



6th July 2006

It's Elvis, Gospel Truth!

Elvis is coming to Truro Cathedral!

Johnny Cowling, Elvis impersonator, will break new ground when he performs the Gospel Music of Elvis Presley at Truro Cathedral on Sunday 6th August at 6.30pm.

The Elvis service forms part of the Cathedral's exploration of alternative styles of worship. It is part of a programme that has seen both Jazz and Country & Western style worship take place in Truro Cathedral for the first time.

Canon Perran Gay, the Cathedral's Head of Worship, explains, "We want this to be partly like an Elvis 'gig' and partly like an act of worship. I am genuinely excited by the challenge of 'engaging with' people who wouldn't normally come to the Cathedral. We believe that God gives us many ways in which to worship him, this is just one of many alternatives."

Johnny, who worships at St Merryn Parish Church, is a well-known performer and entertainer on the pub and club circuit in Cornwall. This chance to perform at the Cathedral has got him all shook up, "I aim to bring the 'spiritual' side of Elvis to the Cathedral, to perform his inspirational songs in a very inspirational place."

'His Hand In Mine' will see Johnny perform some of the great Elvis gospel music such as *Peace in the Valley*, *If I can Dream*, *His Hand in Mine* and *Swing Low Sweet Chariot*.

Johnny Cowling can trace his love for Elvis back to a very young age, "Elvis has always been an inspiration to me ever since I saw him on TV when I was 5 years old. As time went on I got more and more interested in his music and my first Elvis performance was at a Harvest Supper at St Merryn when I was eight!

Johnny has visited 'Graceland' the fabled home of Elvis and was runner-up of 10,000 entrants to GMTVs 'Search for Elvis' competition in 2001.

Johnny went onto to explain, “Elvis came from the deep South in America where religion and singing Gospel were deeply ingrained. He might be known as the King of Rock ‘n Roll but his great love was always Gospel music. It was his great inspiration; it’s what he returned to when things got tough. Indeed his three Grammy awards were all for this Gospel style of music.”

Canon Gay is eagerly anticipating this special event, “Elvis began his career as a Gospel singer, and his Christian faith was very important to him. He was certainly no saint, but he was a believer, and the lyrics and music of his Gospel songs bring that faith to life. It is going to be a fantastic fun experience, one that we hope will speak to many, many people.”

Colin Reid, a Cathedral spokesman, said, “I wouldn’t be at all surprised if we fill the Cathedral for this event. Elvis music has great appeal, we are hoping for a full house. This is a unique first for Truro Cathedral, I can’t imagine anything like this has happened at any other cathedral in the country!”

For further details Contact:

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CAMERACRAFT have a picture image of Johnny Cowling and Canon Perran Gay in front of the Cathedral
tel: 01872 272480, **email:** studio@cameracraftphotography.co.uk

Thursday 6th July