FRIDAY EVENING 20 OCTOBER

7.45 PM – Music: Cass Meurig with Elise Gwilym – FREE, with a pay as you feel box for donations.
Cass Meurig is well known for her fiddle and crwth playing. She has performed internationally as a soloist and in Welsh bands Fernhill and Pigyn Clust and has recorded and performed with Cerys Matthews, Gorwel and others. A solo album, Crwth, (2004), was followed by two duo albums with Nial Cain: Deuawd, (2009) and Oes i Oes, (2013), with both receiving airplay on BBC Radio Cymru and BBC Radio 3.

Providero food available: Vegetarian Chilli, cheeseboards, a selection of cakes, Providero coffee.

SATURDAY 21 OCTOBER

ST PAUL’S

9 AM – Hiraeth Kitchen opens for tea, coffee and cake

10–11 AM – Session 1 – FREE
Welcome from St Paul’s venue sponsor, Reverend Noel Carter, and introduction to Hiraeth Festival from festival director, Emily Hillman

First Person Narrator: Reverend Noel Carter tells a story from his own life in the spirit of Hiraeth. An engaging storyteller, Noel is involved in the pilot children’s sessions at St Paul’s that feature conceptual art, theatre, zany games and storytelling; all of which invite participants to engage with faith in a personal way. Noel is also a fan of murder mysteries and enjoys walking his dogs Poppy and Freddy with his wife Wendy, a professional artist.

Author Emily Barroso (aka festival director Emily Hillman) discusses her books and how she has hiraeth for Wales. A recipient of a Jerwood/Arvon Writer’s Award, Emily Barroso is the author of After the Rains and the Snowdonia-set Big Men’s Boots. She has written about Zimbabwe and...

You are cordially invited to the inaugural Hiraeth Festival - an intimate festival that celebrates the creativity and spirit of Wales and beyond. Where stories and ideas are shared, and a sense of place and belonging is cultivated.

Uptown venue: Providero, Upper Mostyn Street
Downtown venue: St. Paul’s Church, Mostyn Broadway

Tickets are available at eventbrite.co.uk (search: Hiraeth Festival) and on the door.

www.hiraethfestival.wales
Follow us on Facebook and Twitter @HiraethFestival
Burma for openDemocracy magazine and has featured as Mumsnet blogger of the month. She is also a visual artist, playwright and director with Fluid Theatre. Emily will be signing books in the pop-up bookshop at 11 AM.


1–2.30 PM – Session 2 – £5

Fluid Theatre Group: Mary Magdalene at Haight-Ashbury. Mary Magdalene’s relationship with Jesus is poetically transported to a commune during the 1960’s. Fluid Theatre Group are a dynamic new multi-disciplinary theatre movement based in Wales and London, where visual artists, writers, musicians, film makers and choreographers are coming together to create works that explore themes such as faith, freedom, identity, mental health, slavery and prostitution.

Dr Manon Ceridwen James: Belonging. Manon will be discussing her soon to be published book based on her research with women on identity and belonging (University of Wales Press). Manon was one of the first women priests to be ordained and is honorary canon of St Asaph Cathedral. She is a comedy fan and fervent supporter of Welsh football. Manon’s poetry has been in Poetry Wales and Envoi.

2.30–3.15 PM – Hiraeth Kitchen opens for crêpes

3.15–4.45 PM – Session 3 – £5

John Fraser Williams. Poet John Fraser Williams discusses hiraeth, an element in much of his work and reads from Scan, his collection published by Cinnamon Press. John Fraser Williams’ work has appeared in Poetry Wales and Planet. In 2009 he was recognised by Literature Wales as a key emerging writer and awarded a New Writer Bursary. His work has been called ‘awe-inspiring’ and ‘luminous.’

Dr Kate North. Poet, author and short story writer, Kate North discusses what hiraeth means to her in the context of her work and reads from her new poetry collection that will be released through Parthian Press next spring. Kate North is also Lecturer in Creative Writing and Programme Director for the MA Humanities at Cardiff Metropolitan University. Her novel Eva Shell was published in 2008 and her poetry collection Bistro in 2012. John and Kate will sign books in the pop-up bookshop after the event.

5–6.45 PM – Session 4 – £5

Professor Ian Gregson: Acclaimed poet, author and academic, Professor Ian Gregson will discuss the importance of poetry to our cultural landscape. His latest poem is about the landscape between Bangor and Llandudno and its relationship to the Welsh and English languages. Ian Gregson has two substantial collections of poetry with Salt and a third with Parthian. He was shortlisted for the Forward prize and received a Gregory award. He has published six monographs on contemporary writing. His poems, reviews, and commentary have appeared in the LA Times, the THES, the TLS, and The Guardian, as well as in poetry publications The North, Poetry Review and Poetry Wales.

Poetry Workshop stage right with Professor Ian Gregson. An opportunity for budding poets to have their work critiqued by Ian. Please contact info@hiraethfestival.wales in advance, to book a place in the workshop and for further details. Places limited. If you would like to stay on for the workshop after Ian’s talk but not take part, you are welcome and there is no need to book.

SUNDAY 22 OCTOBER

ST PAUL’S

9.45–11.45 – As part of the Sunday service, St Paul’s Choir perform extracts from The Armed Man (A Mass for Peace) by Welsh composer Karl Jenkins and For The Beauty Of The Earth by John Rutter. Directed by Deborah Haigh-Roberts. Followed by tea, coffee and biscuits for a donation.


2–5.30 PM – The Sunday Sessions – £7.50 (Children 16 and under free)

Interview: ITV Cymru Wales reporter Rob Shelly interviews Steve Doherty, Founder and Managing Director of Llandudno-based Giddy Goat Media. Steve’s personal TV producer credits include Have I Got News For You (for which he was nominated for a BAFTA), Never Mind the Buzzcocks, and A Child’s Christmasses in Wales (Winner of Best Comedy at the Celtic Media Awards). His many Radio shows include Meet David Sedaris and The News Quiz. He is also Artistic Director for Craft of Comedy UK, Venue Cyfrwng.

2.45 PM Hiraeth Kitchen opens for crêpes

3.30 PM Emily Stanford. Local children’s author Emily Stanford discusses her book Elin’s Air and how she found hiraeth in North Wales and in her writing. Emily Stanford was born in Zimbabwe. A move to England as a child coincided with Emily’s awakening passion for children’s literature. Alongside the many books she read her imagination and her passion for word-craft was cultivated by living in an old cottage in the middle of a field, down Thanksgiving Lane. Emily will be signing books in the pop-up bookshop afterwards.

Interview: BBC Radio Wales journalist Chris Dearden chats to veteran journalist Derek Bellis. Derek spent 60 years covering the news around North Wales for the world’s media. From interviewing the Beatles in Bangor to covering the investiture of Prince Charles during a threatened bombing campaign, his assignments have been diverse and often sensational.

5–6 PM Hiraeth Hearths – post festival chat in the café area

6 PM – Closing words from festival director Emily Hillman