Summer and autumn at the Cathedral Library

Mari James, St Davids Cathedral Library Development Officer, outlines plans for an online UK Libraries Week in October 2020

During UK Libraries Week, 5-10 October, a series of online events will focus on particular books in the eclectic Cathedral Library Collection, including in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Two major anniversaries will be marked during Libraries Week:

- The legislation implementing the disestablishment of the Church in Wales came into effect in 1920, 100 years ago. In this centenary year, the Cathedral Library has been fortunate in acquiring a unique and timely set of poetic memories of one of the families centrally involved in the 1920s Church changes in Wales, which we will share during Libraries Week.

  Members of the Friends of St Davids Cathedral will be aware of the Annual Lecture on 12th September, being given by Prof Norman Doe, Cardiff University, on "2020: Centenary of Disestablishment of the Church in Wales". Prof Doe is Editor of the acclaimed book New History of the Church in Wales, which is available through Library@StDavidsCathedral.org.uk.

- 400 years since the production of the first widely distributed Bible in Welsh in 1620. A previously unknown copy of the 1620 Bible has come to light and we will be able to tell the special and serendipitous story in October.

Attendees at last year’s Libraries Week will remember Dr Heather Payne’s fascinating, and slightly gory, investigation of Dr Risdon Bennett’s 1887 Diseases of the Bible. Dr Payne has agreed to revisit the book this year and draw out lessons in the light of living through the current pandemic.
A “Then and Now” video during the week will focus on the 1856 publication *The History and Antiquities of St Davids*. Photographs will compare engravings in the book of parts of the cathedral which architect Gilbert Scott said were in “a semi-ruinous condition”, with what those parts of the Cathedral look like today. The two photographs above show the 1856 engraving of the north presbytery aisle with no roof. In 2020 it is part of the signposted safety route around the Cathedral. In 1998 Pembrokeshire County Council Cultural Services recognised the importance of the book by producing a set of facsimile copies.

Details of our UK Libraries Week 2020 events will be on the Library pages of the cathedral website [https://www.stdavidscathedral.org.uk/discover/library](https://www.stdavidscathedral.org.uk/discover/library), via our Twitter account @StDavCathLib and by request to Library@StDavidsCathedral.org.uk

Personal visits to the Cathedral Library are being arranged in a safe way during summer & autumn 2020. Please book via EventBrite at [https://bit.ly/2DMx2Bs](https://bit.ly/2DMx2Bs) or email Library@StDavidsCathedral.org.uk