

## **Heaven Direct** CD Launched In Tenby

By Sharron Hardwick

Ruthie Thomas launched her latest CD **Heaven Direct**, in Tenby recently at St.Teresa's Restaurant and Guest House.

Jake Thomas, welcomed all including: award winning Pembrokeshire artist , Naomi Tydeman; Fair trade/Tearfund Media representative - Sharron Hardwick; Bryan John, photographer; Nigel, Michele and Natalie - *Nice People Market*; Miffany and Chris, staff of Tenby library; members from St.Mary's and St.John's, Tenby and Grace Church, Narberth and Sally Lloyd, New Life Christian Fellowship. Refreshments were provided by Geoff and Linda, hosts and proprietors.

Reverend David Cardwell opened the launch saying: "I Thank God for the talent given to Ruthie, and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. I pray through Ruthie's CD, the cross will be lifted again in Wales."

Heaven Direct has seven tracks written and performed by Ruthie Thomas, featuring; children from Kensington and Chelsea Borough; produced by John Hamelton (keyboards) at EQ Studios, London. Ruthie is the first published black Hymn Writer in Britain.

Ray Sullivan performed, on guitar: "***I Believe In Miracles***" a song from Heaven Direct that inspired him. Ray's faith had drifted, he hit pit bottom but God restored him: "Last year a man put this CD in my hand, I took it home and listened. At the 3<sup>rd</sup> track I fell apart. The woman on the beach, with no hope, I knew how she felt. Tears flowed. This song gives hope, miracles happen!"

Dr Gillian Warson, hymnodist, author and musician, performed extracts from **Heaven Direct** on the Violin saying:

"Rich vibrancy and faith is shared in Ruthie's music; encompassing African Caribbean legacy, Jazz, Calypso, and Soul; the vibrant message is supported by exceptionally clear diction. The simple arrangements compliment Ruthie's voice, warming the heart."

Ruthie's hymn writing does not shy away from deep theological questions, but addresses life's problems. Dr Warson believes: "**Heaven Direct** must be introduced to wider audience – all who listen will be uplifted, hearing the Gospel message too."

Ruthie acknowledged her mother Cynthia Martin, who opened her door to all, doing her best to help people; introducing her song: "*Oh Mary Where is Your Baby?*", reflecting Mary's feelings at Jesus crucifixion.

All were invited to sing a revival Hymn for Wales: ***The Cross is Raised***, with Ruthie and Dr Warson, singing: “Dance Daffodils, on winds of change for once again in Wales, the cross is raised!”

Thanks were expressed to the team and The Pratt Green Trust. A gift from the CD proceeds on the day, were given to a Cancer Trust.

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