

Chester Cathedral SUNG COMPLINE BY CANDLELIGHT from September 2010, Sunday 6:30pm

From the beginning of September 2010 there will once again be a weekly Sunday 6:30pm service at Chester Cathedral. The Cathedral Clergy have re-introduced these evening services for a trial period of ten months. Services of Wholeness and Healing, Worship in the Taize Style and various special services will continue throughout the year in their present form. But in addition to this will be regular services of **Sung Compline** with the chanting of the office undertaken by the Cathedral Nave Choir.

The ancient service of Compline can be traced back as far as St Benedict in the 6th Century and some scholars suggest that the service has 4th Century origins. The word Compline is derived from the latin *completorium*, literally meaning the completion of the day.

For the Benedictine monks of the Abbey of Chester, it would have been the final spiritual devotion before retiring to bed. With the business of our 21st Century lives, it can be difficult to find space and quiet contemplation at the end of the day. I know that some find our weekday services of Choral Evensong very helpful for this reason, but others, perhaps because of work commitments, find the 5:30pm timeslot difficult. 6:30pm on Sunday is an opportunity for meditation, prayer and spiritual renewal before the start of another working week and we hope that this might appeal to a wide variety of people.

Sundays at Chester Cathedral bustle with life. Along with our regular Cathedral services we often have services with special groups from the community in attendance or the celebration of civic events. As the organ thunders, we sing God's praises with strength and confidence. But on Sunday evening the Cathedral will remain quiet for prayer and reflection from 6pm. Some may like to just come, sit and enjoy the silence.

The simple service will then be sung (or occasionally said) in the Quire or Lady Chapel at **6:30pm**. Plainsong and other simple and quiet music will usually be offered. There will be psalms, a reading, homily and short time of prayer. This will be followed by a time of contemplation as a suitable piece of organ music is played. Following final prayers, the sung service concludes with the singing of a Marian Antiphon before all leave in silence.

If you are able to attend Sung Compline (the first will be on Sunday 12th September), we hope that you might leave having felt the presence of God in the stillness, silence, candlelight and music of an ancient monastic service in our ancient monastic Cathedral.

The schedule of Sunday 6:30pm services for the rest of 2010 will be as follows:

September	Sunday 6 th	Service of Wholeness and Healing in the Lady Chapel
	Sunday 12 th	Sung Compline in the Quire
	Sunday 19 th	Sung Compline in the Quire
	Sunday 26 th	Cathedral Praise (with Salvation Army Band) ?
October	Sunday 3 rd	Sung Compline in the Quire
	Sunday 10 th	Sung Compline in the <u>Lady Chapel</u>
	Sunday 17 th	Sung Compline in the <u>Lady Chapel</u>
	Sunday 24 th	Service of Wholeness and Healing in the Lady Chapel
November	Sunday 31 st	Choral Requiem for the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed: John Rutter's setting of the Requiem sung by the Cathedral Choir
	Sunday 7 th	Worship in the style of Taize
	Sunday 14 th	Sung Compline in the Quire
	Sunday 21 st	Sung Compline in the Quire
December	Sunday 28 th	'From Darkness to Light': Cathedral Advent Procession with Carols
	Sunday 5 th	Service of Wholeness and Healing in the Lady Chapel
	Sunday 12 th	Sung Compline in the <u>Lady Chapel</u>
	Sunday 19 th	Christmas Organ Meditation: Philip Rushforth plays Olivier Messiaen's <i>La Nativité du Seigneur</i> on the Cathedral Organ, interspersed with seasonal readings
	Sunday 26 th	No 6:30pm service?

