



From: Canon Becky Totterdell



I'm writing just after storm Helena has swept through the West Country, leaving a trail of broken branches, fallen trees and some damaged houses. Helena heralds for us the arrival of Autumn, taking us by storm. As Brits, we have a well-deserved reputation for being fascinated by the weather, and so are never short of a topic of conversation.

We are very aware of the changing seasons and (mostly) revel in the intrinsic beauty of each. Each season has its own fascination, its gifts and its particular challenges. The unsettled nature of the autumn mirrors the

unsettled nature of life for many children starting new schools, or of young people leaving home for further education. We bask in the warmth of summer and take time out to go on holiday; while its challenges might be water shortages and coping with the high pollution levels in an already hot atmosphere. The challenges of winter are much more obvious – particularly for the elderly and frail in terms of getting around safely and keeping warm – while snow and frost are breathtakingly beautiful.

So, seasoned weather watchers that we are, it's odd that we're not so quick to notice and appreciate the seasons in our own lives. It's a cliché, but spring, summer, autumn and winter happen to us, and within us, often keeping pace with the number of years we've lived – though not always. Sometimes God surprises us with an unexpected springtime, when new opportunities come our way, a new relationship blossoms, or we are called to a new ministry. Sometimes, winter descends prematurely, out of season.

God is fully in the season of life we're in. An appreciative look around the scenery of your current season will reveal its gifts – maybe of family, achievement, health, good friends, new opportunities. An observant look will

reveal the challenges too: maybe loneliness, big decisions to make, ill health, financial struggle. Each new season is an invitation to a fresh journey with the God who loves us through every stage of life.

Perhaps we can help ourselves to cope better with the weather by recognising the season we're in, and fully inhabiting it; savouring the gifts it brings, while also being realistic about its challenges. As we do, we tackle the weather in company with one another. This prayer by David Adam is a great one for our support of one another on the way:

May the joy of God go with you
wherever life may take you.
May he bring your desert to blossom,
may he give you peace in the storm,
may he fill your heart with love,
that you may go on your way rejoicing,
knowing you live in him,
and he lives in you.

Becky Totterdell, Residiary Canon

From the Dean: September Chapter Bulletin

Welcome to the September bulletin following the latest meeting of the Dean and Chapter. As our valued staff and volunteers, we hope this regular bulletin keeps you up to date with important developments.

Staff updates

There have been several new arrivals amongst staff over the summer. We have welcomed Katie Blooman, our new finance manager, and Tina Robbins, PA to the Dean and Clerk to the Chapter.

Issues on the Green

Over the summer, as you will know, there have been issues with antisocial behaviour on the Green. The Dean and Chapter invited partners in the City Council, the police, and from St Petrock's, to a meeting in early August, to find a way forward together to address some of the issues. A group has continued to meet to find ways of working together to ensure we can deal promptly and safely with any issues, and it has been really good to strengthen relationships with our partners in the city.

Though some of the problems have died down as we approach autumn, there has continued to be low level vandalism. We are encouraged by the police to

let them know about every incident of anti-social behaviour. Anything you see or become aware of should be logged with [Terry Pyle](#) and he will contact the police via 101. Of course, in an emergency, please don't hesitate to call 999.

Night Café

Although there were concerns about some of the behaviour around Night Café, this seems to be much improved, though there are still concerns about people drinking alcohol before and after the café, which can lead to challenging behaviour. We are really grateful to our staff and volunteers who continue to support Night Café's work with some very vulnerable people. We recognise how challenging this work can be, and hope that the stronger relationships formed with the City Council and St Petrock's, as a result of the meeting about the Green, will lead to improvements in the management of behaviour at Night Café. We will continue to monitor this.

Worship

From Advent Sunday, the Dean and Chapter have decided to simplify the number of versions of the Lord's Prayer used in services. From Advent, the modernised 1662 version will be used in all services (Our Father who art...), apart from Evensong, where the traditional version will be used (Our Father which art...). The change has been discussed with the Cathedral's Community Committee.

Safeguarding

The deadline for all our staff and volunteers to complete C0 training has now passed. All staff, and the vast majority of our volunteers, have now done so. Unfortunately, a few have not been able to show they have done this training, or any higher level safeguarding training. These people will not be able to continue in any volunteer role until this training is completed. Those people are being contacted by the Administrator.

Having all our staff and volunteers undertake this basic training sends a strong message about our commitment to ensuring all are safe in our Cathedral. We have now had the date through for our safeguarding audit, which will be undertaken by independent auditors in February next year, so this gives us a real focus to ensure that we are up to date in all our training and paperwork.

Floor Review

A small team from Chapter have been carrying out a floor review this summer, consulting with as many staff and volunteers as possible, to look at any improvements we might make to how we manage the space in the

Cathedral. On 11th October, there will be an opportunity for both volunteers and staff who have not yet been consulted to meet with the panel. Please contact Catherine Escott if you would like to be involved. It is hoped that a report from this group will come to Chapter in November.

Fabric

A plaque commemorating the use of the Bishop's Palace as a temporary war hospital, will be put up on the Cathedral Library entrance. This is part of a Devon Remembers Heritage Project to commemorate the centenary of the First World War, by exploring what life was like on the home front in Devon.

Finances

The Dean and Chapter were pleased to note that expenditure was keeping close to budget, but continued prudence on spending is needed. Unfortunately, during the hot summer, visitor numbers fell – a fact shared by many other heritage attractions during the same period.

Admission price

Chapter looked at a proposal to increase some of our charges to visitors. It was agreed that the concession rate only would rise by £1 to £6, to bring the concessionary discount into line with other tourist destinations.

Vista AR

The Vista AR project to improve visitor experience through augmented and virtual reality is progressing, and some of the products will be tested in the Cathedral from next Easter. The next meeting of the project – which includes tourist sites in France – will be held in the Cathedral on 9/10 October. If you have any questions, please see [Laurence Blyth](#) who leads on the project for the Cathedral.

Thank you

Thank you for all you do to keep our wonderful Cathedral open and welcoming. Thank you too to those who managed to come along to the latest Town Hall meeting, where we were able to discuss some of these issues in more detail. I do hope you continue to find these meetings useful and informative.

This week I am at the National Cathedrals conference in Manchester; the first time all English Cathedrals have gathered together under one roof to discuss common challenges and hopes. It should be a fascinating time.

Jonathan Greener, Dean

Fellowship Outing – Wednesday 10th October 2018

Arrangements have now been finalised for our October Outing. The main part will be a ride on the South Devon steam train from Buckfastleigh to Totnes. This is a most beautiful journey along the River Dart. But there is more! It is suggested we arrive at Buckfastleigh South Devon Railway Station, where there is a free car park, by 10.30am – 10.45 am. There is a café at the station for those who would like a drink. We then gather together to visit the Butterfly Farm at 11am, followed by the Otter Sanctuary, where the otters are fed at 11.30 am.

You will be free to make your own arrangements for lunch, but the suggestion is that we make the short journey to Buckfast Abbey, and enjoy together the excellent wide range of food at the Grange Restaurant there. There should be time for a wander around the grounds, or the Abbey, before returning to Buckfastleigh Station to catch the 2.15pm steam train, where our seats will have been reserved. For a party of 20, we have been offered a rate of £16.70 each (senior citizens) to include the Butterfly Farm, Otter Sanctuary and train. The normal fare for just the steam train ride for senior citizens is £14! So please book the date now. As the hire of a coach is too expensive, we plan to travel by car, and we hope that those with a spare seat will offer this to someone who needs a lift. To facilitate this, lists for signing up are available shortly (please look out for this in the Weekly Sheet), and we look forward to you joining us.

Margaret Williams and Diane Coombes

Christmas Shoeboxes

As in previous years, the Mothers' Union will be heading up this year's collection of Christmas Shoeboxes for needy children and elderly folk in Eastern Europe. We hope that members of the congregation will again join in and fill boxes for **pensioners**. 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. The charity welcomes boxes for all the age-groups specified, but is always particularly short of boxes for pensioners. If you would be able to make up a box, please see the suggested list of items provided by the charity, which is shown below.

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 categories listed below) always makes for a lovely box. If at all possible, please make sure your box is lovely and full.

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 on a Sunday morning, and give them to Chryssa Turner, or leave them with the Floor Managers during the week. 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 - maybe we could match or even break this record, 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:

chocolate, packet/tubes of sweets, biscuits, dried fruit, pasta/rice, instant soup, sachets of hot drinks (e.g. Horlicks).

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 and thread).

If you wish for further details of the scheme, please contact Chryssa Turner: crst0915@yahoo.co.uk or on 01392 202330.

Shoeboxes will need to be ready by **Sunday 11th November**. Thank you in advance for your support of this venture, which we consider to be an important part of our Christian work.

Chryssa Turner

Welcome to the Bishop of Crediton: 14th October at 4pm

During Choral Evensong at 4pm on 14th October, we will install and welcome the Rt Revd Jacqueline Searle as Bishop of Crediton. All are welcome.

Devon Historic Churches Trust Day and Deanery Prayer Walk Saturday, 8th September 2018



In the Church calendar, 8th September is celebrated as the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary. But for those preparing to join the Deanery Prayer Walk, other things like comfortable footwear, sandwiches, water and “Do I need a waterproof?” were uppermost in our minds! Although showers were forecast we were, as usual, extremely fortunate with a good temperature, cloud and only a few spots of rain during lunch. The walk started at St Michael’s Mount Dinham with prayers at 7.50 am. Prayers were also said outside Exeter Prison, St David’s, then via Alphington to St Mary’s Steps, St Olave’s, St Petrock’s, and on to the Cathedral for 10 am. This year we gathered in Cloister Garth as the Chapter House was in use. We were greeted by Renata, who had prepared hot and cold drinks and delicious biscuits. Canon Ian Morter welcomed us all, and led us in prayer with a blessing for the day ahead. The Cathedral has become a good gathering place for those not attempting the whole walk. The photograph taken outside the Cathedral includes the five members of the congregation who took part in the walk and whom you kindly sponsored.

Having left the Cathedral, we visited the remaining churches in the City Centre and it was good to have the Team Vicar, Sheila Swarbrick, to give a brief history of these ancient and wonderful buildings, which bear witness to the Christian faith in this city. Having reached St Sidwell’s, the main party continued to St

Leonard's, via St Matthew's and St Luke's College, whilst two others went to St Anne's Orthodox Church with its walls covered in icons. Some then rejoined the party at St Leonard's, having used a bus pass to make the journey. We all then enjoyed the walk along the river to St Luke's, Countess Wear, where we were again given welcome refreshment to have with our picnics. The walk then visited the hospice and hospital before reaching St Michael's Heavitree.

Here the walkers were joined by our new Canon Chancellor, Chris Palmer, who was determined to be a part of the day, having been part of Surrey Ride and Stride for the last twelve years. Chris had earlier welcomed two cycling parties at the Cathedral – a group from Alphington church and Annie Jefferies, who had cycled over 50 miles and raised over £1000; her husband arranged a welcome banner for her arrival in Exeter.



The walk from St Michael's is always the toughest part of the day, but our lay Chairman David Smith kept the party going with his thoughtful prayers at St Lawrence, St Boniface, Holy Trinity, back down to St Mark's, and finally to St James for 5.30 pm. Father Henry was there to greet us, and he led us in our final prayers giving thanks for all that had been achieved.

We will let you know as soon as possible how much you helped us raise. As you know, half the money will come back to the Cathedral. Again we would ask that this amount be allocated to the stonemasons for their amazing work on the fabric of our building. A huge thank you again to all of you for your generous support.

Renata, Ian, Chris, Sue, Margaret, Celia, Delia and Diane



The Cathedral Library responds to an SOS!

On the morning of the 25th July the Canon Librarian, Ann Barwood received an email from Canon Becky Totterdell who the day before had visited the Exeter Synagogue following the fire on the previous Saturday 21st July.

The email read: *'Synagogue urgently needs assistance if possible'*.

The request for help came from a Synagogue Committee member, who said that they had removed the Scrolls of Law to a member's house following the fire; however their Insurance Company stated they were not able to offer insurance if the scrolls remained there and had the Cathedral got anywhere secure where they could be stored?

There was no question that we could not respond, and a phone call was made to the committee member to offer our support, and that space would be made in the environmentally controlled secure storage we have on the ground floor of the West Wing. The offer was taken up immediately, and arrangements made for the scrolls to be moved to the West Wing the following day.

On the 26th July 2018 the following were deposited with us by members of the Synagogue:

- five large Scrolls of Law (Sefer Torah) written on parchment placed on rollers and with beautifully embroidered velvet covers; and
- a nine branch metal Candelabra.

On arrival the two organisations completed all the necessary paper work and legal formalities, ensuring that only the Library and Archive staff and representatives of the Synagogue could have access.

Exeter has the third oldest Synagogue in the United Kingdom. Their congregation attends from Devon, Cornwall, Somerset and Dorset and is currently holding services elsewhere in Exeter.

It was a neighbourly thing to do, and we have made lifelong friends, and benefitted from learning and sharing with people from the local Jewish community.

Ann Barwood BEM, Canon librarian

Thank you

Peggy and David Conway would like to thank everyone for their cards and good wishes for their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. They were very touched by the Dean's generous words in the Cathedral, and greatly enjoyed the champagne!

News from the Bellringers

As I write this monthly piece, the bell refurbishment works are still currently ongoing, with the frame painting continuing, and the bell hangers about to start re-fitting the bells. This should take one week, including fitting the new clappers, by which time it is hoped that the bells will be ready to ring once again, even if all the work is not quite finished! There will still be more frame painting, some readjustments to the bells, and the fitting of the safety cage to be completed.

However, if all goes to plan, you should hopefully have already heard the twelve bells ring out for the first time on Saturday 29th September, for the Ordination of Priests. I look forward to telling you more next time about how the bells have improved and altered.

During October, we will celebrate the successful completion of the refurbishment works at our annual dinner on Friday 5th October, when members, friends and clergy gather for good food and a few speeches!

We will be back practising again at the Cathedral and getting back into the familiar routine, plus we have some notable ringing occasions in the diary for October. On Saturday 13th October we will be ringing our traditional quarter peal to mark St Edward's Day, but this year the ringing will be even more special as the bells will also be heralding the marriage of Nicola Wilkes and Jonny Wood (a former Choral Scholar). The following day, Sunday 14th October, we will ring another quarter peal prior to the Service of Welcome for the new Bishop of Crediton, the Ven Jackie Searle.

Just as it will be so good to be back ringing at the Cathedral for you all, we do hope that you enjoy hearing the bells calling out over the city once again this autumn.

Clare Griffiths, Exeter Cathedral Bellringers Secretary

Pastoral Care Contact

If you wish to contact the Cathedral clergy about a pastoral need - for yourself or to alert us to someone else who might be in need - please contact pastoral.care@exeter-cathedral.org.uk. This email address will be read by the Canon Chancellor and Priest Vicars - Chris Palmer, Ian Morter, and David Gunn-Johnson. Chris is also available on his working days on 07906 249132. More details of pastoral care and the role of the pastoral care team will be available in due course.

Chris Palmer, Canon Chancellor

Focus: The Reverend Elsie Howell, a Cathedral Duty Chaplain



*'Be thou my vision, O lord of my heart,
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art.
Be thou my best thoughts in the day and the night,
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.'*

A translation by Mary Byrne 1888-1931 from an 8th Century Irish piece of writing.

On the 19th of July in 2019, Elsie will, God willing, celebrate with us here the 50th Anniversary of her ordination as a minister in the Baptist Church. It has been some journey to where she is now. She provides more than a few 'ministerial' functions within this cathedral in Exeter.

It all began in 1941, when she was born in Plymouth. It was during the time when the city was being heavily bombed; the family's home was bombed, and they moved houses three times during her first six months of life!

Her father had been invalided out of the Navy following an accident, which required eighteen months of hospitalisation. It was a 'rough childhood' in so many varying ways; one being a seven month separation, when her mother was pregnant with her brother; Elsie did not return home until her brother was two months old. Her father was later able to join the NHS, which began in 1948, becoming the Chief Accountant to the South Devon and Plymouth Hospital Board; staying in post there for the remainder of his working life.

'I just survived!'

She attended local schools, loved sports and found the work side difficult! She passed the 11+ and was placed in the A Stream at Stoke Damerel Grammar School.

'I did only the minimum amount of work, and found it all very hard. My mother was from a Scottish Presbyterian family, and father an Anglican, a server, and very active until they married; but the then vicar was not happy because my mother was not an Anglican, so they did not go to church for twenty years or so; so when we had daily assemblies I did not know the words to the Lord's Prayer or the Ten Commandments. I felt an outsider and vulnerable. I used to stand next to someone who did know what was happening!'

In her second year, she joined the Girl Guides at St. Bartholomew's Church, where the vicar and his family were very caring. She is still in touch with this family.

'I went on holiday with him and the family. They were like foster parents to me.'

A teacher of French and Religious Education also took a caring interest in her, encouraging her to join The Crusaders.

'I had a conversion experience, when I was just thirteen, at one of the Scripture Union Meetings; this was strengthened when I attended one of the first wireless broadcast relays across the country of the talks held by Billy Graham at Wembley Stadium. I was confirmed by the then Bishop of Crediton at Stoke Damerel Church on December 5th, 1954.'

Elsie left this church when she was an older teenager; the vicar had left, and fewer children and young people were attending. She joined St. Andrew's Church, Plymouth (the Civic Church) and soon settled in, attending on Saturday mornings The Christian Study Group, which started at 7.30am, was followed by a discussion, and then they all went on to the hall for breakfast together. This was a formative experience for a sixteen year old.

'It was a group made up with young people from all walks of life and circumstances. Elsie got two A Levels and began to work for Barclays Bank. It was during these times that she started really to examine just what it meant to be a Christian. She came to the decision that she wanted to confirm her faith by being baptised through immersion as a believer. Her memories from those earlier experiences were mixed, and she wanted now to do something that would make it special.

'My vicar was not very happy about that! But I just needed to do it, and was baptised. For some time the vicar allowed me to continue taking communion. But then he said that he could no longer do so. I had repudiated my baptism and confirmation, and therefore could not join in communion. I felt absolutely broken.'

There now followed a period of great changes. She left and joined Ford Baptist Church because of, and in particular, its work with young people, and in their being able to help within the Services or by visiting the sick in local hospitals, as well with other group activities. Her early inclinations concerning a call to the ministry were observed by another Baptist Minister, in another part of Plymouth. Elsie thought and prayed about it until she realised it was genuine for her. Accepting the call, she applied for, and got a place at The Baptist College in Manchester, beginning her studies in September 1968.

'All were men, bar two! It was a tremendous experience, with all the lectures, studies, and services. It felt absolutely right! All forty students frequently used to cram themselves into my large room for coffee at night, and we talked and talked and talked!

After completing the four year long course, and having been called to a church in the Midlands, Elsie, on the 19th of July, 1969, became the 13th woman to be ordained by the Baptist Church in the United Kingdom; taking up responsibilities in Wednesbury.

'It was a steep learning curve, not only because of the weather, accent, food and transport needs, but because it was a church that had a lot of lovely people in the congregation; many had been there for ages, but they were those who needed to be taught, and would listen to someone else helping them. I really enjoyed being at my first church, and hope that I left them with a deeper sense of their Christian calling. I am still in touch with them.'

In January 1976, she moved on to a lively, busy church in Warwick, but it had a rather narrow outlook, and was conservative about many things. Six years later, in 1982, she moved to Droitwich Spa, where there was a very close ecumenical friendship and understanding within all the churches.

'The Healing Ministry was very encouraging and growing, and there was plenty to do.'

By 1991, Elsie began to feel that her work there *'had been done'*, but some other things happened in her life which put a different feel to the next couple of decades.

In 1988, she had led a pilgrimage to Israel and one of the pilgrims was a Madeline Howell, who was achieving a lifetime's ambition; upon their return Madeline was taken seriously ill, and sadly died three weeks later, which was shocking. David, Madeline's husband, went through the normal, awfully difficult time of bereavement.

But Cupid got to work, and on the 6th January 1990, Elsie and David were married in the Baptist Church.

'Here began another period in our lives, which brought much happiness, ministry, love and changes for us.'

In 1992, Elsie was invited by and inducted as the minister to the Baptist Church in Wellington, Somerset; becoming also a chaplain to the Hospice and Musgrove Park Hospital. David, was an ordained priest in the Church of England, had been a Director of Training in Healing Ministry to the Chichester Diocese, but was now officially retired; but, Bishop Jim Thompson, the then Bishop of Bath & Wells, wanted him to become the Diocesan Advisor on Health & Healing. This he did, retiring at the age of eighty.

'It brought all sorts of work for him, and we both enjoyed the contacts, and the listening that we were used for; on occasions it involved deliverance ministry of some kind. This was a rich time of life and ministry for us both.'

Elsie retired as the Minister at Wellington, but kept on her chaplaincy duties. But you can't keep a good man or a woman still! They both joined the University of the Third Age (U3A), David running the Architectural and History Groups, and Elsie the Computer Studies Group. They initiated U3A Themed Holidays. Life was full in every sense, and they were happy. Then in 2011, a period of great difficulty and pain commenced.

David fell out of bed, fracturing his hip, and was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, that leading later on to him becoming confined to a wheelchair, losing most of the control of his speech, and a significant deterioration in his eyesight. However, in September 2014, a wonderful, unique event took place in Wellington Parish Church; A Service of Celebration & Thanksgiving of the 100 years of Combined Ministry between Two Denominations.

'The church was full, we were surrounded by friends and colleagues from each denomination; some travelling great distances, and were carried along by wonderful music, prayers, tributes, and a huge amount of love. It ended with a High Tea! I'm so happy that David was then able to enjoy such a wonderful occasion.'

Things steadily got more and more difficult, with David's care, towards the end, requiring eight people coming in four times daily to nurse him at home.

'We could not even give each other a hug. So it was very difficult.' David died in 2017. The long process through her grief, the re-building of her physical, mental and emotional wellbeing had to begin. It's a rough, scary passage.

I wondered how Elsie had 'arrived' at Exeter Cathedral?

'My first visit was with the lovely vicar who cared for me in my teen years; I loved the beauty of the building, and the worship. The second time was not such a happy one, it was during the time when I'd had to leave St. Andrew's; I was in such great pain, pain which has remained with me until very recently. Thankfully, in a pastoral sense, during this year it has been shed; that has brought, for me a freedom and peace that is new. I am still overwhelmed by it.

When I retired, and if David was free from engagements, we always came here. I've done so now for eighteen years. It's a place of holiness and wholeness, where I can now face some of the problems that are still with me and have yet to face, and travel through in my bereavement. But, this is home, and hopefully I can help others in some way.'

At the Cathedral, we hear Elsie leading prayers/intercessions during a Sunday 10am Eucharist. She's a member of the Pastoral Care Team, leads the Prayers for Healing Service on a Monday, and a Eucharistic Minister. Somehow she keeps going on her path of faith, aided by listening to Classic FM Radio, Gregorian Chants and some Folk Music. She enjoys reading novels written by Agatha Christie and P.D James, continues stamp collecting (concentrating on Israeli stamps), and creating or running computer courses for U3A. She loves, as mentioned, the worship here in the Cathedral, its glorious music, and the care provided for people within its widespread and varied community.

'My real regret is that I'm not there as much as I want to be! I feel at home.'

Thank you, Elsie.

Rosemary Bethell

The Dean's Sermon on Sunday 9 September 2018: Launching the new giving campaign.

"May the words of my mouth, and the thoughts of all our hearts, give glory to the living God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Harvest Festival comes late to Exeter Cathedral. It's the end of October, I'm told, when the Young Farmers pitch up. But this morning I want to conjure up the spirit of Harvest - by which I mean a recognition of God's great goodness to us and our world, heartfelt thanksgiving for the many blessings God bestows on us, and a generous response from us in return.

For this morning we are launching a new way of giving to the cathedral, and we would love you all to be a part of it. So in my sermon this morning, there are two questions I want us to consider. The first is Why:

Why should we consider giving our time and talents, money and energy to God's Church? And to the particular outpost of the Church which is Exeter Cathedral? And the second question, focusing on the finances in particular: How: How will the money be spent? And what difference will it make?

So why? Why should we give of our time and money to the Church? Jesus talks a lot about money: It's hard for rich people to get into heaven: you can't worship God and mammon. And so on. What Jesus tells us is that our money and how we use it plays an important part in our relationship with God. In other words, the way we use our money is about our spiritual wellbeing. It's a reason I've always been such a fan of Christian Aid Week. Not just because it benefits the recipients. But because it benefits the donors also, by giving them the opportunity to help other people.

Perhaps you know that people who give to charity live longer than those who don't. Apparently those who read books also live longer than those who don't. So give to the Cathedral and visit the library, and the statistics suggest you'll live to a ripe old age!

So we give money because it's part of Christian life: it puts us in a right relationship with God. Or in very simple terms, we're generous because God is generous. Think of the wedding feast at Cana the wine runs out, and Jesus produces 60 gallons of the best vintage. Generosity and more besides. As with the feeding of the 5,000, when there are twelve baskets full to spare. As with our daily life here in Devon: yours and mine. God showers us his children with many blessings, material and otherwise, and we give something back as a sign of our love for him.

Yes, as children of God, made in his image, we seek to reflect his generosity in our own lives. It's an approach dating back to the Old Testament, and one mentioned time and again in our New Testament letters.

And we give to God's Church, because the Church needs money to carry out worship and mission. This is God's house. We want our services and this building to reflect God's glory; we want others to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ: so we give to the Church to help that happen.

Now I know many of you are very generous to Exeter Cathedral already.

That is hugely appreciated. So let me offer you a very big and sincere thank you. And if all this is new to you, it may help you to know that the recommendation of the Church of England has long been that we each give away 10% of our income: 5% to good works and 5% to the Church.

10% - it has biblical precedent, it is a norm for churches around the world, but it can feel like quite a lot. So if we're going to adopt this kind of giving, we need to believe in the cause we're supporting. Why do we ask you to give to the cathedral? How will we spend your money? In essence, we ask you to support this place because we believe that it adds value to the lives of our congregations, and value to the life of the City, Diocese and County. I don't want to suggest that we come to church for what we can get out of it. We come principally to offer worship to Almighty God. But at the same time this is a community that is mutually supportive, that prays and learns together, that supports us in our daily life and in our hour of need. And as a cathedral we offer a place of prayer and reflection, meeting and conversation, celebration and consolation, for all who come through our doors. We seek to be here and ready whenever people need us.

That's the big picture. But let's drill down a bit and investigate where your giving goes. Some figures first. This year our projected income includes the following:

* £96,000 from planned giving, i.e. from people who have committed to giving regularly to the cathedral.

* Plus £130,000 from donations and gift aid.

* And £95,000 from collections and services.

Put that lot together, and it comes to £321,000. A not inconsiderable sum. Bearing in mind that our operational surplus for 2017 was just £4,000. In that context, the money you give is a life changing sum for this cathedral. Every penny counts. So - and I'll say it again - thank you for your support.

And what exactly does that money fund? It is all directed in our accounts to what we call ministry and mission. And ministry and mission includes the cost of our music: choir, organists, organ. The cost of putting on our services: service sheets, candles, vergers, administration. Some marketing costs, and some safeguarding costs. Just over half a million pounds all told. And the money needed for ministry and mission that doesn't come from you is received in the form of grants: from the Music Foundation Trust, from the Friends of Exeter Cathedral, and from the Church Commissioners.

We are fortunate here at the Cathedral that our clergy are funded largely from central church funds, so we can focus your entire gift to the Cathedral on the things I've described: music and liturgy and the general costs of ministry. The worship of God and the proclamation of the Good

News: it's towards those things that every penny you give will be directed. And without your giving, those fundamental aspects of our cathedral life are imperilled.

What about the new scheme? In which we'd like to invite all of you to participate, whether you're giving already to the Cathedral or not. It's called the Parish Giving Scheme. You don't need to tell me: I know we're not a parish. But this is a national set up, and it makes giving so much easier - for the donor and the receiving church. There's a national office, funded by all the participating dioceses, in our case the Diocese of Exeter, so it doesn't cost the Cathedral a penny. And what this central office does is all the admin - it takes a great burden off our Cathedral Finance Office. So the office in Gloucester will process your donation, take the money from your bank account by Direct Debit on the first day of each month, claim back any Gift Aid if you are a tax payer, (and don't forget that means the Chancellor adds on an extra 25 pence for every pound you give us), and then pay the full amount into the Cathedral's bank account. You can choose to keep your donation anonymous if you wish, or let us know your name; you can if you wish tick a box to allow the scheme to increase your gift automatically each year to allow for inflation; and you can alter or cancel your giving at any point with a telephone call.

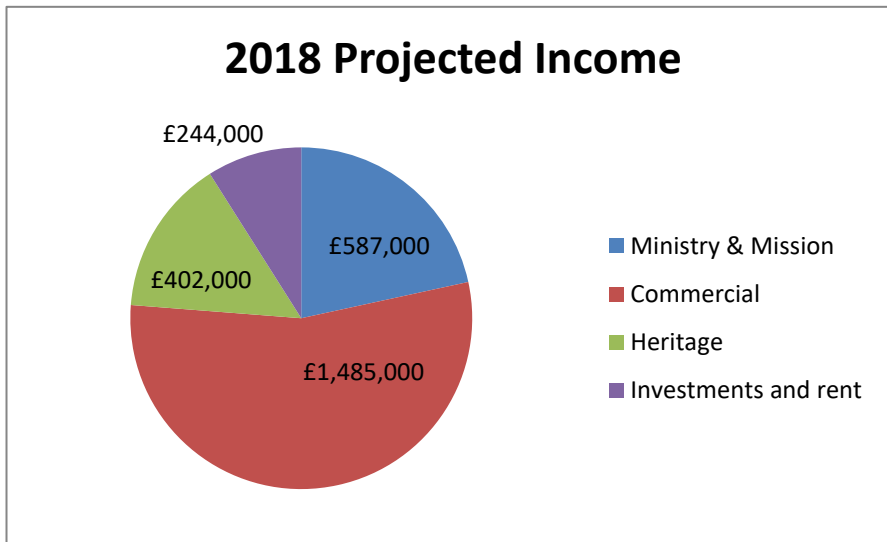
All the details are contained in the Parish Giving Scheme information pack. We have plenty of these available - and certainly the pack answered all my questions. Though if you're left with any further questions, Canon Mike Williams is the person to put them to. If you'd like a pack, there will be a table by coffee and a table by the door, where you can pick up a pack to take home to read and digest, and then I hope you'll decide to complete the enclosed form. If you are a giver already, and want to move to this scheme, as we hope you will, you will need to cancel your existing standing order. And if you're

worried that people might think you're mean when the collection plate passes you by, you can always use one of the scheme's tokens to put in the plate, which simply says that you are a member of the Parish Giving Scheme.

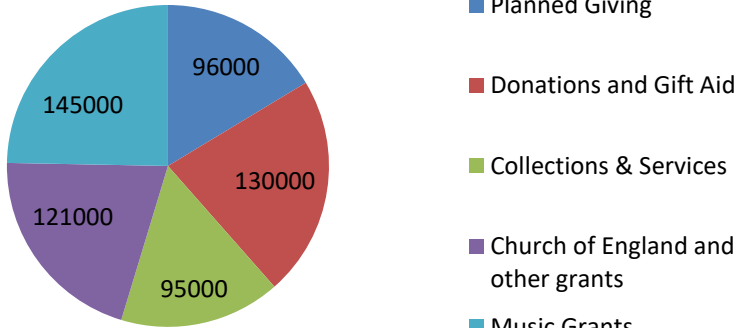
No more. We're trying to keep this service short, so there's plenty of time for you to pick up your pack at the end! Please take one and consider prayerfully how you might be able to support the cathedral financially.

Doing so is, as I said at the beginning, good for you, it is good for us, and it is good for the world out there which dearly needs to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ which we seek to proclaim. To him be all glory this day and for ever. Amen."

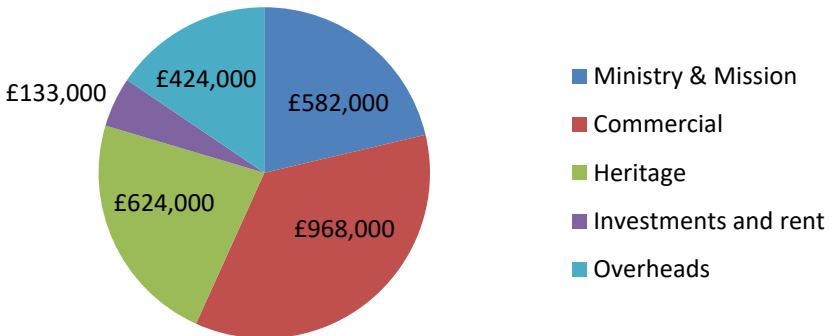
At the Cathedral Community Committee on 4th September, Canon Mike Williams, Canon Treasurer distributed these three pie charts for the Cathedral's overall Projected Income 2018, and for the Projected Income and Expenditure for Ministry and Mission for 2018. As the Dean explained in his sermon, all donations to Parish Giving, collections etc help to fund the Cathedral's Ministry and Mission.



Ministry & Mission 2018 Segment Projected Income



2018 Projected Expenditure



Special Tour: Commemorating World War One

Friday 2nd November 2018 at 11:30 and Monday 5th November 2018 at 11.30

One hundred years ago at the end of the First World War, individuals and communities sought ways of honouring those who had been involved. This special tour in and around the Cathedral will look at a variety of memorials which were erected here after the First World War. Some commemorate the dead, others give thanks for the living.

Military historian Jonathan Walker will talk about the fascinating stories and military actions behind the tablets and bronzes, as well as the impact of the war on Devon communities. Diane Walker, who has studied the memorials of Exeter Cathedral, will explore the origins of these monuments, and share with you some intriguing family connections with the Cathedral.

The tour will start at 11:30 and finish around 12:45. Adults £7, all concessions £6 (please note: price is in addition to Cathedral admission, which can be paid separately on the day). Available from 01392 285983 and online.

More Events

If you've not yet seen the latest *What's On* guide, then you're missing out, as the months ahead really are packed with lots of special services and other events.

In particular, I would like to draw your attention to the new lecture series for Remembrance, organised by Canon Mike Williams (Sundays at 17.00 during November). There are also details of some new tours and talks for adults, as well as information about the half term activities for October 2018. If you've missed the announcements elsewhere, then you may want to note that tickets for this year's *Christmas with the Cathedral Choir* concerts (6th and 8th December) and the performance of Handel's *Messiah* (giving in aid of the Music Foundation Trust on 9th December) will be made available on **Saturday 1st September 2018** from www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/boxoffice. There are copies of the printed version of the guide in the Cathedral, or you can visit www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/events and search by type of service/event or date.

Laurence Blyth, Marketing Manager

Next Month: Please send material for the **November** edition by **Wednesday 24th October** 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, Jenny Ellis and Laurence Blyth.

“Happy Hour” in the Cathedral Shop



Yvonne Ellen’s striking collection of china – Happy Hour – is available from the Cathedral Shop. The range has featured on the current series of The Great British Bake Off on Channel 4 and items in the range are available priced £7.99-£34.99.

Every purchase from the Cathedral Shop helps support the work of Exeter Cathedral, and you might be interested to know that the products are even cheaper than a certain high street chain that is normally ‘never knowingly undersold’.

You can save even more at the Shop (and also the Cathedral Café) if you are a member of staff or a Cathedral Volunteer and show your ID badge. The Cathedral Shop is open Monday to Saturday 09.00-17.00 and Sunday 11.30-17.00.

Laurence Blyth
Marketing Manager and VISTA-AR Lead

Orchestral Evensong 7th October

On Sunday 7th October at 16.00, there will be an Orchestral Evensong, when the Cathedral Choir will join forces with Exeter University Chapel Choir and Exeter Symphony Orchestra for *My Beloved Spake* by Patrick Hadley, Stanford in B flat and Parry’s *Blest Pair of Sirens*.

Welcome to New Members of Staff

Since the beginning of the year, Chapter, and particularly the HR committee, have been taking a careful look at staffing, taking into account the budget and demands being placed on staff, particularly new issues such as GDPR. We have also been replacing some temporary staff in essential areas such as Finance, with permanent staff.

Among the “new” faces are:

- Michael Westaway a new temporary post to help Kate Burhouse, as we strive to ensure we are meeting all our obligations under GDPR (Data Protection)
- Katie Blooman who has recently joined as Finance Manager
- Luke Stevenson who now combines his work on the entry desk with support for Cressida on events – particularly important as most of Cressida’s time over the next few months will be taken up with the Christmas market.
- André de Mendonça who, as many of you will already know, has become the Volunteer and Visitor Manager
- Tina Robbens, who has joined us as Chapter Clerk and the Dean’s PA
- Sam Garner, who is providing support to Laurence in the marketing office.

Jenny Ellis, Chapter Canon, Chair of the HR Committee

Tales from the Foodbank: Foodbank Distribution in Exeter

In response to a number of queries, the Foodbank Centres in Exeter from which supplies are distributed are at the Beacon Community Centre, Beacon Heath, and the Mint Methodist Church.

The next Foodbank collection will take place on **Sunday 28th October** at the 10 o'clock Eucharist. Thank you.

Felicity Cawthra

Welcome Party for Canon Chris Palmer

The party to welcome Canon Chris Palmer will be on Thursday 15th November in the Chapter House at 6.30pm for 7pm. Full details of tickets and refreshments will follow. Please book the date in your diary.

Tim Hampshire

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Tim Hampshire, an old chorister and a regular attender at the Old Choristers’ Reunion on Easter Monday. His funeral will be at St Michael’s Mt Dinham, Exeter at 11am on Friday 5th October. We send our deepest sympathy to Tim’s family and friends.

Community Committee Meeting 4th September

The Committee warmly welcomed Canon Chris Palmer to his first meeting.

The main items of business included

- News of the appointment of a number of new Eucharistic Assistants.
- Consideration of the Day of Prayer around the time of the Feast of Edward the Confessor. Finding a date has proved difficult and it was decided subsequently to concentrate attention instead on the day-long workshop on prayer on 2nd February 2019. Please book this date in your diary.
- The need to encourage all parts of the Cathedral Community, including staff, to be aware of events and to feel welcome.
- Plans for the launch of Parish Giving and for the distribution of information packs.
- A decision that with the introduction of the new Parish Giving Scheme, we would change the way in which we give to external charities and good causes. We will distribute 10% of Planned Giving for 2017 as usual (see below) but in future, all routine service collections, standing orders, and Parish Giving will be for the Ministry and Mission of the Cathedral. Outward Giving will instead be concentrated on four Sundays of the year (around Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and Harvest) when there will be a special collection, preceded by some weeks of publicity and information about the charity or area of work that is to be the beneficiary. It is hoped that although good causes will receive a donation less often, giving will be generous and exceed the amounts we have given in the past. We recognised that members of the congregation already give to charity as individuals, but that it was also important for the Cathedral Community as a whole to give generously. It was also recognised that organisations that have been accustomed to receiving donations annually should be advised of the change.
- Version 7 of the Worship Survey questionnaire had already been considered by members of the Committee. A trial run at Sundays@7 had been helpful and would be continued during October, before the survey is distributed widely at all services during November.
- The Lord's Prayer. It was noted that at present, three versions of the Lord's Prayer are used in the Cathedral – 1662 traditional, 1662 modernised, and the modern 1980 version. There followed a discussion about what is the most appropriate version for use generally in the Cathedral. A wide range of views were expressed and the importance of reaching out to people of all ages, many of whom would use the 1980

version was recognised. On the other hand, pastoral experience, and observation at special services, including Christmas, tended to show that if visitors did know the Lord's Prayer (which can no longer be taken for granted) they were more likely to know the traditional version.

- Canon Chris Palmer gave a brief progress report concerning the Pastoral Care Team. He also outlined his thinking about Christian Nurture and education of the Cathedral Community and congregations, in addition to lectures and courses for a wider audience in the city and diocese. The question of whether or not regular groups within the regular congregation were preferable to short courses was raised.
- During the meeting there was lively and wide-ranging discussion and debate (with many good-humoured differences of opinion), about all the above, and it was agreed that a normal business meeting did not give long enough to do justice to the issues raised. Accordingly we agreed to have a CCC Awayday on Saturday 24th November when we will focus on worship, Christian nurture, and building a Christian community.

Heather Morgan, Chairman CCC

Outward Giving Committee: 12th November 2018

The Outward Giving Committee will meet on 12th November to consider which external charities will receive grants from the 10% of Planned Giving for 2017 that we reserve for outward giving. If you would like to suggest any local, diocesan or national charities, activities or good causes (preferably Christian in character) to be one of the beneficiaries, please contact a member of the committee. Outward giving will be done differently in the future. (See above).

Julie Glover (julie@blue-wave.co.uk), Marian Gilpin, Terry Pyle, Canon Mike Williams



Organ Scholar 2019-2020

Warmest congratulations to Heather Easting, who has been appointed Organ Scholar for 2019-2020. Heather is currently Graduate Organ Scholar at Croydon Minster, where the Director of Music is Ronny Krippner, a former choral scholar in the Cathedral Choir. We look forward to welcoming Heather next year.

Geoff Thompson

Geoff Thompson, who died on 21st September, was a well-known and much loved member of the Cathedral Community. He served for 34 years in the RAF as a navigator, before retiring to Exeter in 1998, where he became involved in the CAB, Exeter Probus, and the Digby Residents' Association. With his late wife, Barbara (a Cathedral Steward), he was a regular at Cathedral services, usually the Sunday morning Choral Eucharist. Geoff was a generous supporter of the Cathedral's outreach to homeless people, and of St Petrock's.

He was a great rugby man, having played for the RAF and Wasps, being a founder member of London Cornish Rugby Club, and a proud Old Westcliffian. One of many supporters of Exeter Chiefs in the Cathedral congregation (he often wore the club tie on a Sunday morning), his enthusiasm was unmatched. Geoff thought nothing of going on the club coach to a Friday night fixture in Newcastle, arriving home in the early hours of Saturday. It was entirely fitting that at the time of his death, the Chiefs were top of the Premiership.

Geoff will be greatly missed; he was a kind, caring and gentle man, with a quiet sense of humour and always a delight to talk to. We send our love and sympathy to Elizabeth and Katherine, his daughters, and to all his family and friends.

Geoff's funeral will be in the Cathedral at 2.30pm on Wednesday 10th October.

The Diary in October

This is just a selection of the events in the Cathedral during October. For full details, please look at the Cathedral website, and the "What's On" leaflet.

- 6th Readers' Day – 16.30 Solemn Eucharist
- 8th 14.30 Julian Prayer Group in St John the Baptist Chapel
- 12th Exeter College Graduation
- 14th 16.00 Evensong and Installation of the Bishop of Crediton
- 18th *St Luke the Evangelist*
Chapter Meeting; 17.30 Solemn Eucharist
- 19th Grand Nave Dinner
- 21st 11.30 Trafalgar Day Service
- 28th 19.00 Devon Young Farmers Harvest Service
- 29th 17.30 Solemn Eucharist for St Simon and St Jude