

## **The Dean's Address at the 10am Choral Eucharist on 22<sup>nd</sup> September:**

### **An Outline of the Cathedral's Development Plans**

Instead of a sermon this morning I am going to focus on the building, and our plans to renew it. In fact, most of you will have heard some of this before. But today, I'm trying to bring together our current thinking into a coherent whole. And then, invite your feedback.

You may remember when I first arrived in Exeter that I expressed dismay at the loos: it's a dismay that has only grown in the interim. I paid a recent visit. It was a tragic mistake! But I've come to realise that the loos are certainly not the only problem with the building. Let's think about some other issues:

**Lighting.** These lights may be the ugliest fittings I have ever clapped eyes on, but that's just the start. I don't know if you are aware that the light fittings have been condemned. That's why we have those ghastly shiny bulbs that blind you if you look at them. New fittings have been inserted as a temporary repair, with LED bulbs that look more suited to an operating theatre than a medieval cathedral. Yet still we can't see properly. Celebrating an evening Eucharist at the High Altar or in the Lady Chapel, I, for one, have to recite the words from memory, since I certainly cannot read the book, even with large print. And the lights do nothing to illuminate the building, or highlight its spectacular features. So our lighting needs major work.

As of course does our sound system. Not least because lights and sound are currently conjoined, with a single fitting doing both jobs. So if we renew lights, we have no choice but also to renew the sound. And we hope to install a system that will allow people to hear! I know some of us don't articulate or project as clearly as some of you would like, but even the late great Richard Burton would find our sound system woefully inadequate and unreliable. Lighting, then. And sound.

And then, to complete the trio there's the heating. As you know, it doesn't work. At least it doesn't manage to keep us warm. It's because we're trying to defy science, by heating the roof space, and hoping it will trickle down-which it

doesn't! What it does do though, very effectively, is to damage the stonework at high level. Lighting. Sound. Heating.

And to those technological needs, you can also add alarms and CCTV for security purposes; along with IT. All fairly basic amenities to help make the Cathedral fit for purpose for the current generations.

But there are some other features of the cathedral that also need our attention. The west doors. Wouldn't it be lovely to use the main door more often? It would break down the barrier between outside and in. It would make us look open for business. It would be much more welcoming than those glass doors at the side, that really only serve to keep people out. But whenever we open the central doors, they present a number of issues -

- birds - come in and choose not to leave, or certainly want to leave a calling card before they depart on their way
- tourists - photograph the ceiling through the open doors, and then decline to visit and to pay
- heat - escapes through the door before you can say Jack Robinson

The solution is simple: an inner porch, which allows the great wooden doors to be open, but provides a protective barrier between outside and in.

And then there's the shop. A great asset to our Cathedral, with lots of lovely gifts and so on. In fact, as you start to think about Christmas, please drop by. One of the few places in Exeter where you can do all your Christmas shopping in a single visit. But it's behind the pay-barrier, of course. Think how much more we could be selling if we could get the shop outside, and accessible from the street. And if we move the shop from its present site, then we'll have plenty of storage space, and we'll be able to extract the flower arrangers from their cupboard and give them a proper dedicated room. Of course, it's next to the existing shop that we plan to create new loos-just to the south of the South Quire Aisle, where currently we have the flower arrangers and the store cupboard and the vault-all housed under a failing concrete roof. So if we can sort out the roof and create new loos, one project solves two problems.

Now let's turn to the historic fabric of the Cathedral, and the misericords in particular-our mercy seats in the quire, all round the back row. You know why they're called mercy seats, I'm sure. Because they lift up. So when services used to go on at great length, not that they ever do nowadays, the people in quire could perch on the raised seat. A merciful relief. Our misericord carvings are possibly the oldest set in the country. Certainly they are of national and international significance, and very vulnerable. You may have heard that one dropped off recently, and fell on the floor. Of course it's George Gilbert Scott's

fault. During his work on the Cathedral, he renewed the seating, so he thinned the backing on the misericords, and inserted them into a new set of wooden boards. But in thinning the backing, he clearly didn't take into account the weight of the misericords pulling downwards (that's called gravity), or the weight of 21st century clergy, causing the seats to sag in the middle, and the misericords to crack as a consequence. There has been a push to remove all the misericords, and put them on display around the Cathedral. This is an approach that the Chapter has resisted. Nevertheless, finding a solution to keep them safe and in situ has proved a major challenge. I like to think we've now found a way forward, and implementing this is becoming pretty urgent.

And then there's the stained glass. In need of conservation. Which is always true, of course. But the most recent report highlights a certain amount of fairly urgent work on the windows.

And all this is on top of the regular maintenance of the high level stonework, which was in a perilous condition, but is well under repair now, thanks to the generosity of our Friends, who year by year fund the masons and the stone yard.

Goodness it's a daunting list. And that's before we start to think about how to interpret or explain the building for visitors. The Canon Chancellor has recently taken some photos of the various boards we have around the place, and they don't make a happy ensemble. But as we all know, there is so much to say about this fantastic building. And we need to say it in a way that people can appreciate and understand.

But of course, we don't stop there. In fact we're just getting going. So let's hurry on to the Chapter House. Access is such a problem because of the steps and our miserable little lobby, so, exactly as inside the Cathedral, we need some kind of inner porch. Then we can leave the big oak doors open, people can see in, and we have ready access for all. There is underfloor heating here in the Chapter House already. The problem is it doesn't work. So it needs to be renewed. And it needs to be on a separate circuit from the cathedral – so we can use that great room independently. The ceiling needs attention. We'd like to re-render the lower walls: this stone was never intended to be exposed. And again we face the question of loos. If we are to use the space to maximum effect, it needs dedicated facilities nearby. Which is where the Holy Ghost Chapel next door comes in. Wouldn't it be great if we could turn it from an unruly store cupboard into some kind of green room or relaxation space, with its own WC's, and storage overhead? We are very conscious for instance that our volunteers, who are such a precious asset to the Cathedral, have nowhere for time out.

One of our big challenges here in Exeter is moving people around the site. Services for big occasions always start in the Chapter House. But we always risk giving the Bishop a chill, and having rain pour on our vestments, as we process through the garden round to the west door. And there's no obvious link between the Cathedral and the Café, as currently configured. Too many visitors escape, unfed or watered. So we have it in mind to complete the Pearson Cloister at the back of the garden – a link corridor between the Brewer Door and the Café. New steps. A wheelchair lift alongside. Suddenly, people-flow through the building begins to make sense. And we achieve a great gathering space, especially when used in conjunction with the Chapter House, and free flow in and out of the garden. The jumble of separate rooms is brought together into a cohesive whole.

Let's move on round the garden. Church House is in a poorly state. One wall is parting company with the rest of the building. The roof has dodgy tiles containing asbestos, and is beyond further repair. And the render needs to be put back on the outside walls.

So our vision... people leave the cathedral through the Brewer Door, they walk past the Chapter House (peering in through the glass porch), along the link corridor into the Cathedral Shop, located where the Café currently is, and then on into the cafe, on the ground floor of Church House.

Perhaps I've worn you out? I find it bewildering to think of it all at times, and I haven't even mentioned the houses in the Close, all of which need improved fire protection and new roofs. Or Number 1 the Cloisters, which lives under great strain. Or any work on the Green, which was never quite finished. But I think I have said enough to give you a flavour of the challenges ahead. Apart from one final thing: the Library and Archives, last, but by no means least. Take the 10th century Exeter book: a foundation volume of English literature, at least that's what UNESCO says. But it's easier for people to see it in London than here in Exeter. And tens of thousands of other volumes from before 1800. We look after our treasures extraordinarily well, but putting them on display is not really viable at present. So we don't use these amazing assets to attract people through our doors.

It's one thing to list the problems, but what are we going to do about them? Let me tell you we are embarking on a journey, and like many Christian journeys, I suspect it will be a steep and rugged pathway. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't take the first step.

After 18 months of discussion and reflection, and constant moving of the various pieces around the chessboard to determine the most effective strategy, we have decided to start with the Chapter House, and the building of the link

corridor. The reason for this is that as soon as we start work in the Cathedral, we shall have to shut a part of the building. So we need other spaces that are readily accessible, and fit for purpose. The Chapter House is best placed to fulfil that role.

Once that work is complete, we can relocate the Café temporarily into the Chapter House, and the Shop into the current Café for the longer term. And then we can start work on the East End of the Cathedral and the South Transept. We can create the new roof, and construct new loos. We can conserve the misericords. We can install new lighting and heating and sound and so on. And whatever we do in the East End of the Cathedral beyond the pulpitum screen will have a seamless connection with what is needed in the nave, in the longer term. But you'll understand that we cannot, for the sake of business continuity, shut the whole of the building in one go.

I am sorry to have gone on at such length. But now you know everything I know - probably more. And now we come to the crunch of the matter-which is the part you can play; or two things we are asking you all to do. The first is immediate. In order to apply for funding, we need to consult the public at all sorts of levels. And for this purpose, you gathered here are vital. You all know the building and its glories and its shortcomings intimately, and many of you here give your time sacrificially to us. We have a short questionnaire we hope you will all be willing to complete. Once we have your answers, we shall process the results, and use them to shape our thinking as well. Quick, easy, and invaluable work. Thank you in advance for this support.

The other way you can help us can be shunted a bit down the road. But not for ever. After all, we're not likely to start the major work until early 2022 (though we would love to polish off the Chapter House during next year). But inevitably, at some point, we shall come to ask for your financial support. We hope to receive a lot of money from outside, but we will need to be seen to offer our own support as well - those of us who are closely linked with the Cathedral. This isn't urgent just at present, but if it would help you to make a donation now, Jill Taylor (Development Director) is always available to receive your cheque. Never forget: those who give to charity live three years longer on average than those who don't! And if you want to hold a fundraising event, or a series of tea parties or whatever, we shall do all we can to encourage and support you. And, if at some point you are thinking about your will...well I would hate to take money away from the donkeys, of course, but surely there'll be a bit left over for Exeter Cathedral as well.

No more. But please take a moment to fill in our short questionnaire. Everyone counts. We very much need your answers and comments both to shape our plans and support our funding applications.

**Jonathan Greener**

*If you have not yet completed a questionnaire, they are available from the Cathedral Office, or online by following the link*

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/X2QZ3WH>

*Please return all questionnaires by the end of October.*

## **The Wednesday Kitchen**

We are holding our Christmas party a week earlier than usual this year, in order to enable choirs to use the Chapter House during the Christmas concert period. Our client community very much appreciated all of the gifts that you helped to provide last year, and we would like to offer something similar this year. However, in order to be able to distribute presents fairly and equally, we are asking for unwrapped gifts, so that we can make up parcels of equal value and interest for each client. It is the one time of the year that we can give our guests something new, and they really do value this offer. Please remember that our clients do not have storage space, other than rucksacks. You may deliver your gifts, labelled “Wednesday Kitchen Christmas” to reception in the Cathedral, or to the floor managers, by the close of November 2019.

The following are the sorts of things that our client community appreciate - and please remember that many of them are young people, who like all the things that other young people enjoy:

Toiletries: shampoo, comb, hairbrush, deodorant, liquid soap, hand sanitiser, tissues, wet-wipes, small towel, wash-bag, lip-salve, toothbrush and paste, mouthwash, plasters, antiseptic cream.

Underwear: men’s boxers, shorts, t-shirts and women’s knickers.

Clothing: layers - t-shirt, jumpers. Tracksuits, leggings, socks, tights.

Other: Books, adult colouring books and crayons, biscuits, chocolate, sweets, vouchers for the cinema or any other treats.

More other: you could always donate funds to help us through the year. Please send cheques, via the gift aid system, payable to Exeter Cathedral but marked “For the Wednesday Kitchen Account”.

Thank you from Penny and all of our Wednesday Kitchen team.

**Penny Harris** ([penny@harris58.com](mailto:penny@harris58.com))

## **From the Cathedral Bell ringers**

Although the National 12 Bell Striking Contest seems many long months ago, the ripples of its success continue to be felt, and now the accounts have been finalised I can share the news with you all. The event itself cost us over £10,000 to stage and with no financial assistance from the National Committee we relied heavily upon generous loans from our own ringers to cover the initial outlay. However, thanks to the hard work of everyone involved, and the glorious weather of course, I am delighted to report that we made a profit of £4,600!

This week, Dean Jonathan and Pamela very kindly invited all the bellringers to the Deanery for celebratory drinks. We enjoyed a wonderful night, and it was here that we presented the Dean & Chapter with a cheque for £1,000 from our profits. We also matched this sum with a donation to the Friends of Exeter Cathedral, and gave a further £1,000 to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund, with the remainder staying in our account to ensure we can finance any necessary bell or belfry maintenance in the future. Being able to give back to the Cathedral, in thanks for all the time and support we received from so many people, has been a crowning success of the day.

On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October, we will enjoy another celebration at our annual Cathedral bellringers dinner; this year, forty of us will be dining at the Mill on the Exe, with Dean Jonathan and Pamela joining us as our guests, along with friends and volunteers who especially helped on the day of the 12 bell competition.

Finally, one special date for the ringing diary is Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October when there will be a full peal attempt at the Cathedral. John Hughes D'Aeth will be bringing a visiting band of ringers from the Ancient Society of College Youths, and the peal will be rung to mark Trafalgar Day – we hope you enjoy hearing the bells that day, and throughout the month ahead.

**Clare Griffiths, Secretary, Exeter Cathedral Bellringers**

## **Christian Aid**

The Cathedral Community needs a representative for Christian Aid. This is not an onerous task. It involves receiving occasional mailings from Christian Aid and raising awareness of its activities by passing on information about the charity to the Cathedral congregations and volunteers via *Cathedral News* and the Weekly Sheet. This is particularly necessary in the period leading to Christian Aid Week. If anyone is willing to undertake this task, please contact Clare Griffiths, Secretary to the Cathedral Community Committee, [clarejg116@btinternet.com](mailto:clarejg116@btinternet.com)



## From Jill Taylor, Director of Development

We are pleased to announce that Daniel Maw will be joining us here at Exeter Cathedral, as newly appointed Development Officer. He is joining us fresh from the University of Exeter, where he read for a BA in Classical Studies and English (Hons) degree, but our congregation may know him as a Choral Scholar with the Cathedral Choir.

Daniel's dissertation, an anthology of his own poetry, relied heavily on the Exeter Book, so we're thrilled to have on board someone so passionate about our wonderful building.

## Tales from the Foodbank: Facts from the Director of the Foodbank

*"Compared to the same stage last year we have given out 4904 Emergency Food Boxes compared to 3908. This is an increase of approximately 26%. Approximately one third of this number is for children."*

*Doctors, Schools, Social Workers, Charities refer people to the Foodbank, providing them with a voucher to receive food for 3 days.*

*Part of a recent comment from a referrer:*

*"We are so grateful to Exeter Foodbank and all its lovely staff for all their hard work. Some of our families are in a very difficult position by the time they come to us and then you. Without you some of our most vulnerable children would suffer significant hardship on top of already challenging home circumstances."*

Thank you all so much for generous amount given to the Foodbank last month. Please give generously again on **Sunday 27th October** at the 10 am service, and to the special Harvest appeal in the weeks leading to that date.

**Felicity Cawthra**

**Next Month:** Please send material for the **November** edition by **Monday 21st October** to Heather Morgan (01392 877623, [hmm53@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:hmm53@tiscali.co.uk) and Sheila Atkinson [sm.a@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:sm.a@blueyonder.co.uk). The other members of the editorial team are Rosemary Bethell, Jenny Ellis and Linda Driscoll.



## **Holy Ground Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm**

### **Video-Game Spirituality**

**with Andy Robertson**



Andy invites us to soar over the clouds as we gather in a video game for October's Holy Ground. We'll take each other's hands and explore a new world in the ancient Cathedral that encourages us to meditate, support each other and journey together. Open to all, with no gaming experience necessary, simply touch the screen and partake in a different kind of banquet for the soul.

Andy Robertson is a national journalist and broadcaster who has curated digital meditation, interactive worship and video game services in many contexts. He explored the intersection between technology, meaning and spirituality in his TEDx talk that led to previous Holy Ground services incorporating games. His upcoming book, *Taming Gaming*.

<https://unbound.com/books/taming-gaming>, is a fresh perspective on what video games have to offer different parts of life.

### **The Cathedral Flower Arrangers**

The last few weeks have seen a number of our team on holiday, but those arrangers available have been in great form. A lovely lime green theme has been used throughout the Cathedral.

It was very interesting to hear the Dean's presentation with regard to the future plans for the Cathedral buildings. We know that the area planned for new toilet accommodation includes the current "flower room" or "hell hole" as we refer to it. Our hopes for a large wall of shelving, a couple of drop down tables and a double sink may yet happen in the future. Whilst it may seem to be a small want in the overall plans, it will be quite important to those of us who muddle through at the moment. We wholly support any plans that make life better for our team of volunteer flower arrangers.

**Flick Evans, Exeter Cathedral Flower Arrangers**

### **Informal Lunch for Students 13<sup>th</sup> October**

During September and October, students will be coming to Exeter for the first time, or returning after the long vacation. We have noticed increasing numbers of students attending all services at the Cathedral. To welcome them, we will be holding an informal, and free, lunch at noon on 13<sup>th</sup> October in the Cafe Room. Invitation cards are available for distribution. Please give these to any students you meet in or around the Cathedral, or feel free to issue a verbal invitation.

## Disappearing Islands

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 7 – 9pm**

**With Alex Leger and Ivan Haigh**

We invite you to a drinks reception and seminar, hosted jointly by Exeter Cathedral and The Melanesian Mission, to raise awareness of the issues facing Melanesia, and in particular the Solomon Islands, due to rising sea levels, and to raise funds for MMUK's research into this area and for Exeter Cathedral.



Devon born, Alex was educated at Exeter School before leaving to spend a year as a VSO volunteer in the Solomon Islands. On his return, he studied industrial engineering and management sciences at Loughborough University. He then joined the army on a permanent regular commission, before joining the BBC in 1973 as a junior management consultant. Three years later came an opportunity to work in television programme production, where he stayed for the rest of his BBC career. He has produced two programmes about the Solomons for the BBC, and in 2016 returned to feature the islands under threat from climate change that he had filmed previously in 2002.



Dr Ivan D Haigh is Associate Professor in Coastal Oceanography within Ocean and Earth Science, National Oceanography Centre Southampton at the University of Southampton. He is an expert in changing sea levels and in how effectively to translate global projections of sea level rises in practical terms, to aid coastal managers, and plan for erosion and flooding to come.

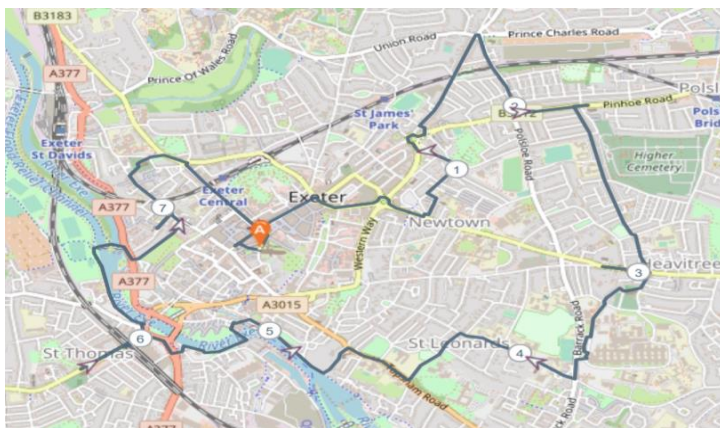


Tickets for this fundraising event £15 (concessions £10) are available from the Cathedral website.

## Canon Becky Totterdell

Becky will be licensed as Rector of the Upper Culm Mission Community on **2<sup>nd</sup> October at 7.30pm** at St Mary's Hemyock.

We hope that many people in the Cathedral Community will be there to support Becky, and the parishes where she will serve.



## Devon Historic Churches Trust Ride/Stride

and

**Deanery Prayer Walk**  
**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September**

On 14<sup>th</sup> September, four intrepid riders set out to cycle around the churches of Exeter as part of the Devon Historic Churches Trust Ride & Stride. The Dean, and Canons Treasurer, Precentor, and Chancellor visited a dozen churches, took photos, enjoyed a welcome in some – and all to raise money for the Trust and for the Cathedral. The route round the city is pictured above.

We were welcomed by all the clergy at St Michael's Heavitree, and posed in front of the Cathedral's former reredos. We enjoyed wonderful tea and cake at St Michael's Mount Dinham. And all this before returning to the Cathedral for the ordination service.



*The intrepid cyclists before and after their exertions.*



*A selfie en route at St Anne's Orthodox Church (left) and Stoke Canon (below)*

In addition, Canons Mike Williams and Chris Palmer stretched their legs and cycled to Stoke Canon to a wonderful flower festival and open church. A big thank you for your support-we appreciate the generosity of all those who sponsored us.



*Meanwhile, lay members of the Cathedral Community were walking for the Devon Historic Churches Trust, taking part in the Deanery Prayer Walk, as has happened for over 20 years. Stephen Pryor describes their day.*

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September, in support of the Devon Historic Churches Stride and Deanery Prayer Walk, three of us commenced walking at 8am from St Michael's Alphington.

We were generously offered refreshments to prepare us for the walk ahead. Here, and at each site on the walk, we concluded with a prayer.

Then on to the site of St Andrews, and thence to St Thomas the Apostle, where we were welcomed by the vicar who gave us a blessing. We went on to Bridge Books, the Christian Bookshop and resource centre, before moving onto and into St Mary Steps, West Street, one of the oldest churches in the city. Here we saw the screen from St Mary Major. We also met, and were joined, by another group of walkers.

We visited St Olave's, Fore Street, which is shared with the Romanian Orthodox Church. Then to St Mary Arches which is the Unlimited Youth Church of the Diocese of Exeter and the base for Street Pastors. Then to the Exeter Synagogue in Mary Arches Street, and to St Petrock's, High Street before arriving at the Cathedral.



Here we had welcome refreshments, enlarged our group of walkers, and received a blessing from the Reverend Ian Morter before setting off again.

We went to St Martin's in the Cathedral Close, to St Petrock's in the Guildhall Shopping Centre, to the site of All Hallows on the corner of Goldsmith Street and the High Street, and on to St Stephens and the site of St Lawrence's.

Then on to St Sidwells, and the Sidwell Street Methodist and home for Exeter Network Church.

We were then welcomed into St Anne's Orthodox Chapel in Old Tiverton Road, before crossing over Blackboy Road to the Episcopal Christ Church Free Church of England in Grosvenor Place, and to St Matthews, now undergoing extensive internal restoration for outreach to Exeter's students. Thence to St Luke's campus and chapel (for the University chaplaincy team), to St Leonard's Primary School (for Exeter Vineyard Church and other independent churches meeting in schools), to St Leonard's in Topsham Road, and finally, walking gloriously along the River Exe and through Riverside Valley Park to our final Church St Luke, Countess Wear, where we had lunch.

It had been a glorious day and some of us were preparing to attend the Ordination of Deacons at the Cathedral later that afternoon.

*The walkers enjoying a welcome rest in St Stephen's church on the High Street*



## Highlights for October from the Education Department

**Ian Morter Art Tour £7.50 Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> Oct 12.30 - 1.30pm**

Revd Canon Ian Morter will be exploring the paintings in the Cathedral that you may have noticed, but not especially understood, or been able to read. Ian will enlighten us on the Raphael, the Leonardo, and a couple more gems from our art collection that are tucked away, including one hidden in our reception. NB. There will be a small flight of stairs to take on this walking tour.

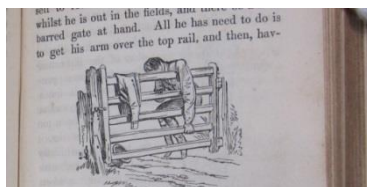


## Learning Event in the Library & Archives - Quaint and Curious Volumes

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 10.30-11.30am and 12.00-13.00pm in the Cathedral Library & Archives £5 (10 max)**

You don't need to be a scholar to enjoy the Cathedral Library. Join us for a light-hearted look at a few of the quirkier items in our Library. This will be a chance to see some of the humbler, more unsung treasures of the Library – hidden pictures, doodles, doggerel verse, magic, men in the moon, novel

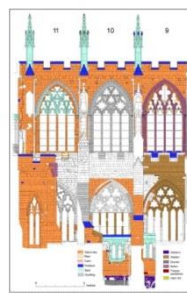
vegetables, hair tonics, and some tongue-in-cheek advice to churchwardens. This event is aimed at adults, but accompanied children (and scholars) are welcome too. Booking essential as limited numbers apply.



## John Allan £5 Chapter House Monday 21<sup>st</sup> Oct 12.30pm

**The new study of the South Quire & St James Chapel**

The Dean & Chapter are currently giving consideration to the area of St James Chapel and the Cathedral Shop, whilst the Cathedral Stone Masons have been busy carrying out repairs to the clerestory windows above this area. A new archaeological survey has been carried out in association with the ongoing and proposed works, bringing to light a number of exciting new findings - including the remains of previously unrecognised fragments of the Bishop's Palace, a small vaulted room below a choir buttress, and evidence for a previously unknown Cathedral fire. This is a talk with an opportunity to see some examples in the Cathedral afterwards. However, there will be limited numbers for those able to attend the tour - this will be on a first come sign-up basis on the day.



## **Half Term Family Activities Mon 28<sup>th</sup>, Tues 29<sup>th</sup> & Wed 30<sup>th</sup> Oct**

Please see the Cathedral website for details of the schedule of events.

**Green Men in the Cathedral** – take the trail and make your own Green Man.

**Fantastic Flags** – using our heraldry templates make your own bespoke flag and fly for your family honour. Spot the flags and heraldic shields around the Cathedral, too.

**Angel Creations** – help us make angels for our upcoming Angel Exhibition for December.

**Brass Rubbing for all** – choose one of our brass templates to create your own piece of history to take home.

## **Craft Workshop – Willow Basket Making with Windrush Willow**

**Thurs 31<sup>st</sup> October 9.30am –**

**4.30pm Pearson Building**

A day of willow weaving to make a simple frame basket – an ideal Christmas present! Enjoy the whole day with us and get creative with willow. £50 includes

professional tuition, materials, tea coffee and biscuits. Book early - limited spaces! **This is a great price for a whole day's tuition and materials. Look out for our Silk Painting Workshop in November.**



**Lisa Gordon, Head of Education**

## **Cathedral Community Committee (CCC) Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> September**

The CCC met on 24<sup>th</sup> September. After a brief discussion and a very positive response to the Dean's outline of the Cathedral's development plans on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, the main item of the meeting was to propose ideas for the Cathedral's Year of Invitation and Welcome in 2020.

We considered what we could do individually and corporately to improve the Cathedral's ministry of invitation and welcome. This was an energetic and productive meeting, so productive that we agreed to have an Awayday at the earliest opportunity to consider the ideas further, to agree priorities, and to refine the list into action that is manageable and achievable.

We expressed huge thanks to all who had organised and served the excellent lunch to mark the beginning of the choir term on 8<sup>th</sup> September.

Suggestions were invited for the role of Cathedral Christian Aid representative.

**Heather Morgan, Chair of the CCC**

## Christmas Shoeboxes

As in previous years, the Mothers' Union will be heading up a collection of Christmas shoeboxes for disadvantaged children and elderly folk in Eastern Europe. The charity we use – International Aid Trust – sends boxes for 4 different age groups of children 2-4, 5-9, 10-14 and 15+, as well as for pensioners. They all go to really needy people – the pensioner ones go to people who are lonely and forgotten, and are often the only gifts that these people receive; this category of boxes are the ones that are always in short supply.

If you feel able to support this very worthy venture by filling a shoebox, a suggested list of contents is given below. We would be very grateful for as many boxes as possible, to help show the love of God at Christmas to some of his most desperate people.

***You do not have to put every item into your box, but a mixture of types of items (e.g. something(s) from each of the different categories listed below) always makes for a lovely box. If at all possible, please make sure your box is lovely and full, with new or 'as new' items.***

You are also asked to wrap both the box and the lid in Christmassy paper, but to wrap them **separately** – the boxes have to be opened and the items checked by the charity. For this reason also, please do not wrap the individual items inside the box. When completed, please bring your box (es) into the Cathedral, by **Sunday November 10<sup>th</sup>** (earlier if possible). A voluntary donation of £1 per box, towards the cost of transporting the boxes to their destination, would also be appreciated by the Charity. We hope that, as previously, all the filled boxes will be blessed in the Cathedral and then go off on their journey at the beginning of Advent.

Over the years we have sent several hundred boxes from the Cathedral Community, which has been a fantastic effort. Our 'record' send is 104 boxes at any one time. It would be lovely to match – or even beat – that number, this year.

For **pensioner shoeboxes** please choose a mixed selection from the following list:

### **Stationery:**

notepad, pencils, pens, rubber, ruler, scissors, sellotape, pencil sharpener, greeting card, photo of donor

### **Foods/Sweets:**

Packet/tubes of sweets, biscuits, dried fruit, pasta/rice, instant soup, sachets of hot drinks (e.g. Horlicks). *No chocolate this year please.*



### Toiletries:

aerosol deodorant, comb, hairbrush, mirror, shampoo, soap, sponge/flannel, talc, toothbrush/paste, wash bag, tissues, nail clippers/nail file

### New Clothes/Misc:

baseball cap, warm hat/gloves, body warmer, T shirt, shorts, socks/tights/underwear, headscarf, sewing kit (including needle/thread)

If you wish for further details of the scheme, please contact Chryssa Turner:

[crst0915@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:crst0915@yahoo.co.uk) or on 01392 202330.

Thank you in advance for your support of this venture, which we consider to be an important part of our Christian work.

**Chryssa Turner**

## **Harvest Festival and Harvest Lunch Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October**

The Cathedral's Harvest Celebration will be on **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October**, starting with **Choral Eucharist at 10am**.

There will be a **Harvest Lunch at 12 noon** in the Chapter House; a two course lunch with drinks available to purchase. Tickets £10, available from 29<sup>th</sup> September after services, or from the Cathedral Shop during the week. All are welcome. Tickets are limited to 80 so please book soon.

Our Harvest celebrations will come to a rousing end with the **Devon Young Farmers Harvest Service at 7pm**.



## **World Premiere**

On 22<sup>nd</sup> September at the 10am Choral Eucharist, we heard the first performance of Philip Moore's motet, *We do not presume*.

This was commissioned by Peter and Angela Toyne to mark their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Here we see them, with some of the senior choristers, and Tim Noon, Director of Music.

## Owls!

*Chris Lethbridge writes on behalf of the Cathedral Mothers' Union Group*



Lisa Gordon, our Head of Education, approached me at the beginning of the summer about a project concerning the production of maybe 50-100 knitted owls!! Was the Cathedral Mothers' Union able to help with this? With only about 10 of us, that would mean 10 each and most of us are not knitters!

I approached my friend Teresa from a 'rival' MU

group, as I knew that she was involved with a group of knitters, to whom I supplied a simple pattern. Come September, I collected the results from Teresa's front porch, and you cannot imagine my delight at the wonderful, amazing, colourful, imaginative owls which were contained in two plastic bags - 42 in all - to which I added my meagre four.

I immediately phoned Lisa and arranged a photo shoot in the Oldham Chantry. Thank you so much to Beacon Knitters for your brilliant contribution to the Education Department of the Cathedral. You can be assured that Lisa will get a lot of use out these, and the school parties who visit, will also be able to wonder at the variety of owls in Exeter Cathedral.

Thank you all so much ladies. If Lisa gets any more ideas, I may go a little deaf in that ear, but in the meantime enjoy your knitting.

*From Lisa, A reply to Chris, the owl knitting maestro!*

I have to say we were bowled over by Chris and her knitting contacts, at the response to our knitted owl request. It was a delight to examine each one in the office when the delivery came. All made with such care, and full of character. Originally, the request was to make a batch of small simple owls, which we would give as prizes for a Cathedral Quiz Trail, but the knitters out did themselves and now the lovable parliament of owls will suit a better purpose. They enjoyed the outing to Oldham's (Owldham's) Chapel - look out for their next appearance in the Cathedral. Thanks knitters - you are tops! **Lisa**

## Welcome and Thank You

At Evensong on 8<sup>th</sup> September, Heather Easting (Organ Scholar) was installed. Heather joins us from Croydon Minster and Whitgift School, London. She hails from Wellington, New Zealand; we welcome her and her husband, William.

We also welcome Tom Noon, Alice Risdon and Jessie Woodhouse, who were installed as Choral Scholars. Tom returns to Exeter having completed his degree in History at King's College, London. Alice (the granddaughter of David Risdon, formerly Education Officer at the Cathedral) is pursuing an MA in English Literary Studies at the University of Exeter. Jessie is also at the University of Exeter, where she is studying for an MA in Theology.

During the service, the Year 8 Choristers were invested as Senior Choristers. After the service, Canon James Mustard congratulated Paul Morgan (Organist Emeritus) on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his appointment to Exeter.



*The Senior Choristers*



*Heather and William*



*Tom, Jessie and Alice*



*Paul and James*

## Outward Giving: Special Appeal for Harvest-tide

The Cathedral Community's Special Appeal for Harvest-tide is for the Exeter Foodbank (EFB). The EFB receives no statutory funding, and relies on the generosity of local people to meet ongoing running costs. In recent years, we have given £500 to EFB from the annual distribution of 10% of planned giving. We have now changed to having four special appeals per year, so it is important that we raise a substantial sum in these appeals, if we are to match our previous level of outward giving.

During October, there will be special collection plates for donations of money to EFB at the West End of the Cathedral and on the Cathedral Community Table in the South Transept. Please give generously. In addition, on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October, the day of Harvest Festival, we will have our usual collection of food for EFB. Even if you do not usually support the Foodbank, please bring an offering on that day.

The items that are particularly needed are:

High Priority: Tins of meat, Sponge Puddings, Milk – 1L UHT semi-skimmed, Potatoes – tins/instant

Vegetables – tins (eg sweetcorn/peas/carrots), Fruit – tins, Rice Pudding – tins, Custard – tins/cartons, Biscuits, Noodle/Pasta Snacks, Jams & Spreads, Squash /Cordial

Medium Priority: Fruit Juice – 1L long-life, Rice – 500g/1kg, Fish – tins (tuna), Pasta Sauce,

Coffee – instant, Sugar (granulated), Soup – tins/pkts, Cereals – small/medium size packs

Toiletries – Shower gel/Shampoo, Deodorant, Tooth-brush/paste



Mark, the Manager of Exeter Foodbank writes:

*It has now been just over 10 years since Exeter Foodbank first opened its doors. In that time, we have given out approximately 36,000 emergency food parcels. Since the very start, our long-term vision has always been to put ourselves 'out of business' by helping to create a world where food banks are no longer needed. Today that goal seems further away than ever.*

*The increase in demand is shocking. In 2018/19, Exeter Foodbank provided 6,808 emergency food parcels – a 23% increase over the previous year. 2,132 of these went to children.*

*Much could be said about the reasons for this increase—but Exeter Foodbank has never really been about numbers. We have been, and always will be, about*

*people. Amidst the haze of statistics and politics, we promise that meeting the real, human needs of individuals and families remains our priority.*

*With that in mind, we remain committed to our primary goal: working hard to ensure that people in this wonderful city do not go to bed hungry. We see desperate need and fear every day. We also see generosity and gratitude: people offering kindness to others who are struggling. Each of these individuals has a story to tell. They are not a statistic or a number. The people we serve are not only like us – they are us. They are our friends, neighbours, parents, brothers and sisters*

*We are so very grateful for your support.*

*Mark*

## **Christian Climate Action**

Living in Exeter, home to the Met Office and a world renowned University for research on climate, I'm not sure why it took me until October 2018 to realise fully that we are facing a huge crisis with regards to our climate and biodiversity loss. But it did. Since this time, I have decided to join an organisation called Christian Climate Action. This is because they are a group of prayerful people, who not only talk the talk but walk the walk on trying to protect our beautiful God-created planet. Many of these members have been volunteering for Tearfund, Christian Aid, Operation Noah, Green Christian and A Rocha for many years but felt that the collective church was still not awake to the impending crisis. They have been participating in non-violent direct action since 2014.

Since joining this group, I have been encouraged (and had the courage) to attend Extinction Rebellion meetings and actions as a person of faith, I have attended a Christian Aid protest at a bank in regards to divestment from fossil fuels, I have delivered training on direct action and have now set up a Devon local group. I did not think any of this would be happening in my life just a year ago. I have been so moved by this situation that I have also helped organise a climate emergency meeting at work and am on the planning group to organise a green event at the Cathedral next year. None of this would have been possible without the fellowship of other Christians; people from all generations. People who have also taken on board the enormous grief for the destruction of our world, but also the hope that God gives us to act for change. If you feel similarly moved to take action, please do email [christianclimateactiondevon@protonmail.com](mailto:christianclimateactiondevon@protonmail.com) or find the group on Facebook.

**Liz Dunbar**



## Ordination of Deacons: 14<sup>th</sup> September

14 Deacons were ordained by Bishop Robert at a joyful and memorable service in the Cathedral on 14<sup>th</sup> September. The Cathedral was packed with over 1000 people from all over the Diocese, all there to support the candidates with their presence and their prayers.

Among those ordained was the Reverend Phil Wales, who will serve as a Distinctive Deacon and Assistant Curate at the Cathedral. Here we see all the candidates, Phil as he was ordained and also after the service. Phil has asked us to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and gifts, and also for the very warm welcome he has received from the Cathedral Community.



*Photo: Huw Riden*



*Photo: Huw Riden*



## From the Company of Tapisers

Ten weeks and Three Addresses later ...

The tragic fire at Notre Dame in Paris in April left us all with a great feeling of sorrow. The Company of Tapisers made a special celebratory stole as a gift of friendship and solidarity for Notre Dame – and it was blessed by our Dean on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. The stole was then carefully wrapped and posted – with the Track and Sign guarantee. Although I checked the Royal Mail website every few days the stole was NOT delivered and after five weeks was returned to me as ‘undeliverable’.

After asking a friend in the Catholic church for help in finding a different location to send the stole – she suggested a second address. Not wishing to send the stole again without assurances that I had the ‘right’ address, I sent a letter explaining what had happened. After ten days anxiously waiting, I received a reply from the Dean of Notre Dame, Monseigneur Patrick Chauvet. He gave me a third address to use.

Finally, the stole was posted at the end of August and – hallelujah! – was safely delivered to Monseigneur Chauvet. Here is a translation of his reply:

*“A big thank you for the superb stole I have received. Thank you for this spiritual communion between our cathedrals – this is the beauty of the Church. I send you all my gratitude and friendship.”*

Postscript: Notre Dame is no longer ‘news’ in the media, but the disruption in Paris is considerable and on-going. Not only has the whole area around the Cathedral been cordoned off for fear of falling debris etc, there is a huge clean-up operation to decontaminate vast swathes of central Paris from lead particles. In April 400 tons of lead from the roof and spire burnt spreading hazardous dust over the city. Hence the usual offices/addresses for Notre Dame are out-of-bounds for the foreseeable future. The ramifications of the fire are only just being understood.

**Diana Symes, Chairman of the Company of Tapisers**

## Some other highlights from the Diary in October

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30pm Tickets £15**

*Exeter’s Oldest Manuscripts: A celebration of the Anglo-Saxon written word*

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm** (see Cathedral website for ticket information)

*The Fruit of Silence* City of London Sinfonia and the Cathedral Choir

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 5.30pm** Choral Evensong for the feast of St Luke

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 11.30am** Trafalgar Day Service

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October at 4pm** RSCM Diocesan Choral Festival

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October** Feast of St Simon and St Jude, Apostles

# **‘Angels in the Cathedral’ Art Exhibition**

**Exeter Cathedral is holding a Model Angel Exhibition this December. It is open to local schools, colleges, business, clubs etc. who can participate and create an angel that will be displayed as part of our exhibition.**

**The exhibition launch date will be on Sat Nov 30th November, from 1.30 - 3.30pm and be in situ until January 4th.**

**Families & visitors will be invited to take part in a free entry afternoon of child-friendly, angel-themed crafts - open to all.**

**This event also ties in with ‘Be a Chorister Day’ and the Christingle at 4pm. There will be a school’s celebration on Friday 6th Dec, too. Our hope is that participants will encourage family members and friends to come and see their angel creations over the Christmas holidays.**

**Please have a look at the example angels on this flyer for ideas. You can use any material, but preferably keeping the weight of your angel as manageable as possible to carry. Our Cathedral Departments like the stonemasons, tapisers, & flower arrangers will also be adding to the installation for visitors to spot.**

**We would love as many local and Cathedral groups as possible to participate. We are set to have a super display - do come along and see it.**

**If you feel that this project is for you and you would like to participate, please email Lisa on [education@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:education@exeter-cathedral.org.uk) for further information. Lisa Gordon  
Head of Cathedral Education**

**October’s edition is the first digital Cathedral News mailout. If you haven’t added your email but would like to please email [sam.garner@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:sam.garner@exeter-cathedral.org.uk) to sign up.**