2.00PM

As the organist plays, all stand as WI banners are processed into the cathedral.

WELCOME

The Dean of Norwich, the Very Revd Jane Hedges, welcomes the congregation

In the name of the Holy and Undivided Trinity and on behalf of the Dean and Chapter, I welcome you warmly to your Cathedral today.

We gather today to give thanks for the Norfolk Federation of WIs as it celebrates one hundred years since its founding. We give thanks for all those whose work and campaigns, past and present, have enhanced the lives of others and given a voice to those whose needs might otherwise have gone unheard.

We pray too for the continued work of the WI in this county and beyond as it continues to work for public benefit in the advancement the education of women and girls, in promoting sustainable development and advancing health and citizenship by promoting civic responsibility and volunteering.

Let us pray.

God of life and hope,
we pray for women and girls today;
giving thanks for the work of the WI in this county
over the past century;
may we all be people of courage and commitment,
speaking out against inequality and injustice
until all people enjoy the righteousness and love
which is your gift.

All **Amen.**

HYMN

All **Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,
Give me joy in my heart, I pray;
Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,
Keep me praising till the break of day:
 *Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
 Sing hosanna to the King of kings.
 Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
 Sing hosanna to the King.***

**Give me peace in my heart, keep me loving,
Give me peace in my heart, I pray;
Give me peace in my heart, keep me loving,
Keep me loving till the break of day:
 *Sing hosanna...***

**Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,
Give me love in my heart, I pray;
Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,
Keep me serving till the break of day:
 *Sing hosanna...***

Sit

ADDRESS

by Margaret Collingwood, Chairman of Norfolk Federation of WIs

MUSIC *by the WI choir*

Climb every mountain by Rogers and Hammerstein

Thank you for the Music by Benny Andersen and Bjorn Ulvaeus

READING *I am woman by Helen Reddy*
Read by Louise Casson, Federation Secretary

I am woman, hear me roar
In numbers too big to ignore
And I know too much to go back and pretend
Because I've heard it all before
And I've been down there on the floor
No one's ever going to keep me down again

Oh yes I am wise
But it's wisdom born of pain
Yes, I've paid the price
But look how much I gained
If I have to, I can do anything
I am strong
I am invincible
I am woman

You can bend but never break me
Because it only serves to make me
More determined to achieve my final goal
And I come back even stronger
Not a novice any longer
Because you've deepened the conviction in my soul

I am woman watch me grow
See me standing toe to toe
As I spread my loving arms across the land
But I'm still an embryo
With a long long way to go
Until I make my brother understand

Oh yes I am wise
But it's wisdom born of pain
Yes, I've paid the price
But look how much I gained
If I have to I can face anything
I am strong
I am invincible
I am woman

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

By Vicki Reynolds, Federation Treasurer

Stand
HYMN

Tune: Cwm Rhondda

During the hymn a collection is taken for Norfolk Library Service: The Tricky Period Project and The Priscilla Bacon Hospice Appeal

All **Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
Hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through:
Strong deliverer,
Be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of deaths, and hell's Destruction
Land me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs of praises
I will ever give to thee.**

Words: William Williams

Sit

READING *from Ulysses by Alfred, Lord Tennyson*

Read by Winn Rout, President of Bradwell WI

I am a part of all that I have met;
Yet all experience is an arch wherethro'
Gleams that untravell'd world whose margin fades
For ever and forever when I move.
How dull it is to pause, to make an end,
To rust unburnish'd, not to shine in use!
As tho' to breathe were life! Life piled on life
Were all too little, and of one to me
Little remains: but every hour is saved
From that eternal silence, something more,
A bringer of new things; and vile it were
For some three suns to store and hoard myself,
And this gray spirit yearning in desire
To follow knowledge like a sinking star,
Beyond the utmost bound of human thought.

The lights begin to twinkle from the rocks:
The long day wanes: the slow moon climbs: the deep
Moans round with many voices. Come, my friends,
'T is not too late to seek a newer world.
Push off, and sitting well in order smite
The sounding furrows; for my purpose holds
To sail beyond the sunset, and the baths
Of all the western stars, until I die.
It may be that the gulfs will wash us down:
It may be we shall touch the Happy Isles,
And see the great Achilles, whom we knew.
Tho' much is taken, much abides; and tho'
We are not now that strength which in old days
Moved earth and heaven, that which we are, we are;
One equal temper of heroic hearts,
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.

MUSIC *by the WI choir*

You've got a friend *by Carole King*

Tonight *by Leonard Bernstein*

The Lord bless you and keep you *by John Rutter*

READING *Revelation 21. 1-6*

Read by Sue Sursham, Member of Loddon & District Evening WI

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.'

And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.'

All For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

SERMON *The Dean of Norwich*

PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Stand
HYMN

Tune: Jerusalem

All **And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
On England's pleasant pastures seen?
And did the countenance divine
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
Among those dark satanic mills?**

**Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire!
Bring me my spear! O clouds unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!
I will not cease from mental fight,
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant land.**

Words: William Blake

THE BLESSING

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

May the road rise to meet you,
may the wind be always at your back,
may the sun shine warm upon your face,
may rain fall softly upon your fields,
and until we meet again
may God hold you in the hollow of his hand;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be upon you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

TESTIMONIALS

When I first joined the WI in the seventies it was about supporting members. It provided a monthly meeting, enabling local women to meet and socialise, with a speaker to widen members' interests or knowledge on a wide variety of topics, plus opportunities to try or demonstrate crafts or their latest hobbies.

The group also contributed to local community events by providing refreshments for fetes, fairs, Christmas Bazaars etc. Often, they also ran stalls to sell member's handiwork to help raise money for their own, or local, charities.

The County and National Federations provided training and an opportunity to be elected to be part of the larger organisation.

Although all these things still happen, over the last decade or so, the WI seems to be providing much more for their communities. This includes keeping people up to date with new technology and helping to keep our increasingly ageing population safe and mentally and physically healthy, as well as helping to alleviate loneliness.

Within the last year they have worked closely with Norfolk County Council providing training for their members so that they can then tutor local people on how to use iPads, provided via the Library Service, to obtain information, contact services, order groceries, or just generally improve their lives.

They have also been instrumental in helping to disseminate information about the latest SCAMS to try to keep local people safe from frauds of all kinds, and, have fed back information to Trading Standards on SCAMS that local people have reported to them. This collaboration is highly valued.

Annual Meetings provide an opportunity for members to raise matters of concern for discussion and to get their opinions heard at all levels of society, including MPs.

WI members across Norfolk make a huge contribution to the lives of local residents, improving their wellbeing and helping local communities to thrive.

I know Norfolk County Council is very pleased and proud to work with them.

Councillor Margaret Dewsbury

Chair, Communities Committee, Norfolk County Council

As part of the Women Reaching Women Coalition we have always been astonished at the number of women's groups at work in Norwich and Norfolk, and how well we can work together. It took the WI to bring us all together for this and the White Ribbon campaign.

Soroptimist International of Norwich

