



From: The Canon Chancellor



The environment has become a hot topic – quite literally, with record temperatures recorded in the UK this year and the news filled with stories of fires in the Amazon rain forest. Global warming, rising sea levels, and loss of bio diversity are regularly reported by scientists – together with the accompanying risks of loss of land, and food insecurity. Fridays for Future School Strikes and Extinction Rebellion have been encouraging urgent action by world leaders, who seem focussed on other issues, whilst ignoring this

most important one. Ongoing campaigns and the Earth Strike planned for 20th September will continue this pressure during the autumn.

For all people, damage to our world is a major issue. It threatens the flourishing – and survival – of the human race and other species. We owe it to future generations not to hand them a planet which they cannot live on.

For Christians, we are accountable also to God, who entrusts the world to us as a gift and a responsibility. The stories of creation affirm the goodness of God's world – 'God saw everything that he had made, and behold it was very good' – and God's intimate involvement with his world. God gives life to the world through his spirit, and in the incarnation God shares the life of the world. Care for God's world is an act of faithfulness to God our creator. The Anglican Communion's 'five marks of mission' include, as the fifth mark, 'to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.'

This edition of *Cathedral News* includes details of climate awareness events at the Cathedral, Holy Ground on 8th September and – in conjunction with The Melanesian Mission UK – 'Disappearing Islands' on 10th October. There are details too of the Devon Earth and Faith Network 'Call to Action' at the Friends Meeting House. I warmly encourage you to come along to these.

But broader than this, God invites each of us to choose ways of living that cherish and safeguard the gift which is the world. Our choices around transport, consumption of food and energy, and political activity are opportunities to honour God in his creation.

In the Cathedral's *Rule of Life* booklet we ask the question, 'how am I good news for others?' This includes the question, how we are good news – gospel – in care of God's creation. What answer are we willing to give?

Canon Chris Palmer

From the Company of Tapisers

It will not have escaped your notice – with all the media coverage – that 2020 will see many celebrations for the 400th anniversary of the sailing of The Mayflower from Plymouth to the New World in 1620. It was an iconic and intrepid voyage which changed the course of American history. Amazingly, there are 30 million people in the US today who can trace their ancestry back to The Mayflower!!!

Our Dean recently visited America hoping to forge closer links between the Cathedral and potential supporters there. He has asked the Tapisers to make a special 'Mayflower Cope' which will be worn during a visit to the US next year. Already nautical designs of ships, compasses and anchors are being drawn up and materials selected. This is an exciting project for the Tapisers, and will keep us fully employed over the next six months. Watch this space!

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard to make the exhibition from the Royal School of Needlework in August such a success – from organising, stewarding, visiting and 'spreading the word' - every contribution has been greatly appreciated. Thank you all so much.

Diana Symes, Chairman of the Company of Tapisers

Town Hall Meetings

Volunteers, please note the following dates for Town Hall meetings, all from 11.30am-1pm. Please notify André de Mendonça if you are able to attend.

2019 Wednesday 18th September & Wednesday 4th December

2020 Monday 10th February
 Tuesday 6th October

Monday 18th May
Tuesday 15th December

A Thank You from Diane Coombes

I am grateful to be able to use the *News* to say a huge “thank you” for all the prayers, cards, phone calls and visits I received following the operation on my back. Please be assured of the power of prayer – I cannot believe how calm and enfolded I felt when I walked into the hospital for this big operation. I also felt warmly supported throughout the following weeks, and in particular when I had to return to have the wound repaired. Please be assured of how much I appreciated this, as all the prayers, thoughts and tangible expressions were very real to me. It was also wonderful to be so warmly received back at the Cathedral. I am pleased to say that the operation seems to have been successful, and I can now walk without pain in my legs. I look forward to a full return to activity and also to swimming again! Thank you all so much. **Diane**

Holy Ground Sunday 8th September at 7pm Climate Emergency: Protesting for change Professor Tim Gorringer and Jess Nicholls

Climate scientists tell us that our climate faces an emergency. It is changing at an unprecedented rate, due to human activity – and this change presents a danger to the future of humanity and our planet. High profile campaigns including School Strikes and Extinction Rebellion seek to make the environment a priority of our social and political agenda.

On this evening Holy Ground will explore the role of protest in campaigning for environmental justice. We are delighted to welcome two speakers to tell us of their experiences.



Tim Gorringer is Emeritus Professor at the University of Exeter. He has previously taught theology in South India and Oxford. His recent books include *The Common Good and the Global Emergency*, *Earthly Visions: Theology and the Challenges of Art*, and *The World Made Otherwise*.

Jess Nicholls is part of the Fridays For Future: Exeter, a youth-led climate activist group operating within and around Exeter, supported by Extinction Rebellion Exeter and part of the wider Youth Strike movement, standing with Greta Thunberg.



From the Cathedral Bellringers

Early in September, the Cathedral ringers traditionally hold their peal draw – over the year, bands of ringers from around the country write in and apply to ring a peal at Exeter Cathedral, and with around six peals rung here each year, there are usually more applicants than peals. So we solve the issue with a draw, where names are drawn out of a hat, with the first drawn having first choice of the available peal dates and so on. The peal dates for 2020 are already fixed in the Cathedral Diary, and next year will see such notable occasions as the 75th Anniversary of VE Day and of VJ Day, and the 400th Anniversary of the Mayflower's pioneering voyage from Plymouth, marked. Our Cathedral bells have rung out for important national commemorations across the centuries, and continuing that tradition gives them the voice for which they were cast.

Later this September there will be another full peal attempt here at the Cathedral; this time by a visiting band from Bristol, with the ringers all being past or present members of the University of Bristol Society of Change Ringers. The UBSCR are marking the 75th anniversary of the Society's formation and especially asked us if they could ring a peal at Exeter Cathedral this year to help mark their anniversary and we were only too pleased to grant their request. The date is Saturday 28th September, which also coincides with the Ordination of Priests, meaning the Cathedral bells will also help to make this day a special one for all the ordinands. In addition, we will be ringing a quarter peal on Saturday 14th September to mark the Ordination of Deacons.

So we hope you enjoy listening to the Cathedral bells this September.

Clare Griffiths, Secretary, Exeter Cathedral Bellringers

From Jill Taylor, Director of Development

I am pleased to report that we have been chosen as one of the recipients of the John Lewis Green Token Scheme. If anyone is shopping in the store between now and October, please make you sure collect a token when you make a purchase, and drop it into the 'voting' collection boxes as you leave. Thanks to you in advance for your support and also to the John Lewis team.

Thank you

Alan Sourbut and family wish to extend sincere thanks to so many Cathedral friends for cards, prayers and flowers following the death of Dorothy.



Focus: The Reverend Canon James Mustard

Precentor of Exeter Cathedral

'Within the temple, when they stand to teach the truth as taught by thee, Saviour, like stars in thy right hand, may all thy Church's pastors be.'

James Montgomery 1771-1851

It was, indeed, very appropriate to meet-up with James in the Department of Liturgy and Music, now sited high up in the West Wing. In English cathedrals, precentors have been for hundreds of years, and still are, members of the clergy who are in general control of the liturgical and musical arrangements. In a synagogue, they lead the prayers. Obviously, there is a pretty hefty requirement for a precentor to possess a considerable ability to understand music, be able to sing confidently and play one or more kinds of musical instruments. James has all of these, being a professional singer, and plays the oboe and piano.

His father was a RAF helicopter pilot. It was whilst he was away engaged with the British Forces during the troubles in Northern Ireland, that James's mother, whilst staying with her parents in Bristol, went into premature and urgent labour two months before her due time, and was admitted to hospital. Somehow, the RAF got his father to the Bristol Royal Infirmary Hospital within a few hours! James remained in the special baby-care unit for two months before returning to the family's home in Hampshire. A very scary time for everyone!

Like most Service children, his and his younger sister's childhood was fairly nomadic, with the family moving between the far north of Scotland and Southern England. His first school was a Convent School in Elgin, which took boys up to the age of seven.

'There was a liberal use of corporal punishment, and the Devil was omnipresent!'

Returning south to Salisbury for a while, then it was back to Elgin, where he attended a state school with a Scottish strong curriculum. It was on a school cycle-ride that he first visited Pluscarden Abbey, sited within lush grounds, and having some older Benedictine built buildings, and is noted for its musical traditions. At twelve, he became a weekly boarder at Chaffyn Grove School in

Salisbury, which he liked very much, enabling him to be awarded a music scholarship to Dauntsey's School in Wiltshire.

'I was now a full-time boarder, and we had a lot of fun! I'm not particularly sporty, but I did some cross-country running and played tennis.'

He obviously did well at this school, passing his GCSE and A levels examinations at a standard that resulted in him receiving a scholarship to study for a Degree in Music at The University of Exeter.

'It was a great experience enabling me to continue playing the oboe and piano, as well as singing in choirs. I became a choral scholar here, living in Flat 4 overlooking the Palace Garden. For my dissertation, I studied the Post Reformation Settings of the Lamentations of Jeremiah, and looked at how Thomas Tallis and William Byrd took these holy texts and made them into works of art; this included some texts that had not been used in Pre-Reformation liturgies. These texts expressed humanism and were very political! I do find it so very sad that many universities have closed their music departments.'

It was during this time that James started to attend the 7.30am Morning Prayer in St. Gabriel's Chapel. The then Dean, Richard Eyre, noticed and opened up conversations with him about entering ordained ministry.

'But, I wanted to continue singing! I went on to Gloucester Cathedral for two years, and sang professionally elsewhere whilst taking some lessons at the Royal Academy of Music. I then became seriously ill, and upon investigations was diagnosed with Coeliac Disease. Eventually, with adjustments to my diet, my health gradually returned and I went back to work, at an Ecclesiastical Insurance Company, specialising in insuring church/cathedral organs, and large, formal civic or county processions; especially those which might involve live animals on Palm Sunday. (Note: The owners of such animals have to be responsible for coverage in all places!)

I eventually decided that office culture was not for me as an underwriter.'

The next four to five years were spent singing across Belgium, France and Holland with an Ensemble Group, entitled The Collegium Vocale Ghent and La Chapelle Royal; this group included two other former Exeter Choral Scholars, and it was a very happy time; but he was missing singing in churches.

What should he do?

There was a slump in the Euro, which led to reduced earnings in the UK, so should he train as an opera singer? He had deep conversations with the Vicar of Tewkesbury, and the outcome from those was that he applied for, and obtained a place to study for ordination at Westgate House and Clare College in Cambridge.

Did he enjoy this?

'Music is a vocation in itself; I made some wonderful friendships, and saw the best and the worst of the Church of England in microcosm!'

In 2008, he took up his curacy at St. Peter Mancroft in Norwich; a market square church which dealt with civic needs.

'I did a lot of radio broadcasting, and in partnership with the BBC, endeavoured to stimulate the interest of the young by teaching them to sing Plainsong.

'The vicar was generous in his outlook; we could disagree in private but were a united force in public! But I wanted to live in London, and was fortunate in being appointed as an Assistant Priest at St. Peter's Church in Eaton Square.

The whole world passed through this church! It has a great Primary School, and to get your child into it, you had to attend church for a whole year! The parishioners were lovely people and my flat had wonderful views across the city. Being a 'high-society' assistant priest had its heart-breaking moments; especially with the fall-out from the financial crash leading to unemployment, and some terrible personal tragedies. To endeavour to restore some calm we developed relationships with local companies and businesses, and held Christmas Carol Services for residents, and office staff from the surrounding area. Additionally, I worked with the local Alcoholics Anonymous groups to develop "Anonymous Carols" for those in the area recovering from addictions; this is still going strong, and receiving publicity only by word-of-mouth.

I stayed for four years, moving in 2012 to become the Rector of East Barnet.

The first year was a bit like 'cold turkey'! Leaving the excitement and social whirl of Zone One, I felt a little lonely and went to an animal rescue centre and brought home a dog; Rocky, a German Shepherd-Labrador Cross. We walked in the park every day, and so I began to bed-down in Barnet and enjoy the responsibility of the role. The people were genuinely extraordinary in their ability to welcome strangers, and to hold those in both times of joy or crisis.'

In 2015, James was made Area Dean of Barnet. But, a couple of years later, he began to feel the need for a change; on seeing the advertisement for the appointment of Precentor at Exeter Cathedral, he applied, was interviewed, and was appointed. At a Sunday Evensong in April 2018, accompanied by glorious music, supported by his family and quite a number of illustrious musician friends, as well as members of the congregation, James was installed by Bishop Robert.

So, how has it been?

'It's lovely to be back here; it's also a bit strange being in such a different role, which has such a wide and deep portfolio. I am still discerning just what that role is!'

There, obviously, has to be some time-off for relaxation; for this, James cycles, goes to a gym, *'It's less frequently than I should!'*, and for long walks. Obviously, music, playing instruments, as well as singing, play a large part in this recuperation. He enjoys travelling, and recently with Alex and their dog has been to France. Very sadly, towards the end of their holiday, James's beloved canine friend Rocky, was taken ill, and the veterinary interventions were unable to improve the situation. They had to decide to end his life. This, as all pet owners will understand, is not an easy place to be. When on holiday, or on journeys by train, boat, or aeroplane, James likes to read books written by Iris Murdoch, especially *'The Bell'*. His favourite pieces of music are Bach's Passions of St. John and St. Matthew, and Handel's Concerto Grossi.

When, in answer to a question which I thought I had asked him, concerning which were the best and worst aspects to the Cathedral, he answered....., *'Tinned fish! Ah! That's a general dislike of mine!'*

When my laughter had died down, and we'd clarified the situation, he replied.....

'It's the vaulting! And the largest challenge for me is making sure that the Cathedral's Diary is working for us, in this place which is so busy.'

Thank you, James, for sharing your journey with us.

Rosemary Bethell

Tales from the Foodbank: A Recent Unacceptable Event

Listening to the radio recently I heard the following: A boy arrived at school on a Monday morning and fainted. He had not had anything to eat since his school dinner the previous Friday. He was immediately given a sandwich and an apple. He ate the sandwich but, when he would not eat the apple and was asked why, he said that his sister was down the hall and she hadn't eaten either.

I can't get this account out of my head, nor should I. I don't care where you give, but please give.

The next Cathedral Foodbank Collection will take place at the 10 am Service on **Sunday 22nd September**

In future, at Choral Eucharist on Sundays when there is a Foodbank Collection, a few of the smaller items that have been donated will be brought to the altar with the usual money collection to be blessed.

Thank you.

Felicity Cawthra

The Holy Dusters



The Cathedral floor is often a hive of activity; a combination of visitors, staff, countless volunteering groups, all of whom enjoy the beauty and splendour of this marvellous building.

However, it is easy to forget those who are perhaps slightly less front-facing in their roles. This month we thank and remember all of the Holy Dusters who undertake their duties quietly and reverently. They are essential in helping maintain the Cathedral as a cared for and loved place of worship.

Tasked with cleaning a particular area usually, one specific chapel, they ensure the building looks spotless 365 days a year.

Here we see Maureen, one of the team, in the distinctive Holy Duster apron working in the Lady Chapel.

I am sure you will join with me in thanking them all for their hard-work, time and dedication. If you are interested in becoming a Holy Duster please contact Visitors & Volunteers Manager André de Mendonça:

andre.demendonca@exeter-cathedral.org.uk or call the Visitors' Office on 01392 285983. **Joseph Patkai, Special Projects and Volunteers' Assistant**

Worship

Did you know that you can listen to our sermons, recorded at the Sunday Morning Choral Eucharist, via our website?

Did you know that we have an easy-to-use section on our website that will help you to explore prayer?

Further information about the above can be found at: www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/worship-music

Next Month: Please send material for the **October** edition by **Monday 23rd September** 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 Linda Driscoll.



Devon Earth and Faith Network
Faith, Belief and Climate Justice
- A Call to Action

22nd Sept 2019

2.30 - 5pm

Venue Friends Meeting House, Wynyard,
Magdalen St EX24HU

At a time of immense environmental and ecological challenge, it is essential that the world's faith traditions engage more fully in what we may call planetary awareness and action. This Panel from a variety of faiths/beliefs will encourage people to come together in an atmosphere of open enquiry to inspire action, share information and insight, galvanise transformation and unity.

Plus Q & A

Speakers will be from various traditions and beliefs, including: Quaker, Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu, Humanist, Muslim

Contact: marcfrank12@googlemail.com or alising@btopenworld.com or
07980804086 www.devonfaiths.org.uk

Holy Ground Sunday 13th October at 7pm
Video-Game Spirituality
with Andy Robertson



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

Andy Robertson is a national journalist and broadcaster who has curated digital meditation, interactive worship and video game services in many contexts. He explored the intersection between technology, meaning and spirituality in his TEDx talk that led to previous Holy Ground services incorporating games. His upcoming book, *Taming Gaming*. <https://unbound.com/books/taming-gaming>, is a fresh perspective on what video games have to offer different parts of life.

Crediton to Exeter Pilgrimage **Saturday 28th September**



Devon Pilgrim
wander and wonder

As part of the new Devon Pilgrim Project, Growing the Rural Church is working with a team, including the Cathedral, to develop a pilgrimage route from Crediton to Exeter.

We would like to invite anyone interested in trying out the suggested route to join us for the day on Saturday 28th September.

We will begin our day with a 15 minute service at Holy Cross, Crediton, and end with Evensong at Exeter Cathedral at 5.30pm. The route is approximately 13 miles and will visit several churches along the way.

Please gather at Holy Cross, Crediton between 9 and 9:30 (ready to begin our walk immediately after the service). We will stop for a picnic lunch, (hopefully in the sunshine) and aim to arrive at the Cathedral in time for tea and cake before Evensong.

Don't forget to bring your lunch, plenty of water – and waterproofs!

For more information please contact Sam Upham, Growing the Rural Church project officer: sam.upham@exeter.anglican.org / 07889 542631 / 01392 294915; or Canon Chris Palmer

(P.S. Canon Chris Palmer will be travelling to Crediton from Exeter St David's station on the 8.31am that morning, if others wish to travel from Exeter together.)

Congratulations

50 years ago this month, Paul Morgan came to Exeter to take up his appointment as Assistant Organist. He continues to serve the Cathedral as Organist Emeritus and as a Lay Canon. Congratulations and thanks to Paul on a golden anniversary.

Also in September, former regular members of the congregation, Peter and Angela Toyne will return to Exeter to celebrate their Golden Wedding. They met, and became engaged, at Exeter University, where Peter lectured in Geography. During their time in Exeter, Peter was Head Server of the Cathedral and their son, Simon, was Head Chorister. To mark their anniversary, they have commissioned a new motet from Philip Moore, *We do not presume*, a setting of the Prayer of Humble Access from the Book of Common Prayer. This will receive its first performance at the Choral Eucharist on 22nd September.

Disappearing Islands

Thursday 10th October 7 – 9pm

With Alex Leger and Ivan Haigh

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



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



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



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

Outward Giving

Thank you to all who contributed to the Lent and Easter Appeal for Shelterbox. We raised £965, which was used to help people in Mwalija, Malawi, who were made homeless by Tropical Cyclone Idai.

The next special collection will be for money and donations of food for the Exeter Foodbank, as is appropriate for the weeks up to and including Harvest Festival. More details next month.

Devon Historic Churches Trust Ride/Stride & Deanery Prayer Walk Saturday 14th September

For over 20 years, the Cathedral has taken an active part in raising funds for the Devon Historic Churches Trust. We aim to continue this in 2019, and seek your help in keeping up this tradition! The 14th September is the date this year for the Trust's annual fund-raising event, which, as always, will also be the date for our Deanery Prayer Walk. David Smith, Chairman of our Deanery Synod, together with as many others as possible, will be leading a pilgrimage, which aims to visit, and pray in, as many churches in Christianity Deanery as possible. This walk will start at 7.50am at St Michael's, Mount Dinham and will end at lunchtime at St Leonard's. It will be shortened, this year, due to the Ordination of Deacons at the Cathedral at 3pm.

Not many of us are likely to achieve the whole day, but a good place to start will be at the refreshment point in the Cathedral precincts. We will be warmly welcomed (probably about 10am) with tea/coffee or soft drinks in Cloister Garth, A member of Chapter will lead us in prayer, and send us on our way with a blessing to the remaining city centre churches, including the Orthodox Church, before we move on to St. Matthew's and St. Leonard's.

Meanwhile, the Dean, Canon Chris Palmer and Canon James Mustard will leave the Cathedral at 9am and cycle for 3-4 hours, visiting churches in and around Exeter.

In past years, the Cathedral Community has sponsored this event very generously, and once again we will be hoping for the same support please. The sponsorship money raised is divided, with half going to the Devon Historic Churches Trust and the other half to the church chosen by the walker, which for us has been one of the Cathedral's building funds. Last year the money was allocated to our stonemasons, and they received £250. For the past two years, we have raised a total of over £500 – a tough call to repeat, but please be generous. We would, again, like to sponsor our stonemasons in recognition of all the work they are doing.

Sponsorship forms are now available, and we will be looking for support, especially during coffee time after the 10.00 Eucharist on a Sunday. If you wish to take an active part in fund raising but do not want to join this walk, you might have your own idea; such as using your bus pass (where possible!) to visit as many churches as possible and being sponsored for your effort. If you do not feel able to take an active part, please sponsor those of us who are. Most of all, make it a fun day. Thank you very much for your generosity.

Diane Coombes



The Friends of Exeter Cathedral

On Thursday 17 September, as part of The Friends 90th anniversary celebrations, we are delighted and honoured to welcome Sir Antony Acland KG on the evening of Tuesday 17 September when we will learn about his life and career as a diplomat.

Sir Antony is a member of one of Devon's historic families. His career with the Foreign Office lasted over 40 years and included being Head of the Arabian Department, Principal Private Secretary to two Foreign Secretaries – Sir Alec Douglas-Home and Jim Callaghan – along with postings in the Middle East, New York and Geneva. He was HM Ambassador to Luxembourg then Spain and subsequently Head of the Diplomatic Service during the Falklands War. He completed his career as HM Ambassador to the United States during the Presidencies of Ronald Reagan and George Bush Snr. He was Chancellor of the Royal Victorian Order and was given the rare honour by HM The Queen of being appointed a Knight of the Garter.

Since retiring in 1991, he has been Provost of Eton College and one of the founders of the Rothermere American Institute Created at Oxford University to promote greater understanding of the United States. He and his wife Jennifer live on Exmoor where they are still actively involved locally as well as keeping in contact with their large combined family of seven children and many grandchildren.

The full price of tickets is £39 per person. Friends and their guests may purchase tickets at the discounted price of £35 but early booking is advised.

Tickets for both events are available from The Friends Office, The West Wing, The Palace, Exeter EX1 1HY. Office hours 09.00-13.00 Mon to Thurs.

Email: friends@exeter-cathedral.org.uk Telephone: (01392) 423931

Pete Privett, Office Manager, the Friends of Exeter Cathedral

Lunch 8th September

At noon on 8th September, the Cathedral congregations will entertain the parents of new choristers and welcome them to the cathedral family. All existing chorister parents and members of the choir will also be invited. Please sign the list on the CCC information table or email cressida.peers@exeter-cathedral.org.uk if you are able to attend. Offers of help to prepare and serve lunch please to jgshayward@tiscali.co.uk

James Hayward

The Cathedral Flower Arrangers

The exquisite RSN exhibition has continued, and the ECFA have worked hard to match the talent of the needlework. Unfortunately, the sun – or lack of it – and the heavy rain have not helped us this month. Our plan was to have simple sunflowers throughout the Cathedral, but large sunflowers were not available anywhere! We tried our best, but after changing almost the whole nave three times, we had to admit defeat. Sad sunflowers look awful, so we replaced them with garden hydrangeas until the fortnightly change on 23th August. Although the Dean loves them, I suspect we will not try sunflowers again, as they take up a disproportionate amount of our time. We cannot have our flowers looking anything but top notch!

We are now blue and lilac for a couple of weeks, and these should be far easier to look after. Sylvia Bush made a much admired pedestal in silks to complement our own Tapisers' beautiful work in the South Quire Aisle until Bank Holiday Monday.

We have begun work on the Winter Fair and the Advent still life, which does seem strange given the high temperatures and sunny skies (as I write this!).

Flick Evans, Exeter Cathedral Flower Arrangers

Cathedral Community Committee (CCC) Meeting 6th August

The main item of business was safeguarding, specifically how the CCC could best support Chapter to promote and foster awareness of safeguarding and good practice in the Cathedral Community. The Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, Charlie Pitman, and the Lead Canon for Safeguarding for Chapter, the Venerable Trevor Jones, led a presentation and group discussion, from which emerged a number of constructive, practical suggestions which they warmly welcomed. In addition the following points were agreed

- safeguarding is about abundant life and well-being for all
- making the Cathedral a safe place is a fundamental element of our ministry of welcome
- the CCC should be advocates for safeguarding and take the lead in raising awareness with the Cathedral Community

The Committee expressed the hope that members would be involved in the planning of the Year of Invitation and Welcome. The next meeting of the CCC on 24th September will be devoted to this topic.

It was agreed that a training meeting would be arranged for Eucharistic Assistants and Intercessors. Members of the Committee are working with Chapter on plans for a Justice and Peace Chapel. The Committee will be represented at the October meeting of Mission Shed at St Mark's Church.

Heather Morgan, Chairman CCC

From the Head of Education

Monday 9th September at 10.30am in the Pearson Building

Talk by Ian Morter : The roles of Cathedral clergy explained

This is a training talk for guides and stewards, for whom this event is free of charge.

Members of the public are also welcome to attend for the price of £2.50.

Friday 27th Sept 12.30-1.30pm in the Chapter House

Talk by Phillip Hickman : Heraldry and the Coats of Arms of Exeter

Entry £5.

Thurs 26th, Fri 27th, Sat 28th Sept 6.30 pm

St Nicholas Priory – Time Travel Evening Tour of St Nicholas Priory

If you have not yet been to St Nicholas Priory then this is a perfect opportunity to check out this wonderful building. Join us for a journey back in time to explore the rich past of the Priory building and its place in Exeter's ever changing history, as told by real characters. There will be refreshments on arrival - whilst the atmosphere is set. Then our guide will whisk you into each room where a ghost from the past is waiting to tell you their part in the story timeline. This is a partnership tour between Exeter Cathedral and St Nicholas Priory. A great evening to share with your friends or family and revel in rich local history! Tickets £15 available from 01392 877623 (Mon-Fri) and online.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/news-events/what-is-on/category/children-families/>

Angel Exhibition

In December the Education Dept is planning an **Exhibition of Angels** where local schools, colleges and some businesses are invited to make an angel out of any medium, bring it along at the end of November to be displayed in the Cathedral until early January. There will be a few events that will accompany the exhibition. It would be really great if other departments or groups of the Cathedral contribute. For example, the library & archives, café, and stonemasons will offer an angel. It would be lovely if anyone else wants to get creative and be involved - maybe the Sunday Coffee folk, Mothers Union, Cloister Club etc. Let me know if you want more information or inspiration. It would be great for the visitors to see the different groups or clubs that make up our Cathedral. The angel can be just a wing or a halo, or a whole host of angels. Pop in and see me in No 1 or drop me an email. education@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

Lisa Gordon, Head of Education

The Newest Plaque in the Cathedral

It is rare for a new plaque to be installed in the Cathedral – so what is the story behind the one recently installed in the North Quire Aisle?

The plaque commemorates the work and worship of the Sisters of the Community of St Wilfrid. People who have lived here for any length of time, will know that these nuns, in their black habits were once a familiar sight in the city.

The Rector of All Hallows -on -the -Wall, John Gilberd Pearse, was so moved by the poverty of his parishioners, he founded the Anglican Order of St Wilfrid in 1866 to care for them. Their contribution was significant:

- A daily soup kitchen – they served ‘Penny Dinners’ of hot soup, meat, potatoes and suet pudding
- Sisters ran a crèche in St Nicholas Priory for young children while their parents went to work
- Work was organised for women – mostly laundry and sewing (they were paid 4d (before decimalisation) for making a shirt)
- Workshops and recreational classes were held for unemployed men
- They founded a Home for aged women (from 1873 – 1914)
- Sisters nursed the sick and dying
- They ran an orphanage from 1866 until 1954
- They helped in parishes and taught in the Sunday Schools
- Sisters bravely nursed victims of cholera epidemics in Bovey Tracey and Torquay
- In 1870 they opened a school (which still continues today)

The Community grew, but was never greater than 24 members at any one time. The Sisters continued to work and worship in Exeter until 2004 when the last member of the Order died.

The late Canon John Thurmer, chaplain to the Community of St Wilfrid, who was so impressed by their devotion and dedication to the service of others, initiated the idea for a plaque to remember the Sisters’ contribution.

It is surely appropriate that they will be remembered in the Cathedral for many years to come.

Diana Symes , Trustee of St Wilfrid’s Trust

Date for the diary: Harvest Lunch 27th October

On the morning of Sunday 27th October, the Cathedral Community will celebrate Harvest Festival. This will be followed by a Harvest Lunch organised by the Social Events Team. Further details in the October edition of the *News*, the Cathedral Website and the Weekly Sheet.

Christmas Shoeboxes

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

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

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

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

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

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

Stationery:

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

Foods/Sweets:

chocolate, packets/tubes of sweets, biscuits, dried food, pasta/rice, instant soup

Toiletries:

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

New Clothes/Misc:

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

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

crst0915@yahoo.co.uk or on 01392 202330.

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

Chryssa Turner

Informal Lunch for Students 13th October

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

Installation of Organ Scholar and Choral Scholars Sunday 8th September at 4pm



During Evensong on 8th September at 4pm, Heather Easting, will be installed as Organ Scholar. Heather was formerly 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, and our new choral scholars, who will also be installed during the service, to the Cathedral Community.

Ordination of Deacons: Saturday 14th September at 3pm

Among those to be ordained on Saturday 14th September will be Phil Wales, who will serve at the Cathedral as a Distinctive Deacon. Please come to support Phil and all the ordinands on this very special occasion.

Canon Becky Totterdell

On Sunday 1st September, we say farewell and a huge thank you to Canon Becky Totterdell, our St Peter Canon. She is leaving the Cathedral to be Rector of the Upper Culm Mission Community, which comprises the parishes of Hemyock, Culm Davey, Clayhidon and Culmstock. Becky joined the Chapter in May 2017. Her calm, reassuring, and healing presence made itself felt immediately. In her all too brief time among us, Becky has made an immense contribution to the life of the Cathedral in many ways; preaching, teaching, leading book groups and Quiet Days, and developing better links with the wider diocese - to name but a few. Above all, she has shown a deep care for people-staff, congregation and visitors alike.

I have no doubt that the Cathedral Community Committee spoke for the whole Cathedral family at a recent meeting, when we expressed regret at Becky's departure and our thanks. We will miss her very much, and we will also miss Mike, whose perceptive observations and wry sense of humour, in particular, have been much appreciated. The good news is that Becky will remain a Prebendary and thus member of the College of Canons, and she and Mike aren't too far away. Becky leaves with our prayers, and our heartfelt thanks.

Heather Morgan, Chair of the Cathedral Community Committee

A Prayer for the Cathedral Community

This is the prayer that accompanies the Cathedral Rule of Life, which is commended for regular use by the whole Cathedral community, whether or not we have signed up to follow the Rule of Life:

**God of life,
present in each moment of our day,
in each person we meet,
in each task we undertake,
in each path we walk,
receive our commitment to journey with you
and with your people,
and strengthen us in our inner beings to be
faithful to your call;
through Jesus, our companion and guide. Amen**