



From the Dean : Chapter Bulletin

Welcome to the new look bulletin which we plan to issue shortly after each meeting of the Cathedral Chapter, in order to keep you all up to date with news and decisions.

You may have missed the bulletin, which has been absent for a couple of months while I was settling into my new role. I am committed to keeping you all informed of decisions made by Chapter.

Here are some of the items considered at the February 2018 Chapter meeting:

Governance

Chapter discussed the Cathedral Working group report and our response to it. The draft report for consultation can be read [here](#) if you have yet to read it. Our response will include:

- Affirming that the Dean should retain chair of Chapter;
- The desire of Chapter to keep the Cathedral Council as the body to which it is accountable, rather than the national church;
- An encouragement to the Church Commissioners to fund Cathedrals more generously;
- A welcome of the report's suggested regulation of Cathedrals by the Charity Commission.

We thanked Jonathan Harris for his contribution to Chapter in recent years. Jonathan stands down this month as his term of office comes to an end.

Mission and Ministry

Chapter noted the decision of the House of Bishops on services to mark transgender transition. You can [read the decision in full here](#).

Canon Chancellor: Interviews for a new Canon Chancellor will take place on 13 and 14 March. The interview panel includes the Bishop of Exeter, the Dean, Chapter Canon Jenny Rowe, Canon James Mustard and Prebendary Cate

Edmonds.

Liturgical Plan: James Mustard, our new Canon Precentor, joined the Chapter meeting to discuss the Liturgical Plan, which he will work on later in the year. A liturgical plan looks at the Cathedral building and describes how we might want to develop and use our building to support and develop our liturgy and services.

Finance

Our end of year accounts are forecast to show a very small surplus. This is due to the tough decisions Chapter made last year to bring our finances back in line and out of deficit. We recognise the pain some of these decisions caused and are very grateful for the support of our wonderful staff and volunteers over the last year. However, our finances were also substantially improved by the success of the Christmas market.

Christmas Market

This was the first year we have run the Christmas market ourselves and our thanks should go not only to Cressida, our events manager, but also to the wider team of staff who pulled out all the stops and worked tremendously hard to make the event a success. The success of the market has been recognised by the Exeter Living Awards, as we are finalists for the best event and the Cathedral Tavern is a finalist for the best bar awards. Congratulations again to all involved!

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Tighter GDPR regulations come into force in May 2018. A new group has been established to oversee the Cathedral's compliance and Kate Burhouse is the point of contact for any enquiries.

Fabric and Conservation

Chapter agreed to change the Café doors in order to make them more compliant with Disability Discrimination legislation.

VISTA-AR

The Cathedral recently hosted researchers from the University of Exeter Business School who used 'eye tracking' technology to start to map our visitors' experiences of the building and the routes they take. The results of the work will help us better understand how people engage with the Cathedral, and help us make informed decisions to improve the experience of all who visit us.

Virtual reality and augmented reality interpretation will be installed and trialled at the end of 2018.

Staffing update

Chapter recognises that the cuts to staffing have put extra pressure on everyone, and is committed to rebuilding the staff team slowly and carefully, mindful of our constant need for financial caution.

A thank you

Pamela and I have been both touched and surprised not only by the warm welcome we have received, but also the way staff have pulled together over the past few months, Chapter led the Cathedral through last year's difficulties, and the way in which the Cathedral community and congregation has supported each other. Exeter Cathedral feels to me to be in really good heart and it is a pleasure to be here!

Jonathan Greener

N.B. The Dean's usual pastoral letter will be back for the April edition, published on Easter Day.

The Dawn Eucharist for Easter Day 2018 at 6am Followed by a Cooked Breakfast

Jesus was raised, from indications in the Gospel, in the very early morning. Piero del Francesca's painting of the Resurrection shows the guards beneath Jesus' catafalque fast asleep, not noticing this momentous and eternal event. One of the images of the Resurrection, indeed, is of the cock crowing at dawn. So, for us to celebrate the Resurrection by rising very early, coming to the West Front of Exeter Cathedral for the Lighting of the New Fire, the Procession of the Paschal Candle, the singing of the Exultet (the glorious proclamation of the mystery of the Resurrection) and the first Eucharist of Easter, will be, I assure you, a delight and hugely invigorating.

What, perhaps, will make the Liturgy at that time even more attractive is that it will be followed by a cooked breakfast!

For the cooked breakfast, which will be in the Cathedral Café, we ask for a donation towards its preparation.

If you are interested in attending, it is important to know numbers for breakfast, which would help those who have kindly volunteered to prepare, cook and serve the breakfast. Please email or telephone Tom Salmon in the Liturgy and Music department that you would like breakfast following the Dawn Eucharist.

Bishop Martin

The Saint Sebastian Lectures: Lent 2018

Saint Sebastian was an early Christian saint and martyr. According to traditional belief, he was killed in the late 3rd century during the Roman Emperor Diocletian's persecution of Christians. He is commonly depicted in art and literature tied to a post or tree and shot with arrows.

These lectures have been inspired by a statue of St Sebastian (dating to about 1700), which belongs to one of the cathedral congregation, and which will be on loan to the Cathedral during Lent 2018.

The first two lectures were a great success. Don't miss the remaining two! They will take place in the Chapter House after Evensong (at 5pm). Refreshments will be served from 4.45pm. Entrance is free. The lectures will finish by 6pm.

4th March: *'The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune': how does Christian faith help us cope with the trials of daily life?*

Christopher Southgate, Poet, Editor and Theologian; Associate Professor, the University of Exeter

11th March: *Sebastian: what does a saint look like?*

The Right Revd Robert Atwell, the Bishop of Exeter

Bishop Martin:

From Chapter and the Cathedral Community Committee

Just over a year ago, Bishop Martin forsook the relatively gentle pace of life in retirement to step into the breach as Acting Precentor of the Cathedral. Since then, the worship and mission of the Cathedral has benefited hugely from his expertise, enthusiasm and wisdom. Martin has enhanced the liturgical and spiritual life of the Cathedral and its community, and we have been greatly blessed to have such a wonderful colleague and friend, in such an important role, at such a testing time.

As you may know, Easter Day, Sunday 1st April is the last Sunday of Bishop Martin's time as Acting Precentor. There will be a presentation to Martin, during the 10am Choral Eucharist on Easter Day as a sign of our gratitude for his immense contribution. We hope that as many people as possible will contribute.

Please either send a donation to the Finance Department, Cathedral Office, 1 The Cloisters, Exeter EX1 1HS, or deliver it in person in an envelope, to Reception in the Cathedral Office.

Please mark the envelope 'Bishop Martin Gift', and make cheques payable to 'The Dean and Chapter of Exeter'.

From the Cathedral Bells Refurbishment Project

The bells of Exeter Cathedral are the second heaviest ring in the UK, with the oldest, 'Birdall', being cast in 1614. 'Stafford', the eleventh bell of the heavy twelve, was cast in 1676, and is considered one of the finest bells in the country, being both beautifully decorated and powerful in tone. The bells are all named; 'Pongamouth', 'Fox' and 'Doom' to name but a few, and are a glorious part of the Cathedral's history.

They are also an integral part of the present, in calling our city and congregation to worship, and helping to celebrate the Christian calendar in the most powerful and evocative way.

For the bells to continue ringing for generations though, they need maintenance and work, and that is just what the Cathedral Society of Ringers are planning this year. The bell frame was designed and installed by John Taylors Bellhangers in 1902, and aside from works in 2003, the bells have remained untouched since then. Our plans for the current works have been underway since 2009, and we have been actively fundraising for the project since 2015.

The very glory of the bells, cast over a period of 400 years, makes them difficult to ring as a complete peal; for example, the clappers have different designs; these problems need to be addressed to make the bells easier to ring. We also need to carry out maintenance, introduce new safety measures to improve access to the bells, including a safety cage around the heaviest bells, and the bell frame is rusting and in need of cleaning and painting.

Taylors Bellhangers will once again be managing this major project, with the work scheduled to begin in July and completed by September. During this time, the Cathedral bells will fall silent.

This is a costly programme. Over three years, the Cathedral ringers have raised £41,000 through a scheme of member donations and gift aid, and secured a grant of £8,500 from the Devon Bell Restoration Fund. The total cost of the work though will be £75,000, and we are still actively seeking grants so that all the necessary work can be go ahead – further updates will follow.

The bells have been at the heart of Cathedral life since they were first cast in the 17th century, through to present time. This work will ensure that they continue to sound out over the city for generations to come, which is why it is so very vital it happens now.

Clare Griffiths, Secretary, Exeter Cathedral Bellringers

Cathedral Community Away-day: Saturday 14 April: 10am - 4pm

There have been many requests for a Cathedral away-day, and we are delighted to have fixed on Saturday 14 April as the day, hosted by the Society of Mary and Martha at Sheldon. There is a warm invitation to everyone involved in the life of the Cathedral to come along. It will be a chance for us to enjoy some relaxed time together, some worship and thought-provoking input, and to enjoy the stunning scenery and generous hospitality of Sheldon. Andrew Maries, Diocesan Consultant for Liturgy and Music, and a key player in our Holy Ground service, will be helping to lead our worship.

Our guest speaker is Revd David Rowe, former Warden of Lee Abbey and now Vicar of Christ Church, Winchester. As we move further into a new era as a cathedral, David will help us to think about our mission and welcome, and give us some pointers to understanding and communicating with our culture. In 2014 David was an inspirational speaker for the ordinands on their ordination retreat, and he also preached at the cathedral for the ordination service.

Having said all that, nothing is compulsory about the day! If you would like to come just to enjoy Sheldon and its hospitality in the company of good friends, that is absolutely fine.

The Society of Mary and Martha is a retreat centre situated near Dunsford in the Teign Valley. It is about a 20-30 minute drive from central Exeter out towards Moretonhampstead. (Directions are enclosed with the info leaflet available in the Cathedral.)

Spaces are limited to 35, so please contact Becky as soon as you can to book your place (01392-477702, ddo@exeter.anglican.org). The cost will be £20 per person including lunch and morning / afternoon refreshments.

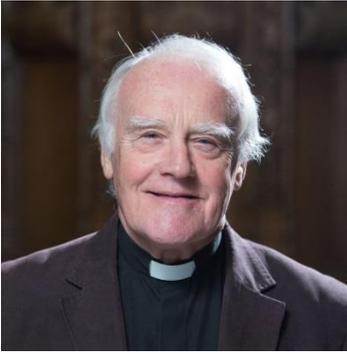
Canon Becky Totterdell

Tales from the Foodbank: A Polite but Urgent Request

Please will all those generous people who give items to the Foodbank Collection kindly look at the list of priorities for March, which will be on the noticeboard as soon as I receive it. The Foodbank only accepted items on the list in February as they have a storage crisis. Most of February's collection is therefore in my spare room, and will be delivered when the problem is resolved. They have enough of everything except the priorities, for which there is a huge need. With thanks,

Felicity Cawthra

The next Cathedral Foodbank Collection takes place on Sunday 25th March at the 10 o'clock Eucharist.



Focus:

The Venerable Dr Trevor Jones Chapter Canon

'The hands of God are, so often, at the end of our own arms.'

This time, the first time, the above quotation was not found by me, but was uttered by Trevor during our conversation. It was a line delivered by Sister Monica Joan, a character in the television series *Call the Midwife*. I think you will agree that it is one of great perception, and power. Another first is this; by some quirk of fate, Trevor and his wife Sue, have made their home in Devon, not far from my home!

Trevor was born in Stockport, where his father was a business man; he'd initially trained as a carpenter, and those skills became very valuable when he was part of a maintenance-team in the RAF during World War 2.

'If we needed anything, "I'll make it!" Was his frequent quip!

He has an older sister.

'She was fond of me, and also found me a bit tiresome! Bossed me about! But at the same time, was very protective. We have now grown together!'

His first school was in Leigh, Lancashire, where the family had moved for a while, going on to St. Thomas Primary School when back in Stockport; this school had a great influence upon him.

'Eric Mercer (Bishop of Exeter 1973-1985) was then the parish priest. And I found him impressive in physique and personality. We recited St Richard of Chichester's Prayer at the Friday Assembly. I still say it when receiving communion!'

Trevor was, also, taken by a prayer found in Chester Cathedral, which has the line, *'Give me a good digestion, Lord.'* And, especially the bit that says, *'Don't let me worry overmuch, about the fussy thing called I!'*

It was whilst at St. Mary's Primary School that he was given his first own hymn book.

'The smell of it; the newness; it was exciting! Oh! The importance of books, not LCD screens!'

"Do no sinful action, speak no angry word' and "It is a thing most wonderful"; those lines, from just two hymns, impacted upon me; perhaps negatively at the

time, but it was the beginning of my journey of faith, and led eventually, I think, to my becoming a priest.'

He left primary school for the local comprehensive, which was housed in beautiful buildings and with an outlook over the fields towards the Derbyshire hills. (Sadly, it is no longer in existence).

'I was a bit of a dreamer! Looking out of the windows! But I really did enjoy being at this school, and managed to pass my O and A Levels exams; and leaving with a passion to train as a teacher, enrolling on the three year Religious Studies at Secondary Level Course at St. Luke's College here in Exeter; which is now part of the University of Exeter.

I insisted upon doing my First Teaching Practise in a Primary School; in this case it was at Dartmouth; travelling daily by train. One day I dosed off! Well, I did have to leave very early in the morning! I was awakened by the waves crashing against the carriage windows! The pupils were 10-11 year olds, and were an enthusiastic bunch of children. I learned a lot; especially the gaining of insight into the very special relationship that exists between a Primary School Teacher and their pupils. It is so very important.

The Second Teaching Practise was at the Queen Elizabeth the Second Comprehensive School in Crediton. My imagination was captured by the fact that it had boarding facilities, for those pupils who lived too far away for daily transport; therefore much else was demanded from the staff outside of the classroom.

It was a good preparation for my first appointment as an Assistant Teacher at Shaftesbury Grammar School, which, too, included boarding facilities! I became a Boarding House Tutor, which came with my own accommodation, and a very deaf, seventy year old maid called 'Quickie' (Miss Quick), to look after me. She brought me a cup of tea in the morning, but as I was the last on her rounds, I often got more in the saucer than the cup! She, also, made my bed, and even did my laundry! (NB. I didn't have that kind of luck when I was teaching!)

This freed me up to do extra-curricular activities. Next door was a church, a 'chapel of ease' for the parish. It came up for sale, and the school bought it for £1.00! We used it for assemblies and worship. I became the Lay Chaplain.'

Trevor stayed in Shaftesbury for the next four years, during which time he'd had many in-depth conversations with some pupils, and which helped to direct his future progress towards ordination. So in 1973, he went to train at Salisbury Wells Theological College.

'I lived in a Christopher Wren house right in The Close. It was incredible to be able to step outside every morning and see the Cathedral. There was deep emphasis upon prayer, a very valuable lesson.

In the mornings, we were largely taught in or, engaged with, intimate and supportive groups, held in the College Chapel, named The Old Butterfield Chapel. American tourists often asked if it was Old Sarum!

It was a very good learning experience, and covered all aspects of theology. During my second year, I spent a six weeks in a parish, at the Elephant & Castle in South London, including visiting on the massive Haygate Estate, a labyrinth of flats in the parish. I had a most profound experience there. The parish priest was so relaxed and lovely, especially with the families and children.

I, also, had a placement with the Probation Service. I learned just how disorientating and diminishing Remand Prisons were! There was an immeasurable need for light and hope!

His ordination as deacon took place in 1976, made priest the following year, serving at St. George's in Lower Tuffley, in Gloucestershire, as curate. This was an estate parish, and proved to be a wonderful experience.

By then, Trevor and Sue were married, having met in Salisbury, where her father was a 'late ordinand' (meaning that he was over fifty!) on the course. Sue had studied Religious Studies at the University of Lancaster, and Teacher Training at Cheltenham.

In 1979, they moved to the Diocese of Hereford, where Trevor had been appointed as a member of the Diocesan Education Team, with the responsibility for developing the Bishop Mascall Centre, an adult education centre in Ludlow; it, also, had 'student' residential facilities for clergy, and the laity. Hereford Diocese is a very rural one, with many churches, so the training of the laity to take services was vital.

'Closed churches don't grow!'

It was here in 1982 that their daughter, Anna was born. Two years later, Trevor became the Team Rector of Hereford South Wye Team Ministry, in the city of Hereford, and was appointed as a Chaplain to the SAS. In 1985, their son, David, was born.

'This was a very challenging task, with the contrasting characteristics between the churches on north and south sides of the river. We had two city churches and seven rural ones spread over a seventy square-mile area. There had been much social disruption and dislocation due to the mechanisation in agriculture, and the consequent decline in the number of agricultural workers required to work on the land; the loss of their homes as well as their jobs! Their houses became holiday lets, and they were relocated into blocks of flats in urban districts. It was so very traumatic.

The city of Hereford relates to its hinterland, holding twice weekly markets. The A49 is the life-line through the county, and the countryside is glorious.

The four members of the clergy were very mutually supportive, and made it work. We did that which was necessary; and it was not always built upon theory! We were enriched by the laity, the Lay Readers were leading the worship at regular times on a Sunday, and the congregational numbers grew, and so we had more financial stability.'

Trevor was made a Prebendary of Hereford Cathedral, which was a huge privilege; and he loved the building and the quality of worship.

Elevation or promotion came in 1997, when Trevor was appointed to the newly-created post of Archdeacon of Hertford, and an Honorary Canon of St. Alban's Cathedral.

'The Dean was Christopher Lewis, and the Diocesan Bishop, Christopher Herbert. I was given the opportunity/task to develop the role within eight deaneries, which were spread across both rural territory and urban areas like Barnett, Potters Bar and Stevenage. It was a vibrant cathedral, and the story of St. Alban is so inspiring. I'm an enabler, and for all of us there it meant living the Gospel, and defending the marginalised! Sue became the Head of Religious Studies at Bishop Hatfield School.'

Trevor has an interest in Canon Law, which governs all Church of England activity; he studied part-time for this, while Archdeacon, at the University of Wales. His thesis was concerned with how theological ideas are applied within Canon Law, and in particular, the pressures that occur in relation to finances, and the raising of revenue. More recently, he received a doctorate from the University of Durham. This time he was concentrating on the roles of bishops and their staff in the development of strategies leading to the furthering of the mission of the Church.

'Bishops and their Staff must adapt to changing circumstances, and lead us forward. There's a lot of listening to, and engaging with by the whole church!

I learned a lot from the SAS, when I was their Chaplain; especially about the skills of organisation, the making of decisions, and how to minister in differing and challenging situations.

This became clear to me, when I was officiating at their Remembrance Sunday Ceremonies; preaching the Gospel to this highly intelligent and impressive congregation!'

In August 2016, Trevor retired. He and Sue moved to Devon. For six months, he said he *'did nothing'* apart from settling into their new home and its surroundings, exploring more of the county of Devon and beginning to enjoy and participate in the activities of local organisations. Now, he is a Chapter Canon at the Cathedral holding the Safeguarding Portfolio, a Trustee at St.

Luke's, and currently helping out in an East Devon parish, where there is a vacancy.

'It's an important role, and I'm really enjoying being back doing priestly things in a parish.'

There is not much spare time, but he is beginning to enjoy gardening, and reading lighter novels, especially those written by Catherine Fox; described by some as being *'Contemporary Barchester Towers!'* He and Sue are followers of television documentaries, especially those with an historic interest, and, of course, the series I've already mentioned, *Call the Midwife*; they, also watch detective series like *Vera*, too.

'The Cathedral is a beacon of hope and stability. I just wish that we did not have any need to be exercised by the necessity of charging for entrance.'

Thank you, Trevor.

Rosemary Bethell

News from Wednesday Homeless Café: from Penny Harris

We would like to thank everyone for their generous donations which enabled us to provide a wrapped gift for each one of our guests at the Christmas Hog Roast. Thanks also to our food providers, Geoff and his Kenniford Farm family for the hog, as well as Richard's Greengrocers, who continue to supply us, weekly, with fresh vegetables. We also had some glorious Christmas cakes. It was a wonderfully joyous event.

There are various agencies across Exeter who take turns to provide hot food for our homeless, and vulnerably-housed community. You may be interested to learn that we have reignited a network meeting that sees all groups coming together to share information. The meetings will be chaired by the manager of the Julian House outreach team, and include a variety of speakers to help inform our practice, enabling us to benefit from specialist training and develop our services.

As always, we continue to urge you to make financial donations to the Wednesday cafe, which can be gift-aided. We would like to raise funds to purchase a small stock of 2-man mountain tents and good quality sleeping bags. On the clothing front, gent's boxer shorts, ladies' underwear, warm fleeces and tracksuit trousers are welcome, as are roll-on deodorants, wet wipes, and tissues. Dog leads, collars and dog food will be very welcome.

We are also on the look-out for a volunteer relief-cook, having the facilities to bake and deliver 50 potatoes! Please contact: penny@harris58.com

Penny Harris

Report from Christianity Deanery Synod : Tuesday 6th February

Deanery Synod met on Tuesday 6th February, in the Cathedral Chapter House. It was good to welcome representatives from our local Anglican churches, and the ginger cake was greatly appreciated!

After a welcome from the Lay Chair, Bishop Martin Shaw led a short act of worship. The main focus of the agenda was “Prayer”. We had two speakers.

Chris Halls is a leader of a group of evangelical churches in Exeter, which are not part of the Church of England. He was invited to tell us about a prayer initiative he is involved with, called “Pray4Exeter”. This is a group that promotes prayer for the city of Exeter. You are invited to sign up to receive prayer updates about Christian initiatives, and other things affecting our city. We invite others to pray for these things too. Details of which can be found at:

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/pg/pray4exeter> or

<https://twitter.com/pray4exeter>.

The second speaker was our own Bishop Martin, who gave us a very personal insight into things that help him in prayer. He started by introducing us to a bag that he had packed with things of significance which had helped in his prayer life, some of which might be useful for others. He then went on to take things out of the bag, and talk about them in his usual inspirational and challenging way, characterised by a plentiful measure of good sense and good humour.

Some these include: Films; Novels – including “*Silence*” by Shusaku Endo and *The Last of the Just* by André Schwarz-Bart; Spiritual Exercises - *Love: A Guide for Prayer (Take and Receive)* by Jacqueline Syrup Bergan and Sister Marie Schwan; Art – a collection by Sister Wendy; Music – *Mass in B minor* by Bach; a chalice made by a priest while a prisoner of war during the war with Japan; and finally, a “tin” of *Cadbury's Drinking Chocolate* – to be drunk while Bishop Martin reviews his day! Things from the trivial to the profound which can give us succour in prayer.

Others, I am sure, will speak about Bishop Martin’s role as he moves on from his role as Acing Precentor, but I would like to add here that we have been supremely blessed by his extraordinary gifts during this past year. Thank you Martin for all you have done.

The rest of the meeting dealt with more mundane routine matters which do not need to be reported here, other than to note Revd Prebendary Nigel Guthrie’s arrival as Vicar of St David’s, and the announcement of the appointment of Revd Dr David Nixon as Vicar of St. Thomas. David has previously been chaplain to St Luke’s, during which he spent some of his time worshipping with us on his days off. We look forward to his return to Exeter.

Nick Horton

From the Cathedral Bellringers

This month, we will be welcoming an inspirational woman - Julie McDonnell. Since being diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukaemia in 2015, she has dedicated herself in a campaign to increase the awareness of blood cancer, recruit stem cell donors, raise money for research and to fund stem cell transplants. To date, thanks to generous sponsors, she has raised over £7 million – and rising.

Her fundraising campaign has been inspired by church bellringing. Julie briefly learnt to ring as a child, but was persuaded to return to the art in her home tower of Brede, Sussex; setting herself an increasingly demanding series of bellringing challenges and targets, she has rung, and inspired others to ring in her name. “Bellringers Strike Back Against Blood Cancer” is a worldwide campaign that has touched us all.

On Sunday 18 March, Julie McDonnell will be joining members of the Cathedral band to ring a quarter peal of ‘Julie McDonnell Caters’ here at Exeter Cathedral – just one more step in her remarkable and courageous journey. We look forward to welcoming her, and to the Cathedral bells playing their part in promoting her vital campaign.

Then on Saturday 24 March, twelve of our ringers will be travelling to far flung Ossett for the eliminators of the National 12 Bell Striking Competition – watch this space to hear if they qualify once again for the finals in June!

To conclude the month, we will be ringing out the bells in a specially arranged quarter peal to welcome the Revd James Mustard, at his installation service as Canon Precentor on Palm Sunday.

Clare Griffiths, Secretary, Cathedral Bellringers

Easter Lilies

Although we are presently in Lent, we are thinking ahead to Easter Day, which is early this year.

As usual, we will be decorating the Cathedral with Lilies. If you would like to give a donation to help with the cost of these, perhaps in memory of a loved one, we shall be most grateful.

If so, please put your donation in any of the wooden collection boxes in an envelope marked 'Lily Donation.'

Thank you so much. Your gift will be much appreciated.

Sylvia Bush, Chairman, Flower Arrangers.

Farewell to Bishop Sarah: Sunday 18th March at 4pm

Bishop Sarah's farewell service will be Evensong on **Sunday 18th March** (Passion Sunday) at 4pm. All are welcome.

Installation of the Revd James Mustard as Canon Precentor: Sunday 25th March at 4pm

The Revd James Mustard will be installed as Canon Precentor during Evensong on **Sunday 25th March** (Palm Sunday) at 4pm. All are welcome.

Pilgrim Course: The Creeds

The Pilgrim Course continues on Tuesdays 6th, 13th and 20th March from 7.30pm-9pm in the Pearson Education Room led by Morwenna Ludlow. Don't miss this opportunity to study the creeds with such expert guidance!

Congratulations!

Many congratulations to our women-only team of bellringers who completed a quarter peal to celebrate the centenary of women's suffrage on 6th February.



Front (right to left): Wendy Campbell, Sue Sawyer, Clare Griffiths, Charlotte Boyce, Lynne Hughes, Sarah Chadburn; back (left to right): Susan Sparling, Hilary Beresford, Jenny Sparling, Alison Waterson, Pauline Champion, Steph Hills and Rebecca Harrison

Our Lent Appeal



As we approach a time of joyful celebration in the Church calendar we ask if you might consider doing something for international relations...making a small but significant contribution towards greater understanding worldwide.

HOST's mission is to give a welcome to international students in British homes for friendship and cultural exchange. Our volunteer hosts can offer hospitality for one day (daytime only) or three days and two nights at the weekend.

We operate all year round and would very much welcome more volunteer hosts to join us.

More information can be found on our website: www.hostuk.org

Or email us on: info@hostuk.org

Or telephone us on: 020 7739 6292



Date for your Diary: Tuesday 24th April-Welcome to Canon Mustard

The Fellowship Committee are organising a party to welcome our new Canon Precentor, the Revd James Mustard, on the evening of **Tuesday 24th April**. Wine and light refreshments will be served. There will be an opportunity to speak to, and to hear from, James. All are welcome. Please look out for more details concerning food, wine and ticket prices in the Weekly Sheet, the website, and the April edition of *Cathedral News*.

From the Chairs of Diocesan Synod: re Bishop Sarah

Dear Sisters and Brothers

As you are sure to know, Sarah, Bishop of Crediton, is soon to leave us and take up her new post as Bishop of London. In the brief time she has been here, she has earned much affection in our hearts, and we will be sad to see her go.

There will be a farewell service for her in the Cathedral on Sunday 18th March, for which invitations have already been distributed.

The purpose of this message is to invite those who wish to contribute towards a farewell gift to her. It will be presented on 18th March.

If you'd like to give something, please send your cheque, made out to **EDBF Ltd**, by **Friday 9th March**, to:

Annemarie Kendell
The Old Deanery
The Cloisters
Exeter
EX1 1HS

And indicate clearly that the gift is for Bishop Sarah.

With our prayers and good wishes,

Marguerite Shapland (Chair of the Diocesan House of Laity)

Mike Partridge (Chair of the Diocesan House of Clergy)

From Canon Ann Barwood BEM : Thank You

To the many friends and members of the Cathedral Community, I just wanted to say a big thank you for the many good wishes and prayers which came my way following my emergency surgery. Also a thank you for the lovely bouquet which arrived last Saturday. It is full of warm bright colours which is livening up these very cold days.

I am back to work but not working my usual long days it will take a few weeks more before that happens.

Look forward to catching up over the next few weeks.

Ann

Next Month: Please send material for the **April** edition by **Tuesday 20th March** to Heather Morgan (01392 877623, hmm53@tiscali.co.uk and Sheila Atkinson sm.a@blueyonder.co.uk. The other members of the editorial team are Rosemary Bethell and Laurence Blyth.

What is Prayer for Me?

This month we start a short regular feature focusing on the prayer lives of members of the Cathedral Community. It is intended to complement the biographical interviews in "Focus". We hope it will be regular, that is! Would you be willing to be that someone who co-ordinates the slot? We start with Clare Bryden, who has been attending the Cathedral since 2003, and is currently a Eucharistic Minister and occasional deputy in the Choir.

There are as many different understandings and types of prayer as there are different people. I suppose my underlying *understanding* is that prayer is an intentional turning towards God, which can be expressed in many different ways. My prayer *practice* is contemplative prayer, but more of this anon.

I first came to faith through friendship while at university. My journey has taken me via low evangelical and charismatic C of E churches, though always drawn to liturgy and silence. Iona has been a considerable influence, as a 'thin place' nurturing community, and I have spent three years testing a possible vocation to the religious life. I have come to understand that God is calling me to contemplative prayer, which doesn't need to be in the context of community, and to being not-ordained, and so abiding with the main body of the church.

Over the years, I have maintained weekly presence at the Eucharist, and on and off a personal daily practice. I have spent long periods in the spiritual desert, where faith is dull and practice an act of will, and I wondered whether the journey would ever seem easy again.

I have found that prayer is a virtuous circle: praying at all makes me want to pray more. If I listen to my mind, there are many excuses and more pressing matters. If I listen to my heart, I acknowledge a deep yearning for God, and rediscover the simplicity of knowing that prayer is what I have to do. It is about resting and wrestling. Both: "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." (Isaiah 30:15) and saying with Jacob after a night of wrestling with the angel at the ford of Jabbok: "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." (Genesis 32:26)

I currently have a daily practice of a period of slow reading on prayer, prayerful theology, or occasionally poetry, followed by 20 minutes of silent centring prayer. I think it important to take on a practice that is manageable and can be increased, rather than over-ambitious and discarded. I aspire to a second 20 minute slot, but am challenged by the randomness of freelancing work!

Centring prayer is a form of contemplative prayer that recognises we cannot grasp God. God is beyond comprehension, and therefore I wait in attentiveness and openness to God's presence and action, and allow God to draw me into encounter. This shapes my practice of intercession too: wordlessly bearing the world and its needs to that threshold and holding them up for healing.

Then God also makes Godself known through creation and incarnation. At other unexpected moments, I find that if (if!) I continue attentive, I might catch a glimpse of God in other people. Or the world is transfigured – whether ivy leaves rimmed by frost, the back of my hand, an apple, or sunlight streaming onto the West window and stonework during the reading of the Gospel on the second Sunday before Lent – and for a moment becomes transparent.

I suspect the desert journey, the wrestling, and the resting, will continue until death. It is a journey taken alone, yet I am not alone. I am grateful to have been blessed with many companions along the way, and grateful for many faithful pray-ers across the centuries who have written down their wisdom for others. So I will end with two of the books that have helped me:

- Thomas Keating “Open Mind, Open Heart” – an introduction to centring prayer
- Esther de Waal “A Seven Day Journey with Thomas Merton” – a retreat programme based on Merton's writings and photography for personal or group use over seven days or weeks.

Clare Bryden

A Celebration of Exon Domesday: 17th April 2018

Exeter Cathedral possesses one of the most historically important manuscripts from medieval England. Indeed, Exon Domesday, as this manuscript has come to be known, almost certainly passed through the hands of William the Conqueror, presented to him at a meeting of his barons at Old Sarum on 1 August 1086. By any estimation, it is an extraordinary survival. It contains the earliest version of Domesday Book, together with otherwise unknown tax records, and information about land registration, which together constitute unexploited evidence for the sophistication of the early English state. More than all of this, the surviving booklets were written at speed by two dozen scribes, whose crossings out and marginal additions provide a mass of information about the process of making Domesday.

Since 2014, a team of researchers from King's College London and the University of Oxford have been engaged in intensive study of the manuscript,

using a combination of state-of-the-art digital technology and traditional scholarly methods. Their aims have been to understand how the manuscript was made, what it contains, and to present both to a wider public.

The Cathedral will be hosting a celebration of Exon Domesday on **17th April 2018**. Members of the public can sign up for free drop-in sessions with experts involved in the project, with a chance to find out more about the manuscript, and how to read the Domesday entries and geld accounts.

An evening lecture will be given by Professor Stephen Baxter (University of Oxford). Admission is free, but booking is essential. For more information please visit www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/events or telephone 01392 285983.

The Diary in March

This is just a selection of the events in the Cathedral during March. For full details, especially of the Services during Holy Week & Easter, please look at the Cathedral website, and the "What's On" leaflet for April/May (now published).

- 4th 5pm Saint Sebastian Lecture – *'The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune': how does Christian faith help us cope with the trials of daily life?*
Christopher Southgate, Poet, Editor and Theologian; Associate Professor, the University of Exeter
- 6th 12.30pm Lecture - *Talking about Slavery* – Peter Wingfield Digby
7.30pm Pilgrim Course *The Creeds* – Professor Morwenna Ludlow
- 8th 10am *At the Forefront of European Architecture* – A review of West Country Cathedrals in the Decorated period
- 10th Preparation of Flowers for Mothering Sunday
7.30pm Concert – Exeter Philharmonic Choir
- 11th 5pm Saint Sebastian Lecture: *Sebastian: what does a saint look like?*
The Right Revd Robert Atwell, the Bishop of Exeter
7pm Holy Ground – *Christ in Art* - Paul Hobbs
- 12th 10am Meeting of Exeter Cathedral Music Foundation Trust
2.30pm Julian Prayer Group in St John the Baptist Chapel
5.30pm Evensong attended by the Assistant Cathedral Organists
Conference
- 13 & 14th Interviews for Canon Chancellor
12.30pm Lecture *The Building of Exeter Cathedral in the 13th-14th century*
6pm Sidesmen's Committee Meeting

- 7.30pm Pilgrim Course *The Creeds* – Professor Morwenna Ludlow
- 15th 7.30pm Exeter School Concert
- 16th 7.30pm Exeter Cathedral School Charity Concert
- 17th 7.30pm Exeter Festival Chorus Concert
- 18th 4pm Evensong & Farewell to Bishop Sarah
- 19th *Joseph of Nazareth* 5.30pm Solemn Eucharist
- 20th 7.30pm Pilgrim Course *The Creeds* – Professor Morwenna Ludlow
- 21st 2.15pm Exeter School Founders' Day Service
- 23rd 12.30pm Pastime Players Performance in the Chapter House
- 7.30pm Concert by Tedburn St Mary Community
- 24th 7.30pm Concert by Colyton Grammar School
- 25th *Palm Sunday*
- 9.45am Liturgy of Palms & Procession from St Pancras Church
- 10am Choral Eucharist
- 4pm Evensong & Installation of Canon Precentor
- 26th *Monday in Holy Week*
- 7.30pm Scarlatti *Stabat Mater* sung by the Cathedral Consort
- Eucharist for Refugees
- Address by the Dean: *The Holocaust: Setting the Scene*
- 27th *Tuesday in Holy Week*
- 11.30am Chrism Mass-the Bishop of Exeter
- 7.30pm Tavener *Funeral Ikos* sung by the St Peter's Singers
- Address by the Dean: *The Holocaust: The Journey*
- 28th *Wednesday in Holy Week*
- 7.30pm Tallis *Lamentation* sung by the adults of the Cathedral Choir
- Address by the Dean: *The Holocaust: Papists & Protestants*
- followed by the Office of Compline (Night Prayer)
- 29th *Maundy Thursday*
- 11am Diocesan Chrism Eucharist-the Bishop of Exeter
- 7.30pm Liturgy of the Last Supper, Stripping of the Altars
- & Vigil by the Altar of Repose
- Address by the Dean: *The Holocaust: the Body of Christ*
- 30th **GOOD FRIDAY**
- 10am Ecumenical Service for Good Friday
- 1.30pm Liturgy of Good Friday
- Address by the Dean: *The Holocaust: The Final Solution*
- 7.30pm Stainer *The Crucifixion* - Exeter University Chapel Choir