



From the Dean:



Alleluia! Christ is risen!

It's a long time since our last edition of *Cathedral News*, so let me begin by wishing you all a very Happy Easter. I'm much missing seeing you all, and having the chance to greet you with those words in person at a service in the Cathedral. Hearing the congregation's enthusiastic response "**He is risen indeed!**" is always a source of Easter joy and hope - something we need more than ever in today's world.

I am aware that some people reading this will not have been able to keep in touch with our weekly online newsletter. So perhaps I might take this opportunity to summarise what has been going on at the Cathedral in these unprecedented times, with apologies to those who've heard it all before. Although that word 'unprecedented' has been overused in recent weeks, it does truly apply to us at the Cathedral: this is the first time ever we have been closed for worship in peace time in the whole of our history. It is so hard for all of us involved with the Cathedral that we can pro tem no longer be the gathered people of God.

Although we cannot gather, our daily worship continues. Those of you who have internet access can join us on Sunday morning at 10am, and on weekday evenings at 8.30 for Sung Compline by one of our choral scholars. From 4 May, we are also putting Morning and Evening Prayer on screen each day, via Zoom; and this has the advantage that if you cannot join us on line, you can still telephone in. Full details are given later in this *Cathedral News*.

We are also doing our best to keep the community together - via the telephone and the computer. I'm constantly amazed at how ingenious people are at 21st century social interaction. But perhaps you haven't heard from us. If you would like to do so, please email pastoral.care@exeter-cathedral.org.uk or call Canon Chris Palmer on 07906 249132. You can also let Chris know if there are particular people you'd like us to pray for.



With the building closed, much of our work has come to an abrupt end, as of course has a significant part of our income - for we are now receiving nothing from visitors, events, the cafe or the shop. We have therefore had to put the majority of our staff on furlough, and we are grateful to the Chancellor of the Exchequer for his funding for the furlough scheme. This means that we are coping financially for the time being, though life will get much tougher when the Government scheme ends, and we open our Cathedral doors again with much reduced income. We appreciate that this is a challenging time financially for many people, but we also know that some people's outgoings are a lot lower than normal. If any of you are able to make an extra donation to the Cathedral, it will make a huge difference in helping safeguard our future. And we are of course enormously grateful to those who have already sent us a special gift.

Although a lot of staff are on furlough, those still here are working feverishly - not least to progress our Development Project. It was so exciting to receive a positive response from the National Lottery, and we have now realised how timely this was. The Lottery have closed their applications for new projects, so had we not pushed ourselves to get the application in for their last funding round, we'd have had to wait at least 12 months to be able to make any progress with the project. Camilla Finlay, our architect, and John Allan, our archaeologist, are currently assembling a team of specialists to start our investigations and prepare the plans, we need to secure the necessary permissions from the Cathedrals Fabric Commission and the Local Authority. And we are also working hard to design an accompanying activity programme, which will attract more people through our doors, and broaden our appeal to those who tend to think the Cathedral is not really a place for them.

All this work should allow us to make a further application to the Lottery in 12-15 months' time, and it's only if we are successful in that round that work will actually start on the Cloister Gallery outside the Chapter House, and on the East End of the Cathedral. There is of course a major job to do to raise match funding, and we were thrilled to hear from the Prince of Wales that he has agreed to be Patron of our Fundraising Appeal. Jill Taylor is busy planning a launch for our appeal - though the timing of this is of course more complicated than would normally be the case. Watch this space!

In the meantime, we are very pleased to be in a position to start work on the Chapter House some time during the summer. Thanks to some very generous gifts, we have funds in place to install new underfloor heating in the Chapter House, and, we hope, to refurbish the adjacent Holy Spirit Chapel as part of

these works. More news about this will follow when we have clearer ideas about the timescale.

We are as always grateful to Heather Morgan and the editorial team for putting this edition of *Cathedral News* together - in more demanding circumstances than usual. We hope it will play a part in keeping you in touch with other members of the Cathedral Community. Of course we hope that it won't be too long before we can all meet up to share our news face to face, but in the meantime, we pray that you will keep safe and healthy at home.

Jonathan Greener

Catching up

While we've been away

- Mary Ogley was 90 on 19th March. Happy Birthday, Mary.
- John and Sheila Stirling celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary on 2nd April. Warmest congratulations to them.
- William and Sylvia Burkinshaw wrote to say thank you for their leaving gift, and for the kind words when we said farewell. They managed to fit the carpets and curtains in their new home, but they were just too late to move in before the current restrictions. They are happily and safely settled in temporary accommodation.
- Margaret Guyver has had hip replacement surgery and is recovering well. We send her our very best wishes.

A tribute from The Company of Tapisers

I would like to pay tribute to Mary Ogley, on the occasion of her 90th birthday, who has been a devoted member of The Company of Tapisers for a long time. She was an enthusiastic Tapiser in the canvas group – contributing to the stitching of many tapestry cushions and kneelers. Mary was also our almoner for ten years – diligently looking after members by sending birthday cards, get-well cards and making visits to members unable to attend the weekly meetings.

Although her stitching days are over now, Mary continues to visit the group every week – having a coffee and chatting about family and friends, encouraging us with work-in-progress and asking about former Tapisers.

Her devotion to The Company of Tapisers has never waived and she is an amazing lady who I feel privileged to know.

Thank you, Mary, for all you have done for the Tapisers over the years – your contribution has been significant and is greatly appreciated.

Diana Symes Chairman of The Company of Tapisers

The Cathedral's Financial Position

Financial Position

Historians are beginning to use the term BC-AC: Before Covid - After Covid. Hope of a V shaped recovery for the economy are fast disappearing as the rules for social distancing look to remain in place until a vaccine is widely available. Might I suggest that the historians will have to add DC to their term – During Covid.

In recent decades Exeter Cathedral, along with many others, have diversified to generate income to help pay for the provision of services with choral music, maintaining and improving the fabric of the building, the provision of education and to be an attraction for visitors. We rely hugely on volunteers but there has been an increase over the years in the costs of paid staff. The Friends and Music Foundation Trust, set up by our wise predecessors, are now major contributors to meeting the costs of the Masons who work tirelessly on the building and the choir who are at the foundation of our daily and weekly worship.

We do not have major assets or investments; most of the property around Cathedral Green was once owned by the Cathedral but sold off to meet the pressing financial needs of the day. We rely on our income each year to balance the budget. The difficulty in achieving sufficient income meant that a number of years ago Chapter introduced a charge for visitors, which has become a major contribution to our income of over £400K per year. We took over running the Christmas Market to boost the profit. It made over £120K for us in 2019. Events, concerts and commercial activities (shop, café, car park) bring in around £150K and we budget just under £150K coming from collections at services, envelop offerings, donation boxes and candles. At the moment all those income streams have stopped. If the social distancing rules remain in place for this year that is a potential loss of over £800K.

We are immensely grateful to those who give regularly to the Cathedral though Standing Orders – that accounts for £110K income at the moment. We receive a grant from the Church Commissioners that pays the stipends, but not the accommodation, for the Dean, Precentor and Chancellor, and meets the cost of the Administrator and Finance Manager. The Music Foundation Trust is contributing £160K this year and the Friends £125K for the masons and around £125K towards building projects and to help meet other costs. We also have a grant this year to help pay for the Development Office as they raise funds for the major capital projects planned with the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

At the moment around 90% of our staff are on furlough. That means the government is paying 80% of their salary. We received a government a one off

grant of £25K each for the café and shop. The current government schemes were designed to enable us to send as many of our staff home as possible. Effectively, it put us into hibernation. Our concern is that the recovery of tourism, large scale events and even normal choral services may not return for many months. How long the furlough scheme will last, if at all, beyond the end of June is not known. If that support ends before our income streams recover, we do not have sufficient reserves to last for very long with our current costs.

We are in dialogue with the National Church and Church Commissioners providing them with the sense of urgency and scale of the challenge that we face. They are making supportive noises but no detailed response so far.

Your thoughts, prayers and any financial contributions will be appreciated during this time as Chapter grapple with the enormity of the challenge.

Revd Canon Dr Mike D Williams, Canon Treasurer

How we can all pull together to make a difference

I am sure we are all grateful to Mike Williams, our Canon Treasurer, for setting out with such clarity the urgent financial challenge we face here at Exeter Cathedral. Looking at the figures, I appreciate they appear too daunting for any one of us to make much difference. That is why we are negotiating with the Church Commissioners, and any other body we can think of, to find out what help they might provide. But we here in Devon can make a real difference, if we act together. Here's what I have in mind...

If everyone who reads our online newsletter were able to give an extra £5 per week for the next 12 months, and by Gift Aid wherever possible, we'd be able to face the future with much greater hope. Clearly not everyone will, or be able to give, and some will be in a position to give much more, but if we can all push ourselves to give whatever we can afford, and encourage our friends and neighbours to do the same, we stand a real chance of surviving what otherwise is going to be a major catastrophe for Exeter Cathedral.

There's a Gift Aid form here for you to fill in and post back to the office - or for those of you with the capacity, you can go to our website and complete the form online: <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/support-us/how-to-donate/>

Please don't spend too long thinking about this. If we all act today, it will make a massive difference.

Thank you - from the bottom of our hearts.

Jonathan Greener

Hard words to love

There are some words around Christian living that can cause an inner resistance, but which, I think, we can take to heart.

‘Rule’

Rules remind us of school – and detentions if we don’t keep them. But Christians speak about a ‘Rule of Life’ and religious communities have a ‘Rule’. ‘Rule’ simply means a straight line – as in a ‘ruler’ (another reminder of school, I know!). Imagine you see Jesus ahead, the finishing post of the race you are to run (the image in Hebrews 12:1-2); the surest way to the finishing post in a sprint is a straight line. Deviations to the right and left, impulses that cause us to take our eye off the goal, and distract us from keeping our eyes on Jesus.

‘Discipline’

Another word that reminds us of school! But discipline comes from the same root as ‘disciples’ – someone who is learning. So, discipline is about hanging on the words of Jesus, learning from him, doing as he does, and being attentive to his ways. Of course being a disciple means staying attentive and conscientious – and at times it’s hard work – but it also comes with the joy of learning from the master.

‘Obligation’

This is more associated with the Roman Catholic Church, which talks of an obligation to attend the Eucharist on Sundays and Holy Days. But it’s a useful idea for all Christians in considering our responsibility as part of Christian community. We dislike obligations, which sound like an imposition on us. But the root meaning is to be ‘bound’ to or devoted to something; and we use ‘devotion’ quite happily of our spiritual practice. Because I’m bound to and devoted to my family, I share meals with them. This is a joy and a duty; if I consistently fail to eat with them, our family life is weakened. The obligation to share in Christian community and worship is similar, a sign that we are devoted to God and one another.

The Cathedral Rule of Life

Many of you follow the Cathedral’s Rule of Life – details of which are on our website. During this time of lockdown and social distancing we need to make adjustments to how we inhabit this Rule. But many of us are finding that ‘rule’, the ‘discipline’, and the ‘obligation’ are more important than ever at present – and are life-giving rather than life-limiting.

Do take a closer look at the Cathedral’s Rule of Life [<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Rule-Online-Booklet.pdf>]. And if you’d like to join the 60 others who have committed to this Rule as an expression of their discipleship, do email me. **Canon Chris Palmer**

Holy Ground 10th May is on!

Sunday 10th May at 7pm

The Desert in the City with Revd Catherine Duce

Via YouTube and Zoom

Charles de Foucault once famously remarked that if we need to go to the desert to find God, then everyone trying hard to survive in a bustling city would need to have a little strip of desert with them.

Drawing upon insights from the Nazareth Community and the HeartEdge network, this evening's Holy Ground will seek to nurture a desert community in the heart of Exeter, where people can discover God's presence continuously in their midst. Together we will experiment with silence, sacrament, scripture, sabbath, sharing and staying with.

Revd Catherine Duce is Assistant Vicar for Partnership Development at St Martin-in-the-Fields. Through HeartEdge, a network of churches, she encourages congregations in London to engage with culture, compassion and commerce. Her appointment has been made possible because St Martin's has been designated a resource church by the Diocese of London. Catherine is also a founding member of the Nazareth Community, an experiment in being with God, with one's neighbour and with oneself in the centre of London.

Catherine served a four year curacy at St Stephen's, Rochester Row in the Diocese of London. Before ordination she worked in theological action research at Heythrop College and Ripon College Cuddesdon. She has co-authored two books: *Researching Practice in Ministry and Mission: A Companion*; and *Talking about God in Practice: Theological Action, Research and Practical Theology*.

We're delighted that Holy Ground will be going ahead on YouTube and Zoom. Catherine's talk will be available on YouTube a couple of days before the service. On the evening, we invite you to join us on Zoom for a 40 minute service, including hearing the talk together, then, after a break to make a coffee, return at 8pm for questions and a conversation in response to the talk.

Topic: Holy Ground at Exeter Cathedral

Time: May 10, 2020 07:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84666509907>

Meeting ID: 846 6650 9907

Dial by your location

0131 460 1196 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 846 6650 9907



From the Cathedral Flower Arrangers

The Flower Arrangers had a very unusual Easter, to say the least. Generally, our arranging year starts on Holy Saturday, arranging throughout the Cathedral with flowers in most chapels as well as the usual high-profile positions. The team concerned talk and plan this in advance, and we try to make it very special, as it is so lovely to return our beautiful Cathedral to its more regular appearance, after the simple and unadorned thought-provoking surroundings of Lent. A small team from the rota would also have put together the Easter Garden and the Altar of Repose for Maundy Thursday; that would have taken a number of hours in Holy Week.



This year, once it was clear that there would be some sort of a lockdown, we cancelled all the pre-ordered fresh flowers, and decided we would use silks if we were able to arrange as planned. As the days progressed, rather quickly it became clear that a number of us would be expected to stay at home, so another plan was put in place. Two of us used our beautiful silk lilies, mixed with other flowers to arrange 4 huge pedestals so that the Floor Managers could put them in place in the Nave for Holy Saturday. The Dean had asked for more colour this year, so we mixed some strong gold in with the lilies to try to keep everyone happy. You may have seen one of those arrangements in

the Deanery Chapel during the streamed Eucharist on Easter Day, and also in the Precentor's home.

That was during the day on Monday 23rd March, before the formal announcement of the lockdown. I quickly removed the fresh flowers in St Gabriel's Chapel and replaced them with a silk arrangement, in case no-one could pop in to change them; we always have fresh flowers there because the Host is kept in that Chapel. It's just as well I did that, because by now anything fresh would not be very pleasant!

So – sitting in the Cathedral are some flowers waiting for the moment the Cathedral can open – even in a small way – and until we are all rejoicing that we can once again share our wonderful building, glorious music, beautifully crafted vestments, and our flowers. Let us hope it is not too far away.

Flick Evans, Exeter Cathedral Flower Arrangers



Elizabeth's Covid-19 Run For Hospiscare

Sunday 26th April would have been the London Marathon - I had a place! In these strange and sad times the wonderful work of Hospiscare goes on and like all charities fund raising is not easy with the coronavirus. So I decided to do a marathon! To keep within Government restrictions I did it over two days; 16 miles on April 21st and 10.3 on April 22. If you are able to sponsor me for Hospiscare I would be so grateful.

With love, Liz Searle (77 years!)

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/elizabeth-searle-covid>

For our prayers

Those who are sick or in need: Steven, John Thompson, Lilian Lovell, David Rippon, Pat Webster, Rosemary Joy, Gary Lord, Emily Appleton, Marie Graham, Jane Jones, Joyce Njokou, Lilian Knight, Niamh Knowles, Dan Knowles, Archie Knight, Tim Thomas, Lucian Nethsingha, Ilya, Yve Taylor, Joan Winstone, Phil Chavez, Lorraine Chavez Steve Chacon.

Rest in peace: Stephen Harrow, Jean Robinson, Pamela Reynolds, John Morris, Eileen Morris, Ronald Bakere, Richard Proctor, Thelma Down, George Devlin, Ralph Martin, Baby Logan Webb.

Please pray for those recently bereaved: Leila Brown, Lloyd Webb & Gemma Channing and their family.

The Cathedral Prayer List is current as we go to press. It is updated weekly in the online service sheet on Sunday morning.

Keeping in touch

Over the last few weeks we've been publishing weekly information, but have slowly settled into a pattern on many of these things – so the information below now applies each week, the contacts, times, and login details. Any variations will be notified in future editions of *Cathedral News* and *Cathedral Life*.

Having established this pattern gives us space to concentrate on new things, particularly some programmes of Christian nurture, in the coming months. So look out in coming weeks – there will be further opportunities for learning, growth, and prayer.

Pastoral Support

We'd love to hear from you in joy or sorrow – keeping connection whilst we're physically distancing. Please contact: pastoral.care@exeter-cathedral.org.uk or 07906 249132. We're also keen to hear about members of the Cathedral Community who might have been overlooked – those we could help or who would just like a chat.

On Telegram

Our Telegram Group has around 60 members and is a gentle means of keeping in touch with people during the lockdown. It's easy to use; just download the Telegram messenger app [<https://telegram.org/>] for phone and sign up. If I have your mobile phone number in my contacts, I should be notified that you've joined and will invite you to join the group. If I don't make this invitation, do send an email to Canon Chris Palmer [chris.palmer@exeter-cathedral.org.uk] and he will be pleased to add you.

On Zoom

Do join one of our – now weekly – Zoom meet ups. We have some simple instructions on how to join <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Zoom-instructions-31-March-2020.pdf>

Sundays at 11.00am, hosted by Canon Chris Palmer.

Coffee and Chat

Following the broadcast of the morning Eucharist, join us to meet together <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73253586706>

Meeting ID: 732 5358 6706

Mondays at 1.00pm, hosted by Howard Moffat

Prayers for Healing

The regular Prayers for Healing group, bringing the needs of our world and community to God. We're sending this link – and emailing the service sheet – to

members of our community who ask. Please email pastoral.care@exeter-cathedral.org.uk for an invitation.

Tuesday 5, 12, 19 May at 8.00pm, hosted by Clare Bryden

Lectio Divina Group

Lectio Divina, or divine reading, is an ancient form of praying with Scripture. We listen to the Bible with the “ear of the heart”, with the aim of nourishing and deepening our relationship with God. We’ll be using the Gospel reading for the day. Please see Clare’s article on page 20 about what to expect, and the three Gospel readings.

5 May – John 10.22-30

12 May – John 14.27-31

19 May – John 16.5-11

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/846835040>

Meeting ID: 846 835 040

Fridays at 11.00am, hosted by Revd Phil Wales

Coffee and Chat

<https://zoom.us/j/977574807>

Meeting ID: 977 574 807

On the phone

Fridays at 10.30am

A simple Service of the Word with contributions from a range of people, a couple of hymns, and a short address, hosted by Canon Cate Edmonds. It only takes a moment, so why not give it a go.

Ring 03306060403, then when asked key in 484444#

And finally

It’s brilliant to see the ways that so many people in our community have created connections, and are using phone, email, video-conferencing, and messenger groups to keep contact. Do share your ideas of what works, so that others can learn from your experience.

Exeter Foodbank

All foodbanks are stretched to their limit by increased need and demand. Our Exeter Foodbank has specially asked for donations of tinned meat, jams, spreads, rice, instant coffee and tinned sponge puddings.

If you are shopping, please give generously if you can. It may also be possible for you to donate to the Foodbank if you shop online. Thank you.

Felicity Cawthra

What can I do about the Climate Emergency? Part 4

Or... How can we work together to save our life-support system and cherish God's good creation? Because although we are focused on COVID right now, the climate emergency remains.

Many people have already been thinking about the relationship between the two: how COVID was triggered by human activity, venturing too far into wilderness; how the reduction in polluting industrial activity and traffic during lockdown has led to improved air quality, less noise, a resurgence in wildlife, and greater connection to the outdoors during our allotted exercise time; and the opportunity presented to reimagine our economies and lifestyles more sustainably.

However, COVID also poses a threat to climate action. One recent, suspected COVID-related, death was sadly that of Sir John Houghton on 20th April. Sir John was a climate scientist and former director general of the Met Office. In 2007 he accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Two days later, on Earth Day, Greta Thunberg wrote on Facebook: "The changes needed to safeguard future living conditions for all species won't come from governments or businesses. It will come from the best available science and public opinion. So it's up to us." Two days after that, she wrote on Twitter: "Today we had planned a global climate strike with millions taking part. But in an emergency you have to adapt and change your behaviour. The climate crisis is still ongoing and we must fight every crisis."

Lockdown is tough, so I suggest we try to reframe it as an opportunity. Not just to think about what you might change when things 'get back to normal' – we can't go back to our abnormal 'normal'. How instead might we live differently now?

Clare Bryden

Thank you.....

To the clergy, their families, the Choral Scholars, the choristers and their families, the IT experts who guide us, and to all who are working so hard to enable the Cathedral Community to worship together and to keep in touch during the lockdown. We hope that *Cathedral News* will also help to bring different parts of the Cathedral Community together. We are particularly concerned to reach those who don't have email, or can't easily be in contact online. Please let us know of anyone in that situation, so that we can post them a copy of the *News*. Please don't assume someone else will tell us. It's much better to have the same name several times than to miss someone out.

Worship

Sunday

9am Cloister Club on Zoom or YouTube

10am Choral Eucharist

www.facebook.com/exetercathedral

Daily, Monday to Saturday

9am Morning Prayer

Zoom ID 862 6900 5004 / Tel. 0203 051 2874

5pm Evening Prayer

Zoom ID 892 3161 5055 / Tel. 0203 051 2874

8.30pm Compline led by the Choral Scholars

www.facebook.com/exetercathedral

Saturdays

6.00pm. Holy Communion (BCP)

<https://www.youtube.com/exetercathedral>

Fridays at 8pm

Corporate Silence and Stillness

Bishop Martin Shaw writes:

*Some of you will feel that, because of current restrictions, you have quite enough silence. However, having silent prayer and meditation, in your own home, **at the same time as others**, can make a qualitative difference to meditation, as there are others who will be sharing it with you. So each Friday, you are invited to join in 20 minutes of Silence and Stillness until 8.20pm. No need to login or search about on apps etc. Be there and be still, be silent. There's a blessed intimacy in it.*

Prayers for Mission Communities and Parishes in the Diocese

The Cathedral Community Committee is continuing to email mission communities and parishes to let them know when they are being prayed for in the Cathedral. It is clear from the replies to those emails that both the prayers, and the personal contact are much appreciated. We follow the Diocesan cycle of prayer, and details of those for whom we are praying daily are given every evening at Compline. Thank you to Diane Coombes, Chris Brathwaite and Anne Foreman for their work on this.

Accessing the livestreamed services on Facebook

We know that some members of the congregation have found it difficult to tune in to the Sunday morning Choral Eucharist so we asked Clare Bryden to give us the benefit of her expertise. We hope these notes will be helpful. Thank you Clare.

The service booklets are available to download in advance from the Cathedral website at <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/worship-music/live-services/>.

The Cathedral's Facebook page is at <https://www.facebook.com/exetercathedral> or if you have a Facebook account, search for Exeter Cathedral.

On a computer, you will see a menu of options down the left-hand side. While a service is being livestreamed, there will be a red LIVE indicator beside Videos. The livestream will also appear as the top post in the central column of the page – it takes a short while to load.

Click on the livestream video to watch it. You can click on an icon at the bottom right of the video to view it fullscreen. You might need to click on the loudspeaker icon to get sound.

On the device (phone or tablet) app, the livestream will appear in a small box at the bottom right with a red LIVE indicator. Tap on this video, and rotate the device to watch it full screen.

At the end of the livestream or recorded video, some browsers and devices start playing another random video, so be ready to click/tap Cancel or close your browser window.

You do not need a Facebook account to watch the livestreams

You need to click on the link <https://www.facebook.com/exetercathedral>.

On a computer, you will be presented with two “Log in” or “Create New Account” options overlaying the bottom of the screen. Scroll down the page slightly and these will become more prominent and prevent you reading the page. But there is now also a small “Not Now” link. Clicking on this will take you back to the previous view. Otherwise, you can see the same as a user with an account, as above.

On a device, you will need to scroll down to a section of Videos. You will be presented with Log In or Register options at the bottom of the screen, and you can tap a small grey cross at the top right of this box to close it and keep scrolling.

You do not need to watch the livestream ‘live’

It may be less stressful to watch the video slightly later. The downside is that

you will miss out on the shared experience.

On the Facebook page there is a link to Videos. Here you can find all the recordings of the Sunday 10am Eucharists and Monday-Saturday Compline.

The direct link is <https://www.facebook.com/pg/exetercathedral/videos/>.

What if the livestream stops?

Start again from the top of these instructions, and keep trying until the red LIVE indicator reappears.

Jean Robinson

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Jean Robinson in her 90th year. After moving to Exeter from Lancashire, Jean and her late husband, Peter, ran the Post Office and general store in Whipton for many years. They were part of the Sunday Morning Sung Eucharist congregation, and among the founder members of the Social Committee, which arranged the first parties and outings for the Cathedral Community in the 1970s. Jean also formed the first pastoral care team for the Cathedral. Working with the Revd Greg Daxter, Priest Vicar, she set up a team called Contact, and arranged visits, shopping and transport for members of the congregation who were sick, bereaved or in difficulty. She worked very hard and selflessly for the Cathedral Community, and very much missed attending services when she became too unwell to leave The Lodge, to which she moved several years ago.

From Lisa Gordon, Head of Education

Here is a poem that was sent to me. I wanted to share it as we can all identify with our current reality in its most simple terms, as expressed, I'm sure.

Covid 19

The corona virus -
well, can I say?
The impact on lives
takes my breath away.
Everyone home, behind a door
from the rich to the very poor -
just essential workers going out.
Thanks to them, holds no doubt
that one day it will be over
and we can again, walk in clover.

Janet Broom



David Conway

David's funeral took place on 10th March. By common consent, it was a warm, dignified, and moving occasion, of which David would undoubtedly have approved. During the service, Canon Chris Palmer read this tribute written by David and Peggy's son, Trevor. We are very grateful to Trevor for sending it to be printed in the Cathedral News.

David was born in 1930 in Southernhay and lived in Alphington, later going to Heles School. When he left Heles at 16, he worked for a land agent before doing National Service with the RAF. It was during this time that he and 17 men were travelling in a lorry to assist with a miners strike, the lorry hit a ditch and one person fell out and broke his leg – David. During his recuperation, he frequently went in uniform to Prom Concerts, was well looked after and taken to the front of the queue. So National Service was 6 months work and a fair amount of cultural recuperation!

Following on from this, he worked in the office at W.V. Cole and Son (a printers), and from there joined Wotton Limited in Newton Abbot as a sales rep. He eventually became managing director with Peggy as company secretary.

David had a great love for the Cathedral and music. This all started when he went to see the Rector at Alphington aged 8, to ask if he could join the choir, which he did. He had been having piano lessons and was soon playing the organ at Alphington, Shillingford and later Dunchideock (cycling there and back). Later on when he moved to play at Silvertown members of the congregation took it in turns to go outside and talk to the bus driver if the service was running late, so that he could catch the bus home.

The choir at Alphington was involved in an RSCM festival in the Cathedral – this was the catalyst that made him drag his mother to Evensong on Saturday afternoons (by this time he was playing the organ on Sundays). He decided that he wanted to sing in the Cathedral Choir and so went for a voice trial with Dr Alfred Wilcock and passed. Unfortunately his parents could not afford the fees. He therefore concentrated on learning the organ at Heavitree and then had lessons with Dr Willcock in the Cathedral. During the war he became very good

friends with the Head verger Ted Hart and spent many hours in and around the Cathedral, particularly after the blitz helping to clear up.

In 1944 a decree came out from Whitehall that church bells could be rung for services, and clocks allowed to chime again. So the Cathedral clock was to be restarted. David was offered the job by Ted Hart and would wind the clock 4 days week for the princely sum of 5 shillings.

David's organ playing progressed and he continued playing the Cathedral organ with Reg Moore, with whom he became very good friends, accompanying various services including an RSCM festival, the event that had triggered his interest in the first place. He told stories of how he and Reg would swap over on the organ stool between verses in the last hymn, so that Reg could play the outgoing voluntary – which takes some doing! In due course, David became the organist of Exwick parish church, a post he held for 28 years.

David went to dancing class where he met Peggy. David by his own admission only got a bronze award but “Peggy was a very good dancer and won a lot of awards”. Their dancing continued and they used to go most weeks to Exmouth or the Palace at Torquay. Peggy was also dragged around many churches when he used to play the organ.

They married on 6th September 1958, and soon after moved into 41 West Garth Road, where they remained for over 55 years. Together they were great hosts and would normally find an excuse to entertain people, forming a wide circle of friends through various organisations. Their external socialising was reduced when they made sacrifices to finance Trevor's education, which was greatly appreciated, as was the constant driving through the Exe valley to Tiverton.

In those days, family holidays started off at Brixham, and then for many years going across the border...to Cornwall. It was after Trevor left University that travelling abroad started to happen, partly on their own and partly through Rotary: from Australia, to a cruise, and places around Europe, and further afield in the UK.

David and Peggy became heavily involved with the Cathedral as many will know, from the Friends Council, setting up the planned giving, guiding, being a sidesman, fellowship and social committee. For over 40 years, David and Peggy sold the tickets and welcomed the audience to the summer organ recitals. David used to give tours of the roof back in the 1970s, well before the onset of health and safety restrictions. There were various other ways in which they were both involved, including trips out for the choristers, and, on one occasion, being called in to umpire a cricket match in the 70s between the Cathedral and the Cathedral School. This was not without incident, as the umpire managed to give three consecutive no balls. Following a little chat about a change in the rules a decade earlier, the game resumed without further incident. The slightly

disgruntled bowler, who used to stay at West Garth during university holidays, later became Heather Morgan.

David was not a person who always welcomed change, and when there was a change to the wording of the services in the Cathedral, he really didn't like the new form of Lord's Prayer – "I have been trespassing all my life, I am not going to start sinning now!" and he stubbornly didn't.

A proud moment for David was in 1984 when Gerri, his niece, asked him to stand in to give her away at her wedding in the Cathedral

There were regular trips to East Anglia to visit Trevor. Another proud moment was when the family went en masse to Norfolk for Trevor's wedding to Penny. He was very fond and proud of her particularly enjoying her cooking, and admiring her gardening and crafting talents. Then of course Alexander came along, and as with all grandparents his pride was there at the fore. The fact that Alexander became a good musician, and particularly singing, was a real thrill for him. Alexander's aptitude in engineering, however, did not come from this grandfather! But the interest in trains was firmly in the family dna.

In retirement, David and Peggy continued their social activities around the Cathedral and the city, always enjoying the company of others, and all the better if there was a drink involved.

In 2013, he gave a talk in the Deanery about his life from 1930 to 1946, which was recorded and a transcript published in the Friends book. There are some fascinating insights into the Cathedral and city in that period, and in particular during the blitz.

Over the last couple of years, on various trips out around Devon, we learnt that as a boy he spent time in Dartmouth with a cousin and would sit on the sea wall. The 1940s equivalent of super yachts would moor up, and the owners give them some money for watching them as they went off into Dartmouth. He also talked about cycling across the moor to Tavistock when he was a boy, which seems to be a difficult concept to get ones head around, as that was a fair old bike ride, and he did not really seem the athletic type.

On more than one occasion during these trips, David shared the following sentiments: "I have been very lucky in my life. I loved my job being able to travel around and see such beautiful places in Devon (parking up for my lunch and normally popping into a church). I have been fortunate to have met so many wonderful people and have such a lot of great friends."

He received fantastic care, and was very pleased to be at Cadogan Court in the last few months.

A much loved and respected man, always generous with his time for people, trespassing right to the end...

Growing in love and faith during the Lockdown

We're starting to realise that we'll be apart for longer than we first expected. The country will start to open up, but public gatherings are probably a late stage of lifting the lockdown. So at the clergy meeting, we started to think about opportunities for Christian nurture during the lockdown. Plans are at an early stage, but here's a taste of what to look for.

We're going to run **Holy Ground**, on YouTube and Zoom in May, June, and July. Details of May's talk with Revd Catherine Duce can be found elsewhere in *Cathedral News*. Look out next month for details of the Revd David Runcorn in June and Prof Grace Davie in July. We're also experimenting with holding **Sundays@7** – but as reflection, conversation, and prayer, rather than a Eucharist – on Zoom.

We continue to use the Cathedral's **Rule of Life** as a resource; I've written a short piece elsewhere about this. In July we'll hold a Zoom session on the second point of the rule, growing in faith and love for God, and discerning where God is calling us.

We're holding various groups also on Zoom. Prof Chris Bryan is recording his final two, postponed, **Lent Group** addresses on the Resurrection accounts, and we'll follow these up with a discussion. I'm hoping to record **Talks** on aspects of resurrection theology and follow these also with online conversations; I'll publish these on paper in *Cathedral News*, so they are available to those without online capability. And we're exploring the possibility of holding **book groups**.

Finally, there are resources for prayer. Clare Bryden is hosting a Tuesday evening **Lectio Divina Group**, we're looking into the possibility of holding a **Retreat in Daily Life** online, and I'm hoping also to put on a **Quiet Day** in August (we'll do our best to publish addresses for this on paper, so that those who can't join online can still access some material)

Much of this is at an early stage – and it may not all come off. But look out!

N.B. Quick note on Zoom. Many of our Zoom meetings **can be accessed via a conventional telephone**; I think it costs the price of a national call. I've included details of how to join Holy Ground this way, for instance. Of course you can't see others this way, but hopefully you can hear what's going on.

Canon Chris Palmer

Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina, or divine reading, is a very ancient form of praying with Scripture. During Lectio, we listen to the text of the Bible with the "ear of the heart", with the aim of nourishing and deepening our relationship with God.

Regular Bible reading and study gives us breadth of knowledge. Lectio helps us also absorb Scripture in depth. Though simple, it needs practice, as the slow ritual reading is very different from our modern habit of skimming text.

Here are some guidelines. There are four elements:

1. lectio – we read the text
2. meditatio – we reflect on the text
3. oratio – we respond in prayer
4. contemplatio – we rest in the Word of God

Choose the passage in advance of your prayer time, so you don't waste precious minutes.

Spend a few minutes settling down and let your breathing become gentler. Pray that your heart may be opened and receptive to the gift God knows you need today.

Read the passage very slowly, aloud if you find that helpful. Keep an open mind, and don't study the text. This is the lectio, or reading.

When a particular verse, phrase or word strikes you, put the Bible down. Here the reading stops and the meditatio begins, the absorption through repetition.

Repeat the phrase or word in your heart, gently rather than mechanically. You do not need to summon a mental picture or an emotion, or force a particular meaning. The repetition is to allow you to savour the phrase at an intuitive level. You may find that a longer phrase shortens to a single word.

In time you will become aware that the words have evoked a particular feeling or attitude. Now is the time to move to oratio, praying your response.

Express to God very simply the impression the words have made on you. You may want to pray spontaneously, and thank God for the gift they bring, ask God questions, or express longings they have stirred. Or you may want to remain in loving silence in God's presence.

Your prayer may move from oratio into contemplatio, a simple state of attention and attraction towards God as a compass needle points north.

After some time you will not be able to sustain your spontaneous praying or loving awareness. Distractions set in. You can either return to your repetition to

focus your attention. Or if you have time, resume your reading, expecting to be touched again by another phrase.

At the end of your time, bring the Lectio Divina to a close with thanksgiving or by reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Clare Bryden

Note: This description is for Lectio Divina as an individual, but at present Clare is also leading a group Lectio Divina session each Tuesday evening at 8pm for 40 minutes. Connect to this here:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/846835040>

Meeting ID: 846 835 040

There are more details in the 'Keeping in Touch' article.

VE Day: Big Picnic for Hope



In normal circumstances, we would have been celebrating together the 75th Anniversary of VE Day, the end of the Second World War in Europe, on Friday 8th May. Cathedrals would have been at the centre of local and national commemorations.

In the current situation, we are all invited to mark the day with a picnic, indoors or outdoors, at home, and to share any photos of the occasion on social media (#bigpicnicforhope), and of course with each other through *Cathedral News*. Please send us your photos and accounts of the day, and indeed, for those who can remember 8th May 1945, your memories of that day.

The occasion will also provide another opportunity to celebrate the heroes of today, who are on the front line against Covid-19; those who work in the NHS and those who are keeping essential services running.

There are many who are not in a position to have a picnic and struggle to put food on the table, as Felicity Cawthra reminds us in her piece about Exeter Foodbank earlier in this edition of the *News*. So the Big Picnic also offers an opportunity to donate to the Trussell Trust, which supports Foodbanks nationwide (#feed5000).

Please join the Cathedral Community here and in other cathedrals, including Lichfield, Chester, Guildford, Liverpool and Rochester, to celebrate together, though we are apart.



Keeping well during self-isolation

Self-isolation and all the restrictions placed on us because of the coronavirus pandemic are stressful. Furthermore we do not know how long this is all going to last. For those of us over 70 it may be a very long time. How can we keep well physically, mentally and spiritually and maintain a sense of peace and calm? Here is some guidance from various sources.

1. Have a routine every day. This keeps the day on the move. Have a set time for getting up and going to bed and for meals. Set times of the day for its different activities. Include some 'relaxation' time such as watching a film or programme, listening to the radio and music, whatever it is you enjoy. Limit the amount of coronavirus news you watch, read and listen to. Structure is the key to the day and the week. Make Sunday special.
2. Keep active. This is absolutely essential. Keep on the move. Don't sit down for more than 45 minutes without getting up, walking around for a few minutes, just going outside or going up and down stairs. Using the vacuum cleaner is really good exercise so even if it does not need doing a quick run round with the vacuum cleaner is a good idea. Gardening is good too. Do some 'intentional' exercise each day, walking briskly, running if you can, cycling if you prefer, for 30 minutes. If 30 minutes is too much to do in one go do it in two 15-minute slots. Keep to the two metre-distancing rule and if there are a lot of people about wear a mask. A scarf pulled up over the mouth and nose is fine.
3. Food. Make eating enjoyable, regular and healthy (lots of fruit, vegetables and salad). Don't graze; avoid high sugar and high fat foods; have treats. Keep within the recommended number of units of alcohol each week.
4. Nurture friends and family. Keep regular contact by telephone, Skype, Face Time or Zoom which ever you find most helpful. Letters and cards are so welcome at this time too.
5. Have a time each day for reading, prayer and reflection and where possible, online worship. Many find Cathedral Compline ideal. Place your fears, anxieties, struggles, friends, family and our national leaders into God's hands. He will give us strength enough for each day.
6. Take the long view. This will end. As HM the Queen put it in her broadcast to the nation 'We will be with our friends again. We will be with our families again. We will meet again.'

Revd Canon Dr John Searle

Thank you Gordon

On Easter Day, Timothy Noon, the Cathedral's Director of Music wrote:



Today, due to circumstances beyond our control, Exeter Cathedral remains locked and silent. But it should have been a day of loud and unbridled “Alleluias” as the Cathedral Choir current, and Exeter Cathedral Old Choristers’ Association were to celebrate and give thanks for the loyal service and dedication of Mr Gordon Pike, who, after more than forty years as a lay vicar in the Cathedral Choir, retires today.

Anyone who has been associated with Exeter Cathedral over the past half century will have had the privilege of knowing this remarkable man, and will want to join me in expressing a heartfelt and sincere “thank you”.

In addition to his steadfast and utterly reliable presence in the choir, Gordon has also been an inspirational teacher to countless generations of choristers, a fabulous mentor to choral scholars, and a wonderfully supportive friend and colleague.

His support of every aspect of Cathedral life, and his unparalleled institutional knowledge are such that in his case, it would be fair to say he is irreplaceable. Like many others, I am truly distraught that we cannot celebrate with Gordon today, but when this is all over, there will definitely be an almighty party of biblical proportions to thank Gordon properly for all that he has done.

Ed. There will be an opportunity for the Cathedral Community to contribute to a retirement gift for Gordon in due course.

Cathedral News in June

It's great to be back. We hope to publish the next edition of the News on 1st June 2020, and the deadline for material is **Thursday 28th May 2020**. We hope that *Cathedral News* will help to keep all parts of the Cathedral Community in touch with each other, and with developments in the life of the Cathedral. Please let us know how you are getting on in the lockdown. In particular, please follow the excellent example of Cloister Club, and send us photos of gardens, crafts, baking, new hobbies etc that time at home has produced. We would also welcome your thoughts and reflections on current circumstances. Please send them to Heather Morgan (01392 877623) hmm53@tiscali.co.uk or any member of the editorial team; Rosemary Bethell, Jenny Ellis and Sheila Atkinson

Cloister Club

Cloister Club is meeting on **Sundays at 9am**. On alternate weeks, there will be either a Zoom service or a story recorded on YouTube. On Sunday 10th May, it will be the YouTube story. Please contact Canon Cate Edmonds at cate.edmonds@exeter-cathedral.org.uk for details.

Meanwhile, the children in Cloister Club have been busy. On 20th April, Daniel Wooding celebrated his first birthday. Happy Birthday, Daniel! He looks very pleased to be 1, and no wonder with such a wonderful birthday cake!

Martha has also been baking, wearing a very smart apron.

Next month, we will see the results of our young people gardening, painting and their craft work.

