



From: The Dean



Thank you to everyone who made Lent and Holy Week so special at the Cathedral. We were delighted at how many people took part in the Lent Groups; the Holy Week liturgies and music were beautifully shaped and delivered; lots of people appreciated Mike Williams' thoughtful Holy Week addresses; and our Easter weekend was immensely joyful and uplifting. I am particularly taken with our Easter Garden this year, which is so much more accessible and visible than previously. Particular thanks to our flower arrangers for the painstaking efforts which went into crafting the rocks, and creating this new design.



The Easter Garden

One Paschal highlight that you may not yet have experienced is Evensong on Easter Monday, sung by the mass voices of our Old Choristers. It invokes something of the rousing emotions of the Last Night of the Proms, such is the enthusiasm, talent and volume of those who have been formed here over so many years. Amongst the many who took part, we were once again delighted to welcome back Eric Dare, who to my amazement completed his chorister career here in Exeter before the bomb dropped in 1942. That's genuine long-term commitment, for which we are truly grateful. If you have not yet attended this service, it's worth making a note of Monday 13 April 2020 in your diary - Evensong is at 3pm.

I am delighted that Eastertide has got off to such a good start. It's so easy to wade through the forty days of Lent, and to think that Easter End brings this to a fitting end. But let's not forget that Easter lasts even longer than Lent - 50 days, culminating on the feast of Pentecost. In his commentary on the Psalms, St Augustine of Hippo contrasts two periods of time: "the one that now is, beset with the trials and troubles of this life, and the other yet to come, a life of everlasting serenity and joy." And he draws a parallel between these periods and our liturgical year: "The season before Easter signifies the troubles in which we live here and now, while the time after Easter which we are celebrating at present signifies the happiness that will be ours in future." This, he explains, is why we fast and pray in Lent, and devote Eastertide to praise, offering up 'Alleluia' at every opportunity. I'm particularly given to 'Alleluias' and now I know why. There's no point seeking to keep Lent seriously, unless we celebrate Easter with equal seriousness. And that means plenty of Alleluias and smiles all round.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you a very happy Eastertide.

Jonathan Greener

Congratulations!

Our warmest congratulations to Eva and Oliver Wooding on the birth of their son, Daniel Elijah, who arrived on Holy Saturday; and also to his sisters Verity and Felicity, who are very proud of their new brother.

Tales from the Foodbank:

The next Cathedral Foodbank Collection takes place on **Sunday 26th May** at the 10.00am Service. Please give generously to that, or to collections in the supermarkets. Thank you.

Felicity Cawthra

News from the Company of Tapisers: Quire Cushion Replacements

I imagine that the Tapisers who stitched the Rondels in the 1980s – all 72 metres in length – thought their project would never end! (It took them nine years.) So it is for the canvas group today, who are working on the Quire Cushion Replacement Project – which has taken thirteen years so far, and is still a work in progress! The Quire at Exeter Cathedral is large – with ten long pews, four shorter pews and many individual stalls.

In 2005, Dean Meyrick identified the need to replace the existing cushions: being well over seventy years old they showed signs of significant ‘wear and tear’! Work began in 2006 – copying the original design and colours, new cushions were made for the four pews where the choir sit. Eight cushions, each made up of four sections, were stitched – 32 pieces altogether.

Since then four more cushions (another 16 pieces) were made for the pews opposite the Bishop’s Throne... and another eight cushions are presently being stitched for the pews near to the Golden Gates. Have you noticed there is a difference between the cushions made for the choir and the ones made for the congregation? (Clue: red eyelets!)

We are very fortunate to have the Devon Disability Collective, on Marsh Barton, as our upholsterers. They professionally upholster any form of seating from caravan cushions to a chaise longue – and our Cathedral cushions and kneelers. Very many thanks to their staff for their expert work, enthusiasm and cooperation.



Special Preview

For Worship and Glory is the name of the special Royal School of Needlework Exhibition, which will be hosted by Exeter Cathedral from 1st August to the 26th August 2019. A star piece will be this Purple Angel – the angel is stitched in gold thread with purple robes in stylised silk shading. The stitches are so precisely worked that the back is as neat as the front!

Diana Symes, Chairman of the Company of Tapisers

News from the Bellringers

With under two months now until the day of the National 12 Bell Striking Contest Final here at Exeter Cathedral, I thought it was time for you all to become familiar with the opposition! During May and June, all nine teams competing in the final will be visiting Exeter to practise on the bells; they are allowed just 90 minutes practice each, and these sessions are booked into the Cathedral diary, meaning you will all hear a good deal of extra ringing over the next two months.

On Saturday 25th May, the Ancient Society of College Youths, and Melbourne (Derbyshire) will be first up. The ASCY are a London based ringing society boasting some of the most talented ringers, and they are always one of the strongest teams to beat; Melbourne have now appeared in ten consecutive finals, so can clearly be relied upon for a solid performance. Sunday 26th May will see Leeds practise, completing an interesting weekend of very differing teams.

The following weekend is a packed one; Saturday 1st June will see us welcoming St Paul's Cathedral, and Birmingham. St Paul's Cathedral are often unpredictable as a team, but are clearly the heavy bell experts in the draw; Birmingham are the reigning champions, consistent and impressive, and the undisputed favourites – definitely worth listening to if you are in the city that afternoon. On Sunday 2nd June, the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths will be practising – and as a member of the ASCY I am duty bound to say that they are the second most important ringing society in the country! The day will be rounded off by our local neighbours, Bristol, who boast a strong team and a consistently good performance.

The last two teams to visit us, rather neatly, will be Oxford and Cambridge, on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th June respectively, with Cambridge most definitely taking the lead in this most historic of rivalries!

Meanwhile, our own team will be hard at work practising, and the organising committee will be having increasingly sleepless nights and watching the long range weather forecast..... Amidst all these preparations, we will also be enjoying a busy month of ringing in May, with two weddings where the sound of the bells will herald the happy couple as they emerge from the West Door; and on Thursday 30 May we will be ringing a quarter peal to mark Ascension Day. We hope you enjoy listening to the bells and thank you for all your help and support in making our visitors welcome to Exeter Cathedral.

Clare Griffiths, Exeter Cathedral Bellringers Secretary

Exeter Cathedral Flower Arrangers

Well, we did it! We managed to get all the Easter arranging done, but not without hiccups.



The Altar of Repose looked very impressive once finished, and it is a shame that it was dismantled before many of the congregation had seen it. Perhaps next year it can stay into Good Friday?

The Easter Garden at the West End of the Cathedral has been much admired, and we are very pleased with the result. When you

set up something from scratch, and it has not been done before, it is always a bit of a risk. Three of us had rehearsed it over the previous five weeks, so when it came to setting it up we sort of knew what we were doing!



Saturday morning saw a team of about twelve people, and Dutch buckets full of longiflorum lilies and oriental lilies. The longi are not easy to arrange, and the florist had them in the warm for 10 days to try to get them to open enough to be effective for Easter Day. So that was problem number one. Problem number 2 was the huge Paschal candle, which didn't sit very easily or straight in the candle stand. It was eventually wedged in and straight enough for the flowers to be arranged. Problem number 3 was the pillar trays in the Nave. They had been replaced after Lent but as soon as the soaked foam was put into them they tipped forward meaning that any arrangements would pull forward and

could easily fall out! Not much point in arranging them! A solution had to be found quickly - thus the arrangement at the bottom of each pillar, which is far lower than usual, but does show the lilies at their best. We decorated the top of the pulpit in yellow and white for the first time for Easter, and it looked good when the Bishop preached on Easter morning, and once the children's banner had been moved so he could be seen!

It took hours, but each chapel had a lovely arrangement, and we were more than satisfied with our work. Having been in to water this morning (Easter Monday) I had the treat of a wonderful Eucharist with the Old Choristers joining our choir, and again for Evensong. We have been treated to magical music all over the Holy Week services, and I hope you all feel our flowers did justice to our beautiful Cathedral too.

Flick Evans, Exeter Cathedral Flower Arrangers

From the Canon Chancellor: Pastoral Care Training

Our Pastoral Care Team works with the Canon Chancellor to offer listening and pastoral support to members of our cathedral community. At present we have 12 people on the team, who undertook training for this role in 2016 – 2017. We are planning to run this training again this summer – and are pleased to confirm the first four dates, the evenings of 22 & 29 May and 5th and 19th June. Other dates will follow; there will be five or six evenings in all.

We are actively seeking people who might like to take part in this training, with a view to becoming members of the Pastoral Care Team. We are looking to diversify the team, particularly in terms of age, gender, and experience so that we minister effectively to the whole range of our congregation and community.

If you would like to talk about taking part in this training, please would you contact Canon Chris Palmer on chris.palmer@exeter-cathedral.org.uk or 07906 249132. The recruitment is a two-stage process: the first stage looks for those who will undertake the training. Afterwards, there will be a further conversation about whether you will be recruited through the cathedral's safer recruitment procedure and join the Pastoral Care Team.

Canon Chris Palmer

Next Month: Please send material for the **June** edition by **Wednesday 29th May** 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 Jenny Ellis.

Stewards & Guides

As we approach the summer months, the guides and stewards are preparing for their busiest time of year. As thousands of tourists descend on our wonderful city, the Cathedral is often one of the first ports of call. Guaranteed a warm welcome from one of our dedicated team of stewards, visitors from all across the world enjoy exploring this marvellous building. Answering an abundance of questions, manning the information desk, as well as acting as a minor security presence, they are a fount of knowledge and wisdom.

Our trained guides also play a vital role in the daily life of the Cathedral. They ensure a total of four public tours run every day (except Sundays), whilst also catering for a whole host of private bookings. The summer is a frantic couple of months, with the Nave often a hive of activity. The introduction of the Lady Chapel and Bishop's Garden Tour last year has been a fantastic addition to an ever increasing list of specialist tours that are on offer.

With the Cathedral roof space a continual source of fascination for members of the public, more and more groups are seeing the incredible panoramic views of the city from the North Tower. We are delighted to announce that a contingent of new roof "backstops" have successfully finished their training course. Backstops play a crucial role in supporting and aiding the guide in delivering the tour. By taking up the rear, they provide a vital safety and security presence. Tasked with carrying the radio, they are the point of contact in the event of an emergency.' Anyone who would like to join them would be most welcome, for more information, please contact the visitors' office.

Cathedral night tours have also proved a real success, with guides and clergy combining to perform some wonderful amateur dramatics. Plans are being made to unveil a brand new tour, taking people to hidden and often restricted parts of the building. More details will be announced later this year.

And finally, a special thanks goes to everyone involved in running the recent guides training course, which had nine people in attendance. With growing interest amongst existing and new volunteers, another course will hopefully run early next year.

Both stewarding and guiding are hugely rewarding roles, providing a unique opportunity to learn more about the Cathedral. If you would be interested in joining, we would love to hear from you.

Joseph Patkai, Visitors Office

Cathedral Community Committee (CCC)

The next meeting will be on 4th June. Please send any items for the agenda to Heather Morgan at hmm53@tiscali.co.uk



Phil Wales

On 31st March, it was announced that Phil Wales will be the Cathedral Curate from September 2019. Phil will be known already to many in the Cathedral Community; he worships here regularly and for some time was part of the Prison Prayer & Support Group. We were delighted to hear of his appointment and look forward to welcoming and to supporting him in his new ministry. We asked Phil to write about his role and to introduce himself. We look forward to hearing more from Phil when he is in post, and has had time to reflect on being a distinctive deacon in the Mother Church of the diocese.

When I discovered that God had called me to serve my curacy at the Cathedral I was both deeply humbled and overjoyed. A Cumbrian by birth, I grew up in Whitehaven, then Carlisle, before moving further east to Newcastle. I eventually settled in the South West about 30 years ago. In late 2008, I came to the profound realisation that a deep longing I had could be ignored no longer. And so I began worshipping at my parish church, St Margaret's in Topsham, as well as here at the Cathedral (usually at weekday morning services and very occasionally on Sunday mornings).

As I have been training to become a distinctive deacon, I've often been asked to explain what it is. The Scriptural origins of the order are found in both the Acts of the Apostles and some of Paul's letters. Deacons are ordained ministers; heralds of God's kingdom. They may sometimes be referred to as 'commissioned agents'. Carrying out a form of 'bridge ministry' they live, so to speak, on the threshold; rooted in church yet ministering to those outside it. They proclaim Christ among those with whom they live and work, and are called to acts of loving service in their community. In church, as we know, deacons have certain liturgical duties assisting and serving alongside priests.

In the Church of England today there are probably between 100-150 distinctive deacons. And yet all priests are first ordained deacon and then, sometime later (usually but not always a year) ordained priest. So a *distinctive* deacon is, therefore, an ordained minister who does not have a priestly calling. This is why distinctive deacons are sometimes referred to as 'permanent' or 'lifelong'

deacons. Almost all of them will be self-supporting ministers and may well have other employment. In my case, whilst I serve at the Cathedral two days per week, I shall continue to work for the Care Quality Commission (CQC) as a learning and development advisor. As my ordination approaches, the exact shape of my ministry is starting to unfold and my trust in God deepens. I experience Him moulding me to become be a faithful, obedient and joyful herald of His Kingdom here. My curacy commences on the 15th September, but as I shall continue to attend Cathedral services, I may well be spotted around and about before then.

Phil Wales

From the Education Department

The Education Department is organising a special event for schools in June that lasts over 3 mornings - Monday 24th, Tues 25th and Wed 26th. It is a very special event for Year 6 children from local primary schools to enjoy meeting up and taking bespoke workshops and a service before they leave. Our hope is to make this an annual event working alongside the diocese.

I rarely ask for volunteer help outside of my education guides, but in this instance - we really want to grab these young visitors attention and give them a day that they will remember. We want the school teachers to see what we offer and more importantly we want the children to become future visitors with their families. This is what we are all trying to aim for and this is a chance to make a difference! If you are free on the mornings of the above days and would like to help out please let me know. Lisa.gordon@exeter-cathedral.org.uk 01392 285983

Join us for Shakespeare in the garden Friday 31st May at 7pm. The return of the popular company Handlebards will be giving us their rendition of **Much Ado About Nothing**. Come along earlier with your picnic hamper, pals, family and chairs to get you in the mood, before the performance starts in the Cloister Garden. Door open 6.30pm. Adults £16, Students, £10 Under 10's Free.

Chris Palmer will be taking this month's evening **Spiritual Tour**. Wednesday 15th May at 6.30pm after Evensong. Chris will take you on a journey around the Cathedral imparting the magic of the building from his perspective as Canon Chancellor, before finishing with a blessing. £7.50 Stop and enjoy Evensong before the tour starts

Lisa Gordon, Head of Education

Evensong with the Choir of Truro Cathedral 12th May at 4pm

On 12th May, the choirs of Exeter and Truro Cathedral will join to sing Evensong. This will be a very special occasion, one not to be missed!

Mothering Sunday

Thank you to all who helped to prepare flowers for Mothering Sunday. Getting them ready was clearly as much fun as receiving them!



Meanwhile, Mothering Sunday saw “a first” - the first all-male coffee team was on duty.



A Memorable Day for the Head Sidesman



On Maundy Thursday, Norman Pullen, Head Sidesman, was one of the recipients of the Royal Maundy at Windsor Castle. He is holding the Maundy Purse in the photograph. Congratulations to Norman on this richly deserved recognition of his long and dedicated service. We asked him to tell us more about this special day.

Norman writes.....

The day dawned with bright sunlight over Windsor Castle, and at 9.30am we joined the queue which was quickly forming for entry into St George's Chapel for the service, due to commence at 11.00am.

Finally the gates were opened and we proceeded through the

various security checks, then we were ushered to our seats by the Wandsmen and Lay Stewards.

By the appointed hour, the Chapel had filled with the 93 men and 93 ladies who were to receive their Maundy Purses from the Queen. Everything was timed to perfection and at 9.45am the Yeomen of the Guard followed by the Military Knights of Windsor, processed in full regalia through the side aisles and in the Nave to take up their positions to support the Queen.

Promptly at 11.00am, Her Majesty was greeted at the North Door by the Dean of Windsor. When all were in place, the service commenced, during which Her Majesty moved through the Nave and side aisles distributing purses to the assembled recipients. As always, Her Majesty looked radiant, making everyone feel totally at ease.

The service ended promptly at midday, when the Lay Stewards and Wandsmen escorted us, the recipients and our companions, to the State Apartments for a reception, where the atmosphere was very friendly and informal.

To summarise, a truly memorable day, with lasting memories of the grand occasion, and my thanks to the sidesmen here in Exeter, who covered the services in my absence.

Holy Ground

Holy Ground is an exciting opportunity to explore, question and express Christian spirituality and values in a beautiful and ancient setting. All are welcome at Holy Ground which takes place on the second Sunday of every month and is a mixture of creativity and contemplation. At Holy Ground, we enjoy combining creative approaches to spirituality with stimulating and open-minded discussions about Christianity and its contexts, as well as creating spaces for quiet reflection upon God, ourselves and the world.

Sunday 12th May at 7pm

Making Good Decision: Making God Decisions

How do we discover what God wants? How can we navigate difficult choices in a way that bring life to others and ourselves? Revd Hannah Alderson (Diocesan Vocations Officer and Chaplain at Exeter University) and Canon Chris Palmer, (Canon Chancellor of the Cathedral) open up these questions, and introduce some of the paths that have been used through the ages.

Sunday 21st July, 7pm

'Where are the Songs of Justice' with John Bell, of the Iona Community

John Bell is a preacher, hymnwriter, composer, lecturer and broadcaster, who spends much of the year travelling, mostly in the Americas and Europe. He is an ordained minister of the Church of Scotland. John has produced many collections of liturgy, scripts, sermons and reflections, original hymns and songs – many of which are sung regularly in churches around the world. And we look forward to singing with him when he visits Exeter Cathedral.

The Iona Community is an ecumenical Christian community of women and men who seek to live out the Gospel in a way that is radical, inclusive and relevant to life in the 21st century. A semi-autonomous project of the Iona Community, the Wild Goose Resource Group, through which John works, is about liturgy and worship, music, prayer, politics, diversity, devotion, participation, perception, curiosity and creativity, with a particular emphasis towards the training of the laity.

Thy Kingdom Come: 30th May – 9th June

Thy Kingdom Come is a global wave of prayer uniting Christian around the world in praying for the days from Ascension Day to Pentecost. Beginning in 2016 as an initiative of the Archbishop of Canterbury, it has spread to many denominations and countries round the world.

You can join in by:

Making a **Pledge2Pray** – on the global website of the movement, where you can also find many resources to support your praying

Praying in our special **Prayer Room** – which will be hosted in the historic Grandisson Chapel in the West Front of Exeter Cathedral, during the Cathedral's opening hours during the ten days of prayer.

Joining other at the **Thy Kingdom Come Beacon Event** on Sunday 9th June at 6.30pm in the Cathedral. Gathering with others from across Devon and the South West for worship and prayer at the climax of the Wave of Prayer.

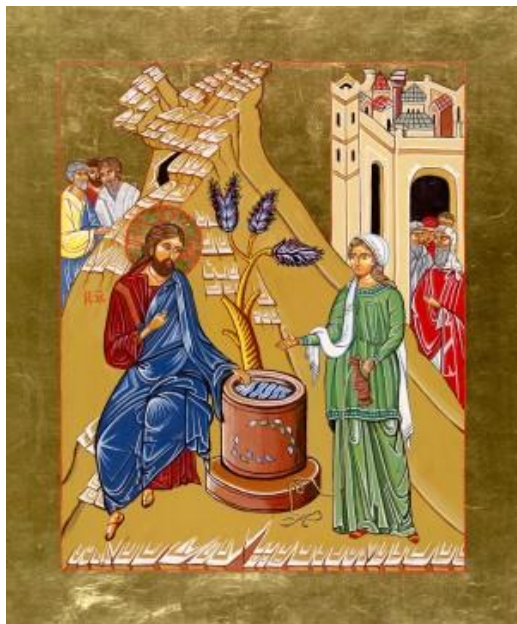
The Retreat Association Icon

Exeter Cathedral is delighted to host this icon during August – from 7th to 28th – when it will be on display in the Lady Chapel. A gift to the Retreat Association

from iconographer John Coleman, the icon depicts the story of the Woman at the Well. Jesus talks with her, accepts her for who she is, and invites her to drink of life-giving water.

The icon is a focus for our prayers and devotions, through which Jesus also offers us the water of life.

We will host a **Quiet Day** themed around the icon on Saturday 10th August from 10am – 4pm. Based in the Chapter House, and with a combination of worship, short talks, and times for prayer – and with lunch provided. At a cost of £12, please book via the Cathedral website.



Two Exeter Cathedral Study Days Being a Christian and Speaking Well: The Craft of Good Words

Morwenna Ludlow, Canon Theologian, Exeter Cathedral

8th May and 15th May in the Chapter House of Exeter Cathedral. 11am – 3pm

(There will be a break for lunch 12:45 – 1:30pm: please bring your own lunch).

Hate speech – free speech – fake news – speaking out.

All around us, we are faced with the challenge of how to speak well in our society. How might Christians respond to this challenge?

In these two study days, Morwenna Ludlow will lead us through debates about what makes speech truly good. What is the difference between good speech and simply speaking effectively or persuasively? What are the virtues of a good speaker? Is there a specifically Christian practice of good speech? What are its aims? How should we reflect on the example of Jesus Christ?

Drawing on the bible and on early Christian tradition, Morwenna will show how other Christians have answered these questions and she will suggest what we might learn from them today.

These study days will present a model of good speech as a craft – a practice which needs to be learned by example and a certain amount of effort, and which shows a commitment to the common good. But speaking well is not just for experts. It is part of all Christians' calling to be disciples of Christ and witnesses to his good news. It is something we do as a community.

These study-days are designed as a two day course, but participants are welcome to attend just one. We will discuss social media as well as speaking face-to-face. The days will be especially relevant for anyone with a special role in the Church as a speaker or teacher – but all are welcome!

Programme:

8th May: Making good words:

The craft of speaking well

The good speaker as a craftsman

15th May: The craft of words as discipleship:

Making and being made

What's the point: persuasion or advocacy?

From Renate Helmsley: To the Clergy and Congregation of Exeter Cathedral

Though having reached the age of ninety is reason for immense gratitude, I never expected the response I received. I am so grateful to the clergy, the choir and the organist, as well as the congregation, for the warm and sincere good wishes and the magnificent floral arrangement, which still gives me so much pleasure.

Since coming to live in Exeter 22 years ago, the Cathedral has played a vital part in my life and I feel privileged to be a volunteer in a variety of roles. Thank you all for making me so welcome.

Renate

Exeter Street Pastors 10th Birthday celebration Saturday 15th June at 7pm

A service to give thanks to God for the ten years of Exeter Street Pastors. Exeter Street Pastors are excited to take the presence of Christ onto the streets of Exeter in practical ways. They minister to those accessing the night time economy, to care, listen, and help those out and about on Friday and Saturday nights.

Cathedral Outing to St Paul's Cathedral

It isn't too late to join the outing to St Paul's on the weekend of 1st and 2nd June. If you would like more details, please see last month's *Cathedral News* and contact Diane Coombes 01626 862339 as soon as possible.

The Venerable Clive Cohen RIP

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Clive Cohen on 8th April.

Clive and June moved to Teignmouth after he retired as Archdeacon of Bodmin in 2011, and he was a Chapter Canon of the Cathedral from 2011-2017. He made a considerable contribution to many areas of Cathedral life, not least as a member of the editorial team of *Cathedral News*, a role in which both he and the rest of the team enjoyed much hard work and fun.

We send our love and prayers to June and to all Clive's family.

The funeral is on 29th April at All Saints Winterslow in Wiltshire, where Clive was the Rector from 1985-2000. There will be a Service of Thanksgiving for his life and ministry at St Michael's Church, Teignmouth at 3.30pm on 20th May, to which all are welcome.

Informal Lunch for Students 12th May at 12 noon

On 12th May at 12 noon in the Cathedral Café, there will be an informal (and free!) lunch for students. It is very good to see an increasing number of students at both midweek and Sunday services. Members of the congregation are encouraged to extend a warm invitation to the lunch to any students they meet at services. There will also be invitation cards to give out which we hope will be available on the day this *News* is published. Chris Brathwaite is overseeing the catering for this event on behalf of the Cathedral Community Committee, and if you are willing and able to help, please contact her by email at chrisbee3@btinternet.com

Heather Morgan, Chair CCC

What's on in May

We've run out of space to include more details this month. Please see the Weekly Sheet and Cathedral website.

Easter Morning



Breakfast after the Dawn Service



And a successful Easter Egg hunt!