

NEWS

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‘ROYAL’ EVENSONGS IN BRISTOL’S CITY-CENTRE GEORGIAN GEM ATTRACT LOVERS OF THE KING JAMES BIBLE IN ITS 400TH YEAR

As plans for two Royal Weddings hit the headlines, less well-known plans for two ‘Royal’ Evensongs in the heart of Bristol are being finalised.

Both will be commemorative events at Christ Church City – described by its priest-in-charge, Father Richard Hoyal, as “a Georgian architectural gem of great elegance” – on the corner of Wine Street and Broad Street.

Currently its 20-strong traditional robed choir of men and boys are rehearsing to sing Choral Evensong on Sunday, February 6, to mark the fifty-ninth anniversary of Her Majesty the Queen’s accession to the throne in 1952. They will be accompanied by director of music Jonathan Price on the celebrated Rhenatus Harris organ, dating from around 1700, originally used in the earlier building which the present 1786 church replaced.

The previous week – on Sunday, January 30 – the choir will sing at a special service to commemorate Charles I, King and Martyr, who was beheaded on that day in 1649. Christ Church has a direct link with Charles I as Richard Standfast, the rector of Christ Church at the time, was a chaplain to King Charles.

Says Father Hoyal: “We expect these services to attract, among others, lovers of the old language used in both the traditional Book of Common Prayer and The King James Bible – already gaining considerable attention this year, its four-hundredth anniversary – which will be used on both these occasions.”

They also will be used on Sunday, January 23 when the guest preacher at Evensong will be the Bishop of Bristol, the Right Reverend Michael Hill.

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All three services will start at 6.30 pm.

Although known as Christ Church, the church is in fact dedicated to the Holy Trinity and its full name is Christ Church with St Ewen, All Saints and St George to incorporate the names of other historic churches in close proximity which either have been demolished or become disused. For more information about Christ Church City visit <http://www.about-bristol.co.uk/chu-05.asp>

For information about the origins and meaning of Anglican Evensong visit <http://www.crosthwaiteandlyth.co.uk/church/Origins%20and%20Meaning%20of%20Evensong.pdf>

- **For more information** contact the priest-in-charge at Christ Church City, Father Richard Hoyal, telephone 0117 9706776, email: richardhoyal@btinternet.com

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