

From the Dean:



I was 15 when I first became an altar server. I still remember being trained over several weeks, learning the moves, and understanding the significance of the role. And then...overwhelming nerves that first Sunday morning, and I appeared at the altar in cassock and cotta, carrying a candle. In fact, and in spite of gaining my acting badge as a cub scout, I've always been anxious standing up in front of a crowd of people. But I realised then what a great privilege it was assisting the worship of God, as it still is every time I preside at the Eucharist, and play my part in this remarkable coming together of earth and heaven. And I really

appreciated seeing what was going on at close hand, and deepening my understanding of Eucharistic worship. To start with, it was very hard serving and praying at the same time; but it made me more conscientious in prayerful preparation for the service on Saturday evening. And in due course, it changed and deepened my understanding of prayer in public worship, which continues to be of lasting value for my current ministry.

We can of course celebrate the Eucharist without altar servers, and do so most days of the week at our 8.20am Eucharist in the Lady Chapel. Servers, though, are vitally important at bigger celebrations. That is true practically - ensuring that the right equipment (vessels, books, microphones, etc.) is in the right place at the right time. It is true dramatically. The Cathedral is a vast space, which requires a liturgical choreography to give proper weight and dignity to the celebration. And it is true symbolically. The celebration of the Eucharist is not an exclusively priestly act: this is the work of the whole people of God, as the word liturgy reminds us, finding its roots in the Greek words for people's work. Having lay people and clergy alongside each other at the front of the Cathedral is a visual illustration of this reality.

The patron saint of altar servers is Tarcisius. One day, he was entrusted with the task of bringing the Eucharist to condemned Christians in prison. He

preferred death at the hands of a mob rather than handing over to them the Blessed Sacrament which he was carrying. We don't ask that level of sacrifice from our servers (or haven't thus far!), but it is true they don't get much glory. Although it's a visible role, if you're doing your job as a server effectively the congregation take you pretty much for granted. You receive fewer plaudits than the choir. You have to arrive early, and stay on to clear up afterwards. But it is an essential role if we are to offer our worship with care and dignity and love - for God and his people.

Interested? We are very keen to recruit and train some new servers, of any age, both to help maintain this great tradition at the Cathedral, and to involve those who sign up more profoundly in our worship. If this is something you'd like to know more about, please speak to me - or to any one of our serving team who will be delighted to tell you why they enjoy their role so much.

Jonathan Greener

The Cathedral Prison Prayer and Support Group

In 1998/9 the then Prison Chaplain invited Christianity Deanery Synod to hold a meeting in the Prison Chapel. At this meeting, he invited the local churches to make some on-going contact with the prison chaplaincy, on the basis that the prison was part of the local community. The Cathedral Community Committee took this forward. A group of interested people, about 15 of us, were invited to meet with the Chaplain and we started to worship with the prisoners regularly.

Subsequent Chaplains have been very supportive of our commitment, and gradually a new pattern has developed. Instead of receiving prayers from the Chaplain, it was felt to be more appropriate for us to be given prayers direct from the prisoners. We now worship with the prisoners on the second Sunday of each month. We arrive at 8.30 am and the first Service with the main prison is held about 9 am, and usually attended by 30-40 inmates. This is followed by an identical service for those vulnerable prisoners who are separated from the main prison population. Here we may have up to about 10 worshippers.

At each service, we are introduced by the Chaplain who explains that we will receive their prayers for family or personal concerns. Initially we return to the St John the Baptist Chapel at the Cathedral, where we pray through their prayers. These are then printed on to a small card which is placed on the Prayer Board by the Lady Chapel, and used each Monday at the Prayers for Healing Service. Also members of the Group undertake to use the prayers throughout the following month. If anyone is interested in learning more about this Group, please speak to Felicity Cawthra or Diane Coombes.

Diane Coombes



They're engaged!

Congratulations Cressida and Tim

We send our love and congratulations to Cressida Peers, the Cathedral Events and Christmas Market Manager, and Timothy Parsons, Assistant Director of Music, who have announced their engagement.

The wedding will be in the Cathedral in August.

Town Hall Meetings 2020

The dates of the Town Hall Meetings for volunteers and staff in 2020 are:

25th March, 11:30 – 13:30

18th May 11:30 – 13:30

6th October 11:30 – 13:30

15th December 11:30 – 13:30.

Please put these dates in the diary. These meetings are a great way to keep in touch with all that is happening in the Cathedral.

Tales from the Foodbank: Congratulations

Thank you all so much for your wonderful contributions to the Foodbank last month. I was thrilled to see so many items, and all of them just what were needed. The need does not diminish unfortunately, so please continue either at the Cathedral, or when you do your shopping. Any list of priorities will be on the notice board when I receive them.

The next Cathedral Foodbank Collection will take place on **Sunday 23rd February** at the 10 am Service.

Felicity Cawthra

From the Cathedral Flower Arrangers

This is a “quiet” 6 weeks before Lent begins. We started the year with a peaceful classic of green and white – fresh foliage, but did you spot the blooms were all silk? Then came green and yellow, with fresh flowers, for another 2 weeks, and we close the “arranging year” with a dried example. Tina is especially good at putting these nave arrangements together so we look forward to seeing what she does this time.



Did you see the wonderful interpretation of the Three Kings that Rosemary did at the High Altar? It was different, but very much in keeping with our beautiful building – three lime green trees and beautiful branches with lichen, looking like the Kings travelling to Bethlehem.

I have been on a shopping trip to add to our silk flowers. Over the past few years I have made friends with ladies from Peony – an importer of silk flowers near Albrighton – who sell to the likes of John Lewis, and the TV sales channel. When I visit there, I buy from their bargain boxes. This time the ladies helped me with a huge selection of flowers in various colours, enough to use in the four pillars in the nave. They threw in a quantity of freebies – several colours – which we will make good use of. So thanks to the lovely people from Peony, we may well, later in the year, have a sale of those flowers we no longer use – bargain prices to the congregation! In this way we will recoup some of our spend, but recycle some of our silks. If you wish to know more about Peony do ask me – but look out for our sale and please support us.

Flick Evans, Exeter Cathedral Flower Arrangers

Publication Date and Deadline for March 2020

We intend to publish the next edition of the News on 1st March 2020. Please send material by **Tuesday 25th February 2020** 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 Catherine Escott.



BIG GREEN EVENT

Exeter Cathedral

Sat 22nd Feb 2020, 10-4.30

A festival of thought and action to join up faith and our environment

Panel discussion + Workshops including:
Biodiversity, Climate Science & Adaptation
Creative Responses, Direct Action, Energy & Travel
Engaging MPs, Food, International Perspectives
Theology, Worship

Keynote Speaker - Rt Revd Nick Holtam
Lead Bishop for the Environment

£8 to cover speaker costs. U16s free

Please book in Eventbrite (where more details) via:
<https://exeter.anglican.org/events/the-big-green-event/>

Book Review: *Why Pray?*

Why pray? If you have ever asked yourself this question, then this little book is one for you! Robert Llewelyn was an Anglican Priest and former Chaplain to the Shrine of Julian of Norwich; a prolific author, he wrote ten books on prayer, spirituality, Julian of Norwich and the Saints. The slim volume that is *Why Pray?* gathers together previously unpublished talks, articles and leaflets, and is a celebration of the importance of prayer for life. Its 126 pages divide neatly into four sections: What is Prayer? Advice on Prayer. Ways of Praying, and The Fruits of Prayer. Scattered throughout are quotes from men and women of prayer; Brother Roger of Taizé, Mother Theresa, George Herbert et al. Here are words on prayer as waiting, as offering, prayer as praise, silent prayer and prayer as something to be worked at. A section on praying the Rosary makes a claim for the value of repetitive prayer, and there are pointers on how to deal with the intrusion of distracting thoughts.

Why Pray? addresses the question “What is Prayer?” One definition Robert Llewelyn gives is....***“prayer is holding on to God until we move into the knowledge that we are being held...”***. For me, part of the significance of that quote is the use of the word ‘move’. For to say... ***‘move into knowledge’***, rather than to acquire, seek or gain it, is evidence of someone who recognises how people learn and become who they are. Someone who goes on to say....***“If you want to learn how to pray, you must understand that being is more important than doing.....right doing springs from right being.....instead of expressing our being, our doing often disguises it...”*** for me, a self-confessed ‘doer’, food for thought indeed! What is being disguised by my busyness? Challenging.

The sections on “Prayer as Praise” and “The Sacrifice of Praise” tackle how to live in a spirit of praise and thankfulness when adverse circumstances of life hit us, ambush us even. Here we are urged not to allow situations to drive us to bitterness and regret, despondency and despair. The antidote to despair being praise and thanksgiving. Back here to prayer needing to be worked at, and Robert Llewellyn suggests....***“If we build up the habit of praising God in the adverse circumstances of life we shall find ourselves living in the spirit of praise and thanksgiving.....”*** Note he says praise God ***in***, not ***for***, the adverse circumstances.....There is encouragement here too, as he suggests that our prayers, be they arrow prayers from the heart, repetitive prayers, the Eucharist and Daily Office, the Our Father, Hail Mary, or words from the psalms....are all means by which..... ***“the heart may learn to beat in the joy and stillness of God.....”***.

But how about when thoughts and words, or waiting and listening, just draw a blank? What then? He suggests asking yourself one question..... ***“do I desire to***

pray, am I desiring God?" If the answer is Yes, then, and Robert Llewelyn quotes St Augustine here, "*.....If the answer is Yes,..... then you are truly at prayer.*"

I've dipped in and out of this book frequently since buying it. Small in size, big in content, I recommend giving it a try.

Anne Foreman

WHY PRAY? Robert Llewelyn
Pub 2019 Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd
ISBN 978-0-232-53378-1
£7.99

From the Tapisers: A new Book Cushion for the Dean's stall in the Quire

I love stories! When the Dean asked us to make him a new book cushion, with his emblem of a stag with a cross between its antlers, I decided to look up the story behind the emblem. All the Quire stalls have heraldic shields above the seats – and they all have a story behind them.

After many centuries, the truth behind what happened to people we now know as saints and martyrs, is often buried in legends! However, some of their stories are still worth telling as examples of Christian faith – and such is the tradition of St Eustachius, a Christian martyr from the 2nd century AD.

According to tradition, Eustachius was a Roman general called Placidus, under the emperor Trajan. While out hunting Placidus saw a stag – but with a vision of the Crucifixion between the stag's antlers. This sight convinced him to convert to Christianity – and he and all his family were baptised... and he changed his name to Eustachius (or Eustace).

He was beset with many tragedies – his wealth was stolen, during a sea voyage his wife was kidnapped, his servants died from a plague, and his two sons were carried off by a wolf and a lion. Despite all these calamities, Eustachius never faltered in his faith towards his God. He was finally rewarded for his devotion, and was reunited with his family. However, the tradition continues that he and his family were tortured and killed by the emperor Hadrian for refusing to make a pagan sacrifice.

The new book cushion – with the emblem of St Eustachius - for the Dean is nearing completion, and will replace the present one which was made over seventy years ago.

Diana Symes, Chairman of The Company of Tapisers



Well Done, Cloister Club!

After the Choral Eucharist on 26th January, the Cloister Club Shop presented the Dean with a very large cheque. Before they handed over the cheque, Esther, the Cloister Club Shop manager, made this speech, which she had written specially for the occasion.

"Thank you very much to Pete for creating the Cloister Club Cathedral Shop and helping us organize it.

The Shop runs after the 10 O'clock service on Sundays in school terms and can be found near where coffee is served. We sell all sorts of things at a very cheap price, including cards which are super popular and gifts that will make you smile.

Thank you to all our customers who have supported us. You are all very generous. We have now raised £443.51 which is incredible

We would also like to present this money to the cathedral, to help keep this building beautiful."



News from the Head of Education

Exeter Cathedral Education Department is proud to have been short listed for the Exeter Living Awards in the *Excellent Education Category*. A big *well done* to all of those people whose work and volunteering has crossed over into our department during 2019 – wonderful job everybody!

Jonathan Greener's *Let's talk about Iconography*: Tuesday 24th March

Exeter's very own Dean invites you to a bespoke tour at the Deanery to discover the extensive collection of religious icons, which he has been collecting for over 25 years. This talk is being repeated by popular demand!

Jonathan will describe how icons are produced, and for what reasons, and how the materials can differ. There will be some examples from Russia, Georgia and another depicting the Transfiguration.

Tickets £20 with a glass of wine and conversation. Booking is essential as limited numbers. 6.30 - 8pm

Book online at www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/events or call 01392 285983

February Half Term Activities

Owl Trail-Pick up a map from the Welcome Desk for £1.50, hunt out the hidden owls, then return to the Welcome Desk for a feather friend prize.

Saturday 15th-Saturday 22nd February

There will be Cathedral Drop-in activities Wednesday 19th-Friday 21st 10.30am-12.30pm in the Nave. See website for more details.

Easter Holiday Activities for Children & Families

Monday 30th March – Thursday 9th April

Look at the website for specific sessions and booking.

We will be holding Drop – In Craft Mornings, bespoke Workshops for 6-11yr olds

The Wilton Diptych: Thursday 2nd April 12.30 - 13.30

Canon Ian Morte will talk about his favourite 14th Century work of art

If you appreciate art, history and religious interpretation you will enjoy this talk!

Ian will unlock for you the mysterious symbolism of this personal devotional item of King Richard II.

The painting is one of the great medieval treasures of the National Gallery in London.

Chapter House £5 on door

Book online at www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/events or call 01392 285983



Holy Ground **Sunday 9th February, 7pm**

God and Grenfell: How faith communities responded to the trauma and tragedy of the fire at Grenfell with the Revd Dr Mike Long

Local churches were at the frontline of offering practical and pastoral support in the aftermath of the Grenfell Fire. Tonight we hear the story from someone who was in the forefront of this ministry, and reflect on how we foster such generosity and

compassion in the lives of our own Christian communities.

Revd Dr Mike Long is Minister of Notting Hill Methodist Church and a member of the Methodist Church's Faith and Order Committee. He has studied Theology and Politics, focussing particularly on poverty, community engagement, and international debt. In the aftermath of the Grenfell fire, Mike became chair of the Shelter Commission discerning a new vision for social housing.

Sunday 8th March, 7pm: **Mother Katharine Hall SSC**

Experiences of L'Arche and Religious community (i.e. 'living together' – residential communities)

Sunday 10 May, 7pm: The Revd Catherine Duce

Sunday 14 June, 7pm: *Love is Love* **with the Revd David Runcorn**

Sunday 12 July, 7pm: *Is Religion Compatible with Social Progress* **with Professor Grace Davie**

What do we assume about the future of religion? And do our assumptions depend on which part of the world we live in? This talk draws on a recent research project to examine not only the continuing significance of religion in the 21st century but its many and varied contributions to social progress.

Grace Davie is Emeritus Professor of Sociology in the University of Exeter, and the author of *Religion in Britain: A Persistent Paradox* (2015). She is a Lay Canon of the Diocese of Exeter and part of the congregation of St James' in Exeter.

Sermon 26th January 2020 – Holocaust Memorial Sunday

There have been a number of requests for copies of this sermon, and we are grateful to Canon Mike Williams for sending us the text.

Tomorrow is Holocaust Memorial Day – today we recall the ‘people who sat in darkness’ and for years did not see a great light, as we heard described by Isaiah in our Gospel reading (Mt 4.12-23).

If your life depended on it could you remain silent? If you were in a dark place without hope of light could you survive? If your life depended on it and you were 4 years old could you stay silent? ‘The death of one person is a tragedy’ Joseph Stalin is reported to have said, ‘the death of a million is a statistic’. So I will tell you a story about one person, and then give a couple of reflections.

Daniel Gold learnt to stay silent at the age of four. It saved his life three times. He is now 83, a retired professor of medical microbiology in Israel, and still rides a BMW motorbike.

Prof Gold told his story of how he survived the Holocaust during my visit to Yad Vashem last September. Yad Vashem is the international centre for Holocaust study and memorial. Leaders from around the world gathered there last week to mark the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. It is on the outskirts of Jerusalem and acts as a reminder to the world of what genocide looks like on a scale on seen before in history.

Daniel Gold was born in Lithuania in 1937. At that time there were around 270,000 Jews living in the country. In 1941 the Nazis invaded, yet it was not the Nazis that came hunting for his Jewish family, it was other Lithuanians doing most of the killing of the Jews. His family were living in their apartment when the knock on the door came. Daniel’s father had told them all to keep silent – they did not answer the door. Their neighbours answered their door and were taken.

Later in his story he is with his mother, her sister and his cousins living in a ghetto. The men were all out at work in the Nazi run factory. A sweep of the ghetto for children by the Nazis started. In the kitchen of the house they had been allocated there was a small cellar, just a few feet square. His mother put Daniel and his two cousins in the cellar and put a mat and table over the door in the floor. It was dark, cold and cramped. The youngest cousin began to cry. The door opened and his mother took the crying boy out and then hid in the loft where they remained undiscovered for the full day. Daniel and one other remained in their cramped cellar and kept quiet for hours.

When the Nazis left the ghetto Daniel and his cousin were rescued by his

mother; they were in a poor way but alive. They had to stay indoors from then on – they were one of the very few children who had escaped the round up.

Some months later his parents arranged for some of them to escape the ghetto and travel to a remote farm. The farmer had agreed to help for a fee. They were hidden under the small farmhouse, lying on the ground, not able even to sit up. During the day they could not move or make any noise. Only during darkness could they venture out, eat and go to the toilet. They lived like that for several months before the war ended.

Daniel and his cousins survived along with his father. His mother did not. He went to live in Israel in 1952. He has never been back to Lithuania and has no intention of doing so. In addition to his job at Tel Aviv University he served as a pilot in the Israeli Defence Force and then, when he had to retire from that, he became a volunteer Police motor cyclist. Service to his country was deeply embedded in his world view. His closing remark to us was “You have to be strong in order to survive in an environment which is hostile.”

The Holocaust was the murder of approximately 6m Jews by the Nazis and their collaborators. 90% of Polish Jews were killed. In the ghettos Jews tried to help themselves by providing soup kitchens. But as Emanuel Ringelblum says:

‘Welfare does not solve the problem. It just prolongs life a bit more... It remains a tragic dilemma: what should we do? Should we distribute food in small portions to everyone, so nobody will survive – or should we give bigger amounts of food to a small number of people?’

In the Warsaw Ghetto it is estimated that 100,000 out of the 500,000 died of starvation.

‘The people who sat in darkness’ did not see a great light. The question is often asked where was God in the horrific reality of the Holocaust? That is to frame the problem of genocide theologically – to ask a God question. Yet genocide is a human question; we cannot escape the history of humanity which tells us that we are very capable of murderous actions towards other humans. Prof David Bankier of Yad Vashem states that: *‘The Shoah or Holocaust was unique because the technology and capacity increased to an industrial scale. As the capacity of modern life to create murder increases so must the moral standard also need to increase.’*

Yet many would say that God was present in the midst of the great suffering and evil. A helpful insight comes from Dr Avinoam Rozenak who says:

“God does not determine the fate of human beings. God determines the purpose. What I mean by purpose is that God doesn’t decide whether you go to Auschwitz and whether you are going to die in ten minutes. Your prayer won’t

help either. That is to say, God won't save you from there. God is what you decide to do in the remaining ten minutes. What is the meaning that you are prepared to give to your life in those last ten minutes? You can be egocentric in those last ten minutes. You can think only of yourself. You can decide to hug somebody and protect him and conceal from him what is going to happen, the way that parents protect their children, in those ten minutes. ...God is not responsible for fate. He is responsible for what you do with it."

As Isaiah says: "...For those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned".

For us Christ is that light. That light is what guides our purpose this and every day as we seek to stand up against genocide now and in the future. Amen.

Foundations in Christian Ministry

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The FiCM - What is it?

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- Applications by Easter

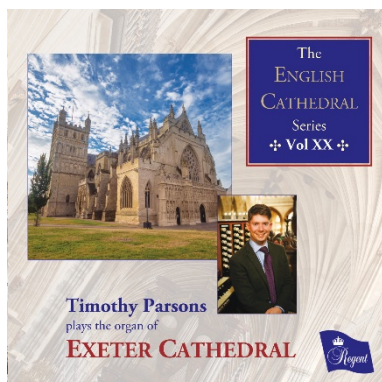
More information...

Rev David Carrington, Director of Lay Training, SWMTC

davecarrington@swmtc.org.uk Tel: 01404 850905 or www.exeter.anglican.org

Candlelight Concert: Friday 14th February

Join the Cathedral Choir for a special evening of seasonal music. Tickets available from the Events office. 01392 285983 and the Cathedral website.



CD Review:

Timothy Parsons plays the organ of Exeter Cathedral

The English Cathedral Organ Series Vol XX

Regent Records

(Available now in the Cathedral Shop)

Timothy writes “I am delighted to present this new recording of the Cathedral organ – the first since the major refurbishment by Harrison & Harrison of 2013-14. I have put together a programme which I hope will appeal to all tastes: there are pieces by Exeter composers (Locke and Wesley), contemporary music by Nico Muhly and Mark Blatchly, and popular repertoire by Vierne, Elgar, Messiaen and Mendelssohn. We started to record this in the last week of February 2018, but when the ‘Beast of the East’ arrived the organ suffered with the plummeting temperatures and we had to finish recording in April! I am grateful to Timothy Noon and to the Dean & Chapter for allowing me to make this recording, which I hope will be of interest to the many people who love to see and hear this wonderful instrument.”

Peter King has sent us this review:

This new release complements the Cathedral Choir’s excellent recent CD, issued twelve months ago. Like its companion it presents a variety of repertoire both from England and from mainland Europe, it features music from the baroque period to the present day and includes contributions from musicians with a connection to Exeter. It demonstrates not only the many different colours of the cathedral organ, but also the virtuosity and sensitivity of its performer, Timothy Parsons.

The programme opens with the *Sonata 3 in A* by Felix Mendelssohn the first movement of which is a magnificent homage to JS Bach with its mighty opening and closing sections (recalling the beginning and end of JSB’s “St Anne” Prelude) and its central fugal chorale fantasia on “Aus tiefer Not”. Parsons builds up excitement in this latter section by a particularly well judged *accelerando* and *crescendo*, carrying out to the letter the composer’s instruction to get gradually faster and louder until the reprise of the opening

music. The appearance of the Tuba (a stop unknown in Germany at the time, but probably known to Mendelssohn through his encounter with the very first of such stops at Birmingham Town Hall – originally called “Grand Ophicleide”, later renamed “Tuba Mirabilis”) will delight organ buffs.

Those who were fortunate enough to visit the organ gallery in 2014, while its famous case was empty and the instrument being restored in Durham, will have seen the graffito of the chorister Matthew Locke. When, one wonders, did he/we add a final E to his name? It is tempting to speculate that the *Te Deum* sung by “white-surpliced choristers” who welcomed William of Orange to the cathedral fifty years later was Locke’s work. The little *Voluntary* in A minor played here is an almost exact contemporary of the Exeter organ case and receives a stylish performance.



Although Organist at Exeter, SS Wesley’s time at the Cathedral also precedes the present instrument, though he did have a close association with Father Willis, who was eventually to provide the

cathedral with a new organ (1859) to occupy Loosemore’s splendid 17th Century case. Wesley’s *Larghetto* in F# minor is admirably well suited to the present instrument and receives a performance that nicely shows off some of its gentler colours, particularly the Oboe, a stop frequently suggested by Wesley in his compositions and always such an important part of Willis’s Swell choruses.

It was Father Willis’s grandson Henry Willis iii who, so the story goes, hummed the chimes of Big Ben down the telephone to Louis Vierne resulting in the well-known *Carillon de Westminster*. Only twice in the entire piece does Vierne present the various permutations of the four quarter bells in the order that is chimed by the clock each hour. At other times they appear in random order and some are of Vierne’s own imagination. Whilst this divergence may irritate some, it will be insignificant to the less horologically minded listener; the piece is much loved staple repertoire and presents the first chance on the recording to hear the full organ.

Whether by design or by chance the disc continues with the same musical contours, in the form of the notes F-C-D-B, representing the initials of the dedicatee of the piece, the performer himself – *Andante Sostenuto for TJYP*. The piece is scored for rich diapason tone, suggestive of a luscious string orchestra.

Edward Elgar’s *Imperial March* will be familiar to those whose rare encounters with the organ concern its rôle at great state occasions presented in grand

metropolitan churches. This is the Elgar, not of the *Cello Concerto*, or of *The Dream of Gerontius*, nor yet of *Salut d'Amour*, but of *Pomp and Circumstance* Marches, music used to lend weight to Jim Hacker's otherwise vapid prime ministerial broadcasts in the BBC comedy "Yes, Prime Minister".

The Revd Mustard his Installation Prelude by the American composer Nico Muhly is another piece of a personal nature with an Exeter connection; its eponymous dedicatee is now the Precentor at the Cathedral. Written in the minimalist style popularised by Philip Glass, John Adams etc, the music's delicate textures are dispatched with delightful clarity...

There could hardly be a greater contrast from what has gone before than that presented by the Brahms *Chorale Preludes* that follow. The filigree textures of the present century give way to the warm Romanticism of the late 19th. Whilst Mendelssohn was paying homage to JS Bach through referencing his grander organ pieces, Brahms is paying homage through miniatures, disciplined, almost severe, but within a restrained Romantic language. The best known of these is the manual only *Prelude* on the Advent hymn *Es ist ein Ros'*, also a favourite at weddings. There is some imaginatively colourful registration in both *O Gott, du frommer Gott* and *Herzlich tut mich erfreuen*. Indeed, throughout the disc Timothy Parsons treats the listener to a wealth of different organ colours, particularly in the various charming miniatures which permeate the disc.

The recording ends with two masterpieces from mid-twentieth century Paris. *Joie et Clarté des corps Glorieux* shows Timothy Parsons in jazzy mood, the jewel-studded wings of Olivier Messiaen's heavenly host flashing to the dance of the Trompette, high up in the Minstrels' Gallery. The music of Messiaen's similarly Gregorian chant obsessed contemporary Maurice Duruflé follows. The *Prélude et Fugue sur le nom d'Alain* is a homage to the composer's contemporary Jehan Alain, tragically killed at Saumur in 1940. The *Prelude*, a *tour-de-force* of lace-like patterns, played with enviable fluency and clarity, uses a wide palette of quiet colours before, in Parsons's words, "a moment of breathtaking poignancy" when Duruflé's Gregorian inspired melody reveals itself to have been all along a hidden variation of the main theme of Alain's best known work, *Litanies*. Timothy Parsons gives an exciting account of the fugue with a particularly well-judged *crescendo e accelerando*, bringing the recording to a thrilling climax. The CD is recorded to the high standard we expect from Regent records, the leading label in this area of classical music. The sound of the Exeter organ is faithfully reproduced from an imaginary position towards the South side of the crossing, with half an ear out for the East facing Choir organ giving the listener the best seat in the house.

Peter King, December 2019, Organist Emeritus, Bath Abbey

Cathedral Community Committee Awayday 11th January

The Cathedral Community Committee (CCC) spent Saturday 11th January at Mill House Retreats, Westleigh, near Tiverton. 14 of us, laity and clergy together, spent the day exploring three subjects: the Cathedral's Vision and Values, the Cathedral Community's contribution to the Year of Invitation and Welcome, and the CCC Action Plan for 2020/2021. It was a very productive day.

Vision and Values: This topic was led by Canon Mike Williams and Paul Reisbach. We looked at case studies from commercial companies and other Cathedrals to consider various models of vision and values statements, assessing what we thought worked and what did not. The next question was *Who is a vision and values statement for?* Having agreed that it was a statement for our own staff, worshippers and volunteers, we then suggested key words that might express what sort of a Community we are, or aspire to be. The preliminary conclusion was that a simple statement of values, supported by a more detailed statement of vision and purpose could be a good model. Much more work remains to be done on this but made a good start.

Year of Invitation and Welcome: This discussion was masterminded and led by Canon Chris Palmer and Clare Griffiths. The Dean set the context of the major development and fundraising planned for the next few years, but emphasised that this must not be at the expense of the worshipping and pastoral life of the Cathedral. Already the focus on invitation and welcome had borne fruit, with the large increase in the number of visitors and larger congregations during Advent and Christmas, of which more in next month's *News*. The question to consider was what work could the CCC undertake in the next 12 months, with the help of the wider Cathedral Community, to improve our shared ministry of invitation and welcome? We allowed ourselves only four projects, and each of us had to commit to enabling one of them to happen. The result was:

- Chris Brathwaite, Diane Coombes and Anne Foreman will immediately start the practice of emailing parishes and mission communities (incumbents and either churchwardens or PCC secretaries) to assure them of our prayers in the Cathedral in the week that they are named in the diocesan cycle of prayer. We hope that this will be the first of many initiatives to develop better communication between the Cathedral as mother church and the wider diocese.
- Clare Griffiths, Rosemary Bethell, Julia Featherstone, Canon Mike Williams and Paul Reisbach will develop a second tier of welcome, to follow up new members of the congregation. They will work with the Pastoral Care Team and others to achieve this.

- Julie Glover, the Revd Phil Wales and Heather Morgan will, adapt and deliver *Everyone Welcome*, a course designed to improve welcome in churches. We will try this out as a pilot for the CCC after Easter and more widely thereafter.
- Nicola Cowling, Clare Griffiths and the Dean will work with others, including SET, to organise an “Open Day” on a Sunday in the summer, with lunch, activities for all ages, and a menu of conversations. Everyone will be asked to wear name badges and we hope this will be enable both established and new members of the congregations to have a good time, get to know each other better, and have a good lunch.

CCC Action Plan 2020/2021: The Dean and Heather Morgan introduced this item. The Dean reminded us of his earlier comments about the context and urged us not to take on too much. I reminded colleagues that I had often expressed the hope for the CCC to develop an Action Plan that supports and links with the overall Cathedral Plan agreed by Chapter. A draft Action Plan was circulated with three questions for discussion: Do we approve the content/should we add or remove anything? What is the order of priority? How do we recruit people to the CCC and from the wider Cathedral Community to translate the plan into action?

The plan was approved. In spite of the Dean’s entirely appropriate caution, we deleted only one item from the draft, and then, with his enthusiastic support, proceeded to add several more; so we ended up with a longer list than we started with, which was rather a surprise!

I will put a copy on the Cathedral Community noticeboard but these are the key points.

Action Plan

During 2020 and as the Cathedral Development Plan proceeds, the CCC and the regular congregations will commit to focus on the regular round of worship, pastoral care, learning/ Christian nurture and hospitality.

The CCC will support Chapter in implementing the Cathedral Plan for 2020 and in particular will

- Work with Chapter to produce an agreed statement of vision and values
- Encourage and support improved attendance, either in person or online, at daily morning and evening prayer
- Support and promote the Cathedral *Rule of Life*
- Develop Christian nurture by time-limited book groups & prayer groups
- Contribute to the Year of Invitation and Welcome (as above)

- Enhance and support the work of Cloister Club, including provision for older children
- Establish an Open Sunday (as above)
- Support the Social Events Team chaired by James Hayward to complete recruitment and become established
- Start to build closer links with the diocese (as above)
- Broaden contact and awareness of our link Diocese of Melanesia
- Work with Chapter to embed a culture and awareness of Safeguarding
- Establish the new system of outward giving and support the work of the Special Appeals Group chaired by John Searle to have at least two special charitable appeal during the year
- At the appropriate time, to work with Chapter to establish, resource and develop the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Chapel
- Re-invigorate the Cathedral Prison Prayer and Support Group
- Assist with the development of, and advocacy for, the Wednesday Night Kitchen
- Help to build relationships, understanding and mutual support between congregations, staff and volunteers
- Support fundraising and parish giving, and help Chapter and staff to gain knowledge and support for the major work of the Cathedral Development Plan
- Revise the CCC constitution in time for the elections in the Spring with particular reference to having some continuity of membership and the recruitment of people with the skills and commitment to deliver this action plan

I am personally delighted that we have taken this step forward in strategic planning, and it has come at just the right moment, i.e. before the elections for the CCC in the spring, so that new members can be recruited knowing that there is valuable work to be done, and the skills and commitment needed to bring that to fruition.

This was a most creative and enjoyable day, which began and ended with worship. The venue was excellent. Many thanks to Clare Griffiths for her work in arranging the day, to all who contributed to planning the day, and to everyone who attended for the really positive outcome. As one colleague put it, “We didn’t just talk, we decided to do something!” Actually, we decided to do rather a lot, and we hope that there will be many others in the Cathedral Community who will want to be part of that work.

Heather Morgan

Shrove Tuesday Party: 25th February ***An Evening with Jonathan and Pamela Greener***

On Shrove Tuesday, 25th February the Social Events Team are holding a party in The Chapter House: *An Evening with Jonathan and Pamela Greener*. While they stimulate and entertain us with words and music, a supper of soup and cheese will be served. Tickets £5, to include a first drink, are on sale from the Cathedral Community table on Sunday mornings or from the Cathedral Shop throughout the week. All are welcome.

Ash Wednesday: 26th February

On Ash Wednesday, 26th February, the first day of Lent and the start of the season of penitence in preparation for Easter, there will be Solemn Eucharist at 5.30pm. During the service the Imposition of Ashes will be available.

Members of the congregation are asked to bring in old Palm crosses as soon as possible, so that the crosses can be prepared for the Ashes that will be used on Ash Wednesday. Please leave them at the Entrance Desk or give them to the Floor Managers.

Programme for Lent: Lent Group

Witnesses to the Resurrection

with the Revd Professor Chris Bryan

Five Sundays of Lent:

1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th March

11.45am – 1.00pm in the Pearson Room

Over five weeks, Chris will guide us in looking at accounts of the Resurrection in St Paul and in the Gospels. A chance as we prepare for Easter to reflect on the storytelling, theology, and challenge of the church's earliest witnesses to the Resurrection.

Prof Chris Bryan was for many years Professor of New Testament studies at the Sewanee: University of the South, in Tennessee; he has taught and ministered in many parts of the world, and lives and worships in Exeter in retirement.

It would help to know numbers attending this group. Please contact Canon Chris Palmer chris.palmer@exeter-cathedral.org.uk / 07906 249132



Programme for Lent: Exeter Cathedral Lent Lectures 2020
In the Chapter House after Evensong on the first four Sundays of Lent (5pm-6:30pm)

Sunday 1 st March, 2020 (The first Sunday of Lent)	The Rt Rev Nick McKinnel	The Bishop of Plymouth	'Mayflower: Journey of Faith'
Sunday 8 th March, 2020 (The second Sunday of Lent)	The Revd Canon Prof Susan Gillingham	Canon Theologian, Exeter Cathedral; Emerita Professor of the Hebrew Bible, University of Oxford	'Ps. 119: Preparing for Pilgrimage'
Sunday 15 th March, 2020 (The third Sunday of Lent)	Dr David Tollerton	Senior Lecturer in Jewish Studies and Contemporary Religion, University of Exeter	'Holocaust Remembrance and Pilgrimage'
Sunday 22 nd March, 2020 (The fourth Sunday of Lent)	Bishop Martin Shaw		Leading pilgrimages today.

*Photo:
Piers Ludlow*





Nick Horton

I would like to thank everyone in the cathedral community for your love and prayers since the sudden death of my husband Nick Horton on 4th December. Your many words and acts of kindness have given me great support and solace in these past few weeks.

I would especially like to thank those of you who contributed to Nick's funeral; I could not have wished for a more beautiful and uplifting service for him and it was so fitting that it took place here. Nick absolutely loved the cathedral, as the many paintings, photographs, books and CDs in our home testify! He had worshipped here for over 30 years and, since retirement, had found great enjoyment and meaning in his many and varied voluntary roles. These roles also gave Nick the opportunity to come to know many of you better and he truly valued the friendships he had made and further developed in recent years. Thank you to the cathedral community for helping to make Nick's life a truly happy one until the end – and thank you for your continued prayers and support.

With love,

Katherine Gwynne

For Sale

A member of the audience at one of the Cathedral Christmas concerts in December approached one of our stewards about a 1976 Hammond Dolphin organ in working order which she is anxious to dispose of. She would like to give it to anyone who might be interested. The only condition is that the purchaser would need to arrange to collect it from her home in Chudleigh.

If you are interested in this, please contact the donor

Mrs Margie Wilson

Tel: 01626 854982

Mobile: 07966391720

Space: Light and Sound Show

Thursday 5th March - Saturday 7th March

Take a journey to the moon and stars with a spectacular space-themed light and show. You will have the chance to travel out of this world and walk among the stars, when the interior of the Cathedral will be filled with a dramatic light and sound show, suitable for visitors of all ages.

Produced by artistic collaboration Luxmuralis, this stunning experience will transform the interior of the Cathedral into a visual journey to the edge of the universe and back.

Entrance to this show is every 15 minutes per booked time slot, between 6:30pm and 9pm on the 5th-7th March. The experience will last up to one hour, as visitors can explore the installation at their own pace.

For further information and to book tickets please see the Cathedral website, but be quick as ticket demand has been very high.



Prayer

On 30th January, at the *Rule of Life* evening, about 30 people were present in the Pearson Room to receive the benefit of Bishop Martin Shaw's insight and guidance on worship, daily prayer and daily reading of the Bible. It was a memorable evening in which we learnt a great deal, and it ended with a reminder of the beauty and power of the evening office of Compline, which we said together. We hope that Bishop Martin will share some of his talk in future editions of the *News*.

Meanwhile, there is helpful information about prayer on the Cathedral website. Please follow this link. <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/worship-music/join-us-for-worship/explore-prayer/>

Confirmation Preparation

Would you like to be confirmed? Preparation will begin on 15th March for a Confirmation Service on 17th May. Full details and dates will be in the Weekly Sheet and notices from 9th February. Please contact Canon Chris Palmer for more details at chris.palmer@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

The Diary for February

These are some more of the highlights from the Cathedral Diary for February. For more details, please see the Cathedral website.

- 3rd Voice Trials for the Cathedral Choir
Meeting of Exeter Music Foundation Trust
- 4th Meeting of Exeter Cathedral School Governors
- 6th *Anniversary of the Queen's Accession*
7pm Meeting of the Social Events Team
- 8th 5.30pm "Come and Sing" Evensong attended by Devon Area RSCM
- 10th 2pm Contemplative Prayer Group in St John the Baptist Chapel
- 11th 6.30pm Cathedral Community Committee Meeting
- 12th 7pm Blundell's Spring Concert
- 14th 7pm Cathedral Choir Candlelight Concert
- 15th 1.15pm Informal Lunchtime Concert: Exeter Recorder Orchestra
- 22nd The Big Green Event Environmental Conference
- 24th 3.30pm Free Music Training Session for teachers
- 25th 7pm Shrove Tuesday Party
- 26th *Ash Wednesday* 5.30pm: Solemn Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes
- 28th 12noon Mothers' Union Prayers in the Lady Chapel

Tree of Life and Open Heavens Exhibition

If you haven't yet seen this wonderfully colourful and inspiring exhibition of woven works by Jacqui Parkinson, don't miss it. These large panels are situated in the South Quire Aisle opposite the entrance to the Cathedral Shop, and will be there until 22nd February.

And while you are in the South Quire Aisle, please also have a look at the lovely work on the Cloister Club noticeboard-a display by our children and young people depicting Jesus's commission to the disciples to be "fishers of people".

More for the Lent Programme

We are hoping to run at least two book groups during Lent. More details will appear imminently in the Weekly Sheet and Cathedral website.