



The Dean's Sermon on 5th July – the first day back for public worship

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

Why use 2 words when 10 will do? I know that describes quite a lot of preachers, but it's also true of St Paul. He takes a long time getting there, but in that convoluted passage from his letter to the Romans

St Paul sets out a dilemma that we all face: choosing and doing the right thing.

Sometimes it's difficult to decide. We all suffer from mixed motives, unclear thinking, and poor judgment at times. So making the right decision can be very tough. I remember watching an interview with Tony Blair in which he told us that every decision a Prime Minister makes is difficult, because all the straightforward decisions are made without ever reaching the top desk. You don't have to be Prime Minister to be confronted with hard choices, moral, practical, emotional, financial... all of us face tricky decisions from time to time. Though I'm a great believer that a variety of voices bring strength and wisdom to the outcome.

And then there's the question of implementing the decision you've made. During lockdown I've been eating too much chocolate - much more than normal. Every evening, after supper with a cup of coffee; and via the occasional biscuit. And although I've told myself several times this is a silly thing to do, and we ought not to buy the chocolate to tempt me, whenever we go to the supermarket, chocolate somehow insinuates its way into the trolley. St Paul explains it this way: "With my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin."

Now this all fits rather neatly with what I was trying to say on St Peter's Day. For those of you who haven't yet managed to find your way to our services on

Facebook, let me summarise my sermon: definitely using 2 words where there were 10 or more on Monday.

The first reading for St Peter's Day was the account of his escape from prison, with the chains falling from his wrists. I likened Peter's new-found freedom to that facing us, as a community and as individuals.

What does it mean to be free, after three long months of lockdown, with our doors chained: certainly our church doors, but to a certain extent our front doors at home as well? Keeping us in, and others out.

After three months of enforced retreat, with plenty of opportunity for reflection on the gift of life, its meaning and purpose, how will we use our new freedom for the good of God's world?

Of course I cannot answer that for you as individuals, though I hope it is a question you might think worthwhile to ask yourselves. However, in my sermon on Monday, I said that I might think through with you this morning something of the Cathedral's future - so here goes.

As a Cathedral Chapter, we've started during lockdown to do a bit more thinking about our role and purpose. I say started because although we've met almost every week thanks to internet technology, still there's been a huge amount to do and decide. How do we shut down our Cathedral for the first time ever in peace time? How do we keep in touch with as many people as we can via phone or computer? How do we ensure we have enough money to keep going given an overnight hole in our finances of half a million pounds or more? How do we re-open again, complying with legislation, and ensuring everyone (congregation, visitors, volunteers, staff, clergy) is kept safe? Some of the questions we've had to face.

So although we thought there'd be plenty of time for blue sky thinking, and for dreaming dreams, as with so many discussions and decisions, the practicalities of life constrain the process and the outcome.

Hence St Paul's wrestling and agonising in our first reading. In passing I want to mention how grateful we are to Catherine and Luke and Joseph and Tim Noon and all the staff who've made our re-opening possible. It's been an enormous piece of work.

At first sight, you might think that defining our role and purpose is straightforward. The worship of God, the proclamation of the Gospel, the practical loving of our neighbour. Of course. But to do those things, you don't necessarily need

- a huge Grade 1 listed medieval stone building, full of beauty and treasures,

- a large green space in the centre of Exeter,
- a group of medieval buildings bordering the Green which are expensive to maintain and quite tricky to inhabit,
- and a vast collection of ancient books and manuscripts, including the foundation volume of English literature, The Exeter Book.

Practicalities immediately shape the choices and decisions you make. That's why lots of new churches setting up round the country have chosen to occupy a former warehouse, spacious, and fairly cheap and easy to run, allowing them to bring people together for worship, but giving time and money to focus on what they think really matters.

Here we don't have the liberty of starting from scratch, choosing an empty building on Marsh Barton, and the challenge we face is to find ways in which all those things I've just mentioned, the Cathedral, the outside space, our ancillary buildings and our Library & Archives, can enhance our primary purpose, and open up opportunities for the worship of God, the proclamation of the Gospel and the practical loving of our neighbour.

As I've said often before, this building does a lot of our work for us: it is a converting space; the beauty of the building and the music which brings it to life, help you believe in God, propel you to heaven, which is why it's been so tragic that we've had to close during these difficult months. But it's expensive to run: the building itself, and the people you need to staff it. It's complex to run: the permissions you need, and the legislation you have to comply with. And our music is costly too: without the Music Foundation Trust it would be impossible.

And therefore very reluctantly we charge people to come in, simply because we need the money, and we haven't yet found another viable income stream which will allow us to keep our doors open, and our choir singing.

Chapter has done quite a bit of soul-searching as we emerge from lockdown about whether we really have to charge for entry, and has decided that with the present hole in our budget, there is no choice for now. It is ironic that so much of the activity we are planning to accompany our Lottery Project to bring new and different people to the cathedral is designed exactly to mitigate the negative effects of asking people to pay to come in. We have therefore decided to reduce the charge to £5, and have committed ourselves to find proper time to explore different ways of raising the money we need.

The Green outside, the major open place in the heart of the city, must offer plenty of opportunity for engagement, we are very aware of that, but we still

haven't worked out how to use that lovely space to maximum effect. How do we move it from liability to opportunity? A stepping stone from outside to in? An outside labyrinth is being actively considered to help people on their journey. And similarly the library and archives; a tangible sign that this place has always been committed to learning and growth.

We are determined to find new ways in which it can resource those things in our day. You can see we're still left with more questions than answers. But at least the questions are there on the table. And as we step out into what feels a bit like a new world, albeit one with many uncertainties still hanging in the air and always the potential for further spikes, we're not going to let those questions rest.

I said earlier on how I'm a great believer that a variety of voices bring strength and wisdom to the outcome. So there'll be plenty of conversation and consultation inside the Cathedral, and with people outside, to help Chapter make the best decisions it can. Of course both the process and the outcome will inevitably be constrained by practicalities. And yet I am convinced that through this journey together we shall be in a better place to love our neighbour, proclaim the Gospel, and worship God.

To him be all glory, this day and for ever. Amen.

Jonathan Greener

Cathedral Quiz Night

50 people from many different areas of Cathedral life took part in the first Zoom Cathedral Community Quiz on 27th June. It was especially good that friends and former colleagues were able to join from afar, Terry Pyle among them.

The technology was faultless and all the teams were able to meet in separate "rooms". The questions were excellent and varied, and there was time to chat and enjoy each other's company. Congratulations to Team Isca (Revd Phil Wales, Shelagh Orrell, Jane Skinner and Simon Aston) who won with a score of 43 points out of a possible 48.

Many, many thanks to the other winning team, those who organised the event with such efficiency and good humour and enabled all who took part to have a really excellent and enjoyable evening; Revd Ian Morter (organiser and host), Caroline Prince (co-host and scorer), Louise Spencer (Quiz Master) and Canon Chris Palmer (zoom master).

Greetings from the Company of Tapisers

We hope you are all keeping well and safe – and not getting too frustrated with the lockdown restrictions. Many people have taken the opportunity to tidy their homes and sort through long-discarded boxes!!! I wonder how many of you have taken an inventory of all your belongings!?

In 2017 I was asked by Ian Morter to compile an inventory of all vestments, banners, cushions, kneelers etc. in Exeter Cathedral – a significant percentage of which had been made by The Company of Tapisers. I naively thought this would be a small task! Previous efforts had been made, but none had ever been completed. As I love a challenge I was determined to complete the task – it took me six months! Did you know there are 46 copes, 44 altar cloths, 27 mass sets, 10 banners, 39 sets of kneelers and cushions? Exeter Cathedral is extraordinarily fortunate to have accumulated so much.

One item which I found particularly poignant is the Banner of Our Lady (in a glass display case in the north Quire aisle). This was commissioned by a Miss Longridge in memory of her niece, Eileen Hayes, who died in childbirth in 1931. The face of Eileen represents the face of Mary, who holds a baby in swaddling clothes. Mary's blue robe reveals an elaborately embroidered floral underskirt: this design was copied from a fragment embroidered by Mary, Queen of Scots, which was owned by Miss Longridge, and admired by Eileen Hayes. The background celebrates Devon by depicting the sea, fields and sheep and a castle on the hill.

When you next have a chance, do look at this lovely piece of embroidery and the serene face of Eileen on the banner.

Look after yourselves, **Diana Symes, Chairman of the Company of Tapisers**

Psalmathon

On St Peter's Day, 29th June, 30 or so people from the Cathedral Community took part in a continuous reading of the Psalms by Zoom. We started at about 1pm and finished nine hours later. The readers included members of the regular congregations, the College of Canons, and two young people from Cloister Club There was great variety in both the versions of the Psalms and in the languages we heard - including German, Hebrew, Italian, Spanish and Welsh. As we made our way through the day, there were pauses for our reflection and questions, and for commentary by Canon Sue Gillingham, Canon Theologian. It was a memorable experience. A huge thank you to everyone who took part, to Sue, and especially to Canon Cate Edmonds, who organised the day. We look forward to continuing the debate and the opportunity to learn more about the Psalms in the near future.

What can I do about the Climate Emergency? Part 5

Or... How can we work together to save our life-support system and cherish God's good creation? In May I considered the links between COVID and climate and suggested we reframe what we consider 'normal'. Of my six suggestions in previous News, these three – to take a Sabbath from consuming and to put pressure on the Government and on business to achieve necessary structural change – seem particularly relevant.

This month, I was going to look at food, which is hugely important to climate. But instead, travel is uppermost in my mind. So I'll consider food in a later News, and in the meantime, you may like to look at the EAT-Lancet Commission on Food, Planet, Health – eatforum.org/eat-lancet-commission/

Tread softly

Air travel, container freight, and private car manufacture and travel are all major contributors to climate change. During lockdown we have no choice but not to fly, and maybe now is the time to make a resolution to cut it out. It should not be difficult either to commit to buying less stuff that we don't need, often manufactured in sweat shops and transported half way across the world.

Cars might be harder to give up. We are in effect addicted, to the extent that they can represent our self in dreams! But it's not just the climate future we would improve. Many cities have seen massive improvements in air quality during lockdown, with many fewer deaths from e.g. asthma. Road traffic accidents are down. People have been rediscovering walking and cycling, and being able to notice things and say hello to others, all the while getting much-needed exercise.

Now, as lockdown is being lifted, the challenge has been to get people moving again, while maintaining physical distancing. Capacity of public transport is much lower, but the roads and the air would be choked if everyone used cars instead. (Did you know, that chickens run twice as fast as the average speed of traffic in Exeter during the rush hour? It's easy for them to cross the road!)

That is why Devon County Council is encouraging people out of their cars and making walking and cycling more attractive by restricting access to a number of routes across Exeter.

The challenges of reducing the need to travel and changing the modes of transport are of course different for urban and rural areas, and all generations and all income levels need to be considered. Devon County Council is considering options for permanent changes and Exeter City Council is holding conversations more broadly around Net Zero carbon emissions. You might like to consider participating in the conversations.

Car share schemes mean building fewer cars to sit on driveways. Electric bikes are a good option on Devon hills. Buying less stuff and clubbing together with neighbours would mean fewer trips out and fewer delivery vehicles on the roads. We could perhaps continue to work from home and travel less on business.

Clare Bryden

For our prayers

Those who are sick or in need: Lilian Lovell, John Thompson, Pat Webster, Rosemary Joy, Gary Lord, Jane Jones. Cilla Dainty, Katherine, Stephen, Sally-Ann Hodson, Elsie Howell, Paul Nash, Ursula Enever, Illya, Yve Taylor, Chris Seaton.

Rest in peace: Anthea Woodford, Margaret Purchase, Geoff, Glenna Nichol, Beryl Edmonds, Ingrid Rosecoe.

Please pray for all those recently bereaved: Laurel, The Edmonds Family, Marshall Rosecoe

Re-opening to visitors

After three entire months of having no tourists visit the Cathedral, we will be delighted to re-open doors to them again on Monday July 13th.

Although some of the practical elements are still being fine-tuned, the prospect of seeing visitors once again in our building is – I am sure – something that pleases us all.

Not only will it be a tremendous boast to our finances, but it will also be another step on the road to recovery post lockdown.

It is important to stress however that this will not mean an immediate return to our usual service. The health, safety and security of everyone who enters our doors is our number one priority. Consequently, new measures and procedures will be in place to help manage the flow of people.

The entire Cathedral, bar the side chapels, will be available for visitors to see and explore. While guided tours of the floor are not something that we are able to offer at this precise moment in time, people will still be able to enjoy the wonder and splendour of our glorious building. Moreover, the Lady Chapel will once again be reserved for those people wishing to pray privately and reflect.

Joseph Patkai, Special Projects and Volunteers' Assistant

The Flower Arrangers' Year

This month my intention is to let you know how we deal with special arrangements, which can come in many guises.

Our biggest challenge is the bi-annual Grand Nave Dinner. The work for this starts early in the New Year, when we produce some ideas for the main organising committee. Once approved, we then look into all the mechanics that will be needed, and purchase them. We work out the flower order, and then when it gets to the date, we have a team to arrange, often more than 20 of us. Areas of the Cathedral are assigned to teams, and the team leaders take responsibility for ensuring that the arrangements for that area are completed. This can take several days – one day to start the mechanics and receive and condition all the flowers and foliages, one to begin the arrangements, and one to ascertain all is in the right place – 45 table centres being the final placements. We need flowers for pedestals, pillars, candle stands, pulpit, screens and buttonholes. We leave what we can for the congregation and visitors to enjoy.

We love doing weddings! We meet the bride (and groom and the bride's mother) and talk through the options. Once their decision is made, we gather a team for the Friday before and do all the placements, usually before the rehearsal. We use the colour and flowers of the bride's choice, and usually the regular arrangements blend with their choices. We can do their personal flowers as well, if requested.

We can also do flowers for Memorial Services which are often for well-known people who lived locally. We are always aware that guests who come can be from all over the country, or the world; so our cathedral has to look magnificent.

Sometimes, we are asked to make pedestals for christenings, concerts, for art shows and also for special exhibitions like "Angels" before Christmas 2019. We do thank-you bouquets too!!! We are willing to make flower arrangements for funerals, including coffin pieces, for members of the congregation, although I am uncertain how widely known that might be.

We are on call for the extraordinary – for example when our Dean wanted a sheaf of lilies to lay in the Grandisson Chapel in celebration of Bishop Grandisson's anniversary recently.

We are happy to rise to the challenge. Our team of arrangers have huge and varied talents, and are highly skilled and qualified. More often than not someone has the answer to the question "how to do we do that?"

Flick Evans, Secretary Cathedral Flower Arrangers

From Canon Chris Palmer – Imaginative Contemplation

God gives us our imagination, and we can use it in prayer. The great prayer guide St Ignatius of Loyola encourages us to imagine ourselves into the Gospel stories, to conjure up in our minds the sights, sounds, and smells of the story, to hear people speak and to join in the conversation. When we pray in this way, we can allow our imagination to run on beyond the story: What else happens? What do we want to say? What might Jesus say to us?

What we're asking for

The purpose of this prayer is summed up in a famous prayer:

***'... may we know you more clearly
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly...'***

As we contemplate being with Jesus in the stories of the Gospel we come to love him and follow him more deeply. At the start of our prayer time, it is good to ask God to give us this gift.

How to do Imaginative Contemplation

A Jesuit priest, Douglas Leonhardt, describes this way of praying:

Here is a way of engaging in this prayer form which is relaxing and rather easy.

- 1. Select a passage from one of the Gospels in which Jesus is interacting with others.*
- 2. Recall what one is doing in engaging with the Word of God and what one desires from this encounter. God is present and because God is present one relies on God.*
- 3. Read the Gospel passage twice so that the story and the details of the story become familiar.*
- 4. Close one's eyes and reconstruct the scene in one's imagination. See what is going on and watch the men and women in the scene. What does Jesus look like? How do the others react to him? What are the people saying to one another? What emotions fill their words? Is Jesus touching someone? As one enters into the scene, sometimes there is the*



desire to be there. So a person can place oneself in the scene, perhaps as an observer, as one lining up for healing, or as one helping others to Jesus.

5. *Some people's imaginations are very active so they construct a movie-like scenario with a Gospel passage. Others will enter the scene with verbal imagination, reflecting on the scene and mulling over the actions. Vividness is not a criteria for the effectiveness of this kind of prayer. Engagement is and the result is a more interior knowledge of Jesus.*
6. *As one finishes this time of prayer, one should take a moment to speak person to person with Christ saying what comes from the heart.*

From Finding God in All Things: A Marquette Prayer Book © 2009 Marquette

Parsons at Play: The cricketing lives of 65 clergymen

There is a long history of an affinity between cricket and the clergy, still evident today in the annual *Church Times* Cup. A couple of years ago, after much searching, and with the help of the Reverend Malcolm Lorimer, Librarian, and Chaplain, of Lancashire County Cricket Club, I finally obtained a copy of this fascinating book by Christopher J. Gray. (Winsor Editions, 2013)

Among familiar names such as Lord Frederick Beauclerk (1773-1850), David Shephard (former Bishop of Liverpool) and Andrew Wingfield-Digby (cousin of Peter Wingfield-Digby, one of our Cathedral Stewards), I was surprised and delighted to discover Devon's own Bishop John Coleridge Patteson.

In the Cathedral, where he was ordained, the pulpit commemorates Bishop Patteson's outstanding missionary work and ministry in the Solomon Islands, where he was martyred in 1870.

Not so well-known, however, is that the young John Coleridge Patteson played first class cricket. His record includes a 50 at Lord's-for Eton against Harrow in 1844. As captain of cricket at Eton in 1845, he made 31 against the MCC. In 1849, he played for Oxford in the Varsity Match at Lord's, but he scored only 2, and Cambridge won by 3 wickets.

Parsons at Play illustrates the rich history of cricket, and tells us more about some extraordinary people who have played the game.

Heather Morgan

News from the Cathedral Prison Prayer Support Group (CPPSG)

I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me. (Matthew 25:36)

CPPSG members have been faithfully praying for the needs of all those in prison, as well as attending services at our local prison, for very many years. But because of the coronavirus epidemic, regular Sunday services were suspended at the end of March. All visits by voluntary groups stopped then too.

On 3rd June, **The Times** published an article *No early release for locked-down inmates*. It describes the impact of the double lockdown that prisoners have

been subjected to. It makes for extremely difficult reading with inmates confined to their cells, and only being allowed out for 30 minutes a day.

Almost all of the activities which provide structure and meaningful engagement have been stripped away. Though these measures have undoubtedly been life-saving (the number of Covid-19 infections has been far fewer than predicted among

prisoners and officers), there are other consequences such as increases in self-harm, depression, psychosis and suicide attempts.

Thankfully, the prison authorities have now developed a strategy for the easing of lockdown, but it is expected that some restrictions will stay in place until April next year. And this of course assumes a smooth path out of lockdown. As a result, we do not yet know when services will resume, or when any volunteer groups (including CPPSG) will be able to return to meet with the men, hear their concerns, and pray for and with them.

But while we may not be able to visit, we continue to meet and to pray as a group. As well as this, each Monday, at the Cathedral's Service for Healing, prayers are also offered. We pray for all in prison and all who care for them and of course for the countless victims of crime: all who have suffered, and who still suffer, as a result of the wrongs done to them by prisoners.

Revd Phil Wales, Assistant Curate



From Canon Chris Palmer

St John's Resurrection Stories: Sunday 19th July at 12 noon

This is the final instalment of Chris Bryan's "Lent Group"! Following a lively discussion of Luke's Resurrection stories, Chris has now recorded a talk on St John's resurrection accounts (see the Cathedral's YouTube account). It's in three "bite size" chunks. Have a listen and then join us for questions and conversation:

Zoom meeting ID 825 2373 1797 Password: 2125

Rule of Life Evening: Thursday 16th July at 7pm

Canon Chris Palmer will lead our six-monthly look at an aspect of our Rule of Life, on this occasion the second part of the Rule:

- We commit ourselves to grow in faith and in love for God, and discern where God is calling us.

What habits nurture our relationship with God? What resources are available for discovering God's desire for us – and our own deepest desire? How might we discover our personal vocation? It would help (but not essential) if you could let Chris know that you're coming.

Zoom meeting: ID 862 6049 5690 Password: 262992

Quiet Day: Saturday 22 August, 10am - 4pm (save the date)

Hopefully with in-person and online options to participate – but no guarantees at present. Five months from the start of lockdown, a chance to bring to God the feelings, responses, and questions that Coronavirus, illness, and lockdown have raised in us – and to continue to integrate them into our living with and for God. *More to follow...*

Finally... books

A couple of books by Francis Spufford that I've hugely valued recently:

Unapologetic: Why, Despite Everything, Christianity Can Still Make Surprising Emotional Sense

Readable, provocative, engaging apologia Christian faith

Golden Hill

Utterly brilliant novel – topical – and with a twist. Any more would spoil it for you.

And if you're looking for something more serious:

The Crucifixion: Understanding the Death of Jesus Christ, by Fleming Rutledge

Fleming preached at the Cathedral recently, and is a brilliant thinker and expositor. She won't let us get away with sloppy thinking – and challenges both those of a conservative and liberal standpoint to consider carefully and biblically how we talk about the death of Jesus.

Holy Ground

Via YouTube and Zoom

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.

A preview can be found here:

<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/religionglobalsociety/2019/01/a-lived-situated-and-constantly-changing-reality-why-religion-is-relevant-to-the-pursuit-of-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 Europe and part of the congregation of St James' in Exeter.

Grace's talk will be available in advance on YouTube and Facebook

To join this Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87487757132?pwd=NDZtZWtlOHMrUGRWLzExT1VBVC9ldz09>

Meeting ID: 874 8775 7132 Password: 731478

To dial in from a phone:

0203 481 5237 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 874 8775 7132 Password: 731478

From Elizabeth Searle

A big thank you for all your kind and generous support for my marathon in Exeter for Hospiscare when the official London Marathon was cancelled. The total raised was £6,079. Together with the other eight marathons the grand total, in which many of you have shares, is £71,881. Thank you so much.

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*. Please note we have added a password to some of these meetings.

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 Password: 270422

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.

Tuesdays 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.

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

Meeting ID: 846 835 040 Password: lectio

Fridays at 11.00am, hosted by Revd Phil Wales

Coffee and Chat

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

Meeting ID: 977 574 807 Password: 928497



The Friends of Exeter Cathedral

The Friends office continues to function normally, but from our home locations, with post being collected regularly, and emails and phone calls being handled in a timely fashion.

Our Annual Report was mailed to members in early June, and we have had an excellent response to our appeal for funds to assist the Cathedral at this very difficult time financially. So we send our thanks to all who responded so positively. We were disappointed, of course, that our usual Friends Day arrangements could not go ahead, so now we look forward to next year when it will be held on Saturday 26 June.

As it stands, at the present time, we do not foresee our office being open for visits by members for the foreseeable future. Please contact us by email, post or telephone, and we will do our best help you with whatever query you have. Messages can be left on our usual office number as we are able to pick these up remotely, but if you have a more urgent enquiry a mobile number is contained within the outgoing message. This will be available during our normal office hours, 9am to 1pm Monday to Thursday.

The West Wing, The Palace, Exeter, EX1 1HY. Office Hours: 9am to 1pm Monday to Thursday. Enquiries: 01392 423931

Worship

On Sundays, starting 5 July, there will be four services, all in the nave:

8am – Holy Communion, Book of Common Prayer

10am – The Eucharist, Common Worship, with organ and singer – ticketed

12.15pm – The Eucharist, Common Worship, with organ and singer – ticketed

4pm – Evening Prayer, Book of Common Prayer, with organ and singer

For the 10am service, we shall place chairs at a distance of 1m.

At 12.15, we shall maintain a distance of 2m, for those who are more cautious about meeting with others. Apart from this, it will be an exact re-run of the 10am service.

In the first instance, we are ticketing these two services, to help ensure that we don't have to turn people away at the door – since we have to be rigorous in limiting the number of people inside.

The 10am service will continue to be live-streamed on Facebook for those who would prefer to join in at home. www.facebook.com/exetercathedral

Sundays@7 and Holy Ground will continue on Zoom until the beginning of September.

7pm - Sundays@7

45 minutes combining bible reading, prayer, reflection, conversation, and silence. A very simple structure that allows for informal worship, with a large part of the time given over to talking together in response to the reading and reflection.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82100927088?pwd=Y3E4UGVXdIRBSTlPeWhlZi9jZE01UT09>

Meeting ID: 821 0092 7088 Password: 466066

Or dial in:

0203 481 5237 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 821 0092 7088 Password: 466066

Weekday services (Monday-Saturday):

Morning Prayer will continue on Zoom at 9am each day. 9am

With effect from 6th July the joining details have changed to:

Meeting ID: 847 6869 5587 Password: 025062

There will be two daily services in the Cathedral, both at the High Altar:

1.15pm – The Eucharist, Common Worship

5pm – Evening Prayer, Book of Common Prayer

Fridays at 10.30am: On the Phone

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#

Fridays at 8pm

Corporate Silence and Stillness in which we join from our own homes.

Not seen – but heard

This academic year has been a pretty miserable one for those in their final stretch as members of the Cathedral Choir. Though the choir itself will rise phoenix-like from the ashes of Covid-19, for some, the opportunity to hang up the cassock and surplice in a blaze of glory has been permanently denied. Most impacted, of course, are the boy choristers in year 8, whose precious final months of singing treble have not been shared live amidst the historically resonating stones of Exeter Cathedral, but instead have been blurted down a microphone in front of a computer screen. Nevertheless, the boys have responded with stoicism and candour, and we wish them well as they progress to the next stage.

Daniel survived as a treble only until Christmas, when biology intervened, but was settling into his new Cathedral role as an altar server by the time lockdown began, and we very much hope to see him carrying cross or candle as soon as that is allowed again. **Thomas's** voice has rapidly changed during lockdown, and his musical focus has moved towards developing his considerable talent as a cellist and as a composer, while his voice settles into whatever comes next. **Joseph** will be returning to the USA with his mother and family during the summer, after a very distinguished career in the choir, and **Jack**, who continues to sing fabulously, is working towards his grade 8, prior to taking up a well-deserved music scholarship at Sherborne School in September. We wish them well!

This year, we say farewell to just two girls in year 8, **Natalie** and **Alice**, who have both been outstanding choristers, and who both have great musical futures ahead of them. Natalie, in addition to being a fabulous singer, is a talented violinist, recorder player, pianist, and, soon-to-be, organist – with a possible career in cathedral music in mind! – and Alice will be taking up a scholarship at Clifton in the new academic year.

We say 'thank you' and 'farewell' to two choral scholars this summer: **Jesse**, who has served diligently as an alto this year, will be finishing her masters at

Exeter University next year, and will continue to sing as a deputy and as part of the St Peter's Singers, and **Andrew**, who has completed his degree and will be studying a law conversion course in London. It has been terrific to have them both in the choir and we wish them all the best for their future careers. During lockdown, the choral scholars have magnificently kept the daily rhythm of sung prayer going by singing Compline every day on Facebook. This dedicated ministry has been widely appreciated and valued not just locally, but by an international following.

During lockdown, regular work with the choristers was possible via 'Zoom' and whilst the entire music department was furloughed, this work was valiantly and enthusiastically taken up by two chorister parents, Tim Mirfin (who ran the rehearsals), and Tim Herniman (whose sound engineering skills mixed together individually recorded contributions from the choristers in their homes). We are enormously grateful for their hard work and contribution, and for following the current Cathedral guidelines which state that in order to work with the choristers it is essential to be called 'Tim'.

In addition, the choristers have received a lot of help and support from Exeter Cathedral School, not least through the multi-talented chorister tutor, Keith Roberts, whose range of skills and experience have kept the choristers on track with theory tuition, music appreciation, singing through some of their favourite pieces (just to 'feel good!'), and recording special arrangements (by Mr Roberts) of a variety of music, ranging from plainsong psalms to Leonard Cohen's 'Alleluia'.

Having come back in post from 1 June, I have had quickly to become acquainted with new skills such as video and audio editing, and running rehearsals over 'Zoom', all of which is perfectly possible, though not at all satisfactory compared with the root of my calling – i.e. to offer worship daily in the Cathedral to the greater glory of God. But, ever the optimist, I am hopeful that it won't now be too long before the Cathedral's stones echo once again to the sound of choral music. And I'm sure you will join with me in saying a heartfelt 'Amen' to that.

Timothy Noon, Director of Music

The August edition of *Cathedral News*

We hope to publish the next edition of the News on Sunday 2nd August. The deadline for material is **Tuesday 28th July 2020**. Please send any contributions to our new email address news@exeter-cathedral.org.uk or any member of the editorial team; Heather Morgan, Rosemary Bethell, Jenny Ellis and Sheila Atkinson.



Focus:

In memoriam Margaret Purchase (1949-2020)

A Cathedral Guide and Steward

'Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres.'

From St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians Chapter 13

These words were included in the booklet entitled *Remembering Margaret*, which was sent to me by the Reverend Rosie Austin, and was used at the funeral service in Kentisbury Church. Inside it, I read memories recalled by her brother, friends and members of some of the congregations in the Shirwell Mission Community in North Devon.

This is a rather different *Focus*. On Friday the 5th of June, I received a 'phone call from Joseph in the Visitors' Department. *'How lovely, I thought,'* as we talked about this and that, and then we reached the point where Joseph said that he had some very sad news for me. In that moment my mind changed a gear, and I waited. *'We've just been informed that Margaret Purchase suddenly died last week, and there can only be a private funeral at Kentisbury Church on the 11th of June.'*

To say I was shocked would be an understatement. Margaret was a highly respected and knowledgeable guide and steward, who worked alongside Peter Antony, Jolyon Hunt, Prabhu Kashap, Amanda Wiles and me on alternate Tuesday mornings; after lunch she then joined Irene Young, with Charles Abraham, Beryl Buchannan, Gwyneth Garner and Davina Jones.

Joseph had spoken with Irene earlier, so I 'phoned her and together we set about informing our teams, knowing only too well how distressed they would all be, and that being compounded by the knowledge that none of us would be able to attend her funeral service due to the Covid 19 restrictions.

Not many of you who read this will have ever met her, but those of us who had the privilege of working with her on alternate Tuesdays knew her as a devout practising Christian throughout the whole week and not just on a Sunday. She had a non-flamboyant personality which could, and sometimes did, mask the true strength of her love for and care of human beings and highly developed sense of humour.

She was a fully committed member of her church at Kentisbury, which as you will know is right up near the North Devon coast; she was their Churchwarden, Treasurer, Organist and Editor of (and distributor) the Church Magazine.. She was, also, a vital worker and supporter of the wider Shirwell Mission Community, which included the churches at Bratton Fleming, Challacombe, East Down & Arlington, Loxhore, Shirwell & Stoke Rivers, functioning as the Mission Administrator. She was not just the Revered Rosie's right hand woman, she was a whole lot more.

Where did Margaret's life begin? She was born in Barnstaple, growing up on the family's farm at Bridwick, near to Kentisbury. She loved every minute of it, spending as much time as she could outside and with her Exmoor pony 'Trixie', riding bare back. Apparently her parents' advice was '*Just get on and hang on!*' They knew that if she fell off, the pony would stop and let her get on again!

She has a younger brother, and initially went to the village Primary School, where she stayed until transferring to Adelaide College in Ilfracombe when aged eleven. She finished her scholastic education at the Marist Convent in Barnstaple.

She was a very keen member of the Blackmoor Gate Young Farmers' Club, serving many years as their Chairman and Secretary.

In 1971, everything changed when their father died suddenly. According to her brother, it was then that Margaret showed her great personal strength, courage and ability to organise and manage.

In 1974, Margaret left North Devon for London to do an intensive secretarial course, which led, when she returned to Devon, onto her being employed by the Abbey National, now Santander, for the next thirty years.

'In that time she became quite tech-savvy!' A lovely brotherly comment!

When her brother married in 1976, Margaret and their mother moved out of the farmhouse into Beechfield, where she lived for the remainder of her life.

Once retired, she was able to devote more time to the church and community, producing and distributing the parish magazine etc, thereby maximising the use of her considerable computer skills, fund raising for Flower Festivals and participating in them, as well as Quiz Nights. She provided practical help, too. During heavy snowfall in 2018, she drove her Land Rover to the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital with a parishioner to bring the lady's husband home. That can't have been an easy journey in those conditions.

At this point, it seems appropriate to describe that journey from Kentisbury to Exeter; it will be the one she took every time she came to do duty at the Cathedral, apart from the fact that when on duty she left her car at Barnstaple, and came to Exeter Central by train.

For those of you who do know the landscapes of North Devon, please bear with me here. The roads are pretty challenging at the best of times. Once you leave Kentisbury, you have to make choices; to go via the more main road passing Arlington Court, or through Blackmore Gate and Bratton Fleming into Barnstaple. Either way, you have to cover some high ground where you are more than likely to experience mist and fog, and rain, which can frequently be 'flying' horizontally rather than vertically, and deal with twisting turns downhill or uphill on the way home!

Her brother wrote, *'She worked tirelessly to raise funds by having market stalls, and helping with the endless washing-up after events. She was no stranger to the strimmer or mower, as many will know from her sterling work at the churchyard. Now fittingly her final resting place. One life lived. Many lives touched.'*

I asked Irene to forward to me thoughts from her team, and I am now going to combine those with the ones from my team, including those from David Bowyer and John Norman, both of whom retired relatively recently.

Margaret was a truly lovely lady, who was kind, considerate, and had a considerable knowledge about the Cathedral. She was a good teacher. She was modest and I was always pleased to meet with and talk with her. Irene talked about their eating sandwiches together in the Volunteers' Rest Room, where they talked about all sorts of things, especially recalling Margaret telling her about the problems she was having with bats in her roof space, her love of dogs and watching the birds in her garden.

I have had two telephone conversations with the Reverend Rosie, who is the vicar responsible for the Shirwell Mission Community. She lives in a new-build house/vicarage in Bratton Fleming. There is a bit of a co-incidence here, my maternal grandparents are buried in the cemetery, not very far away!

As a child I used to go with my mother to visit my grandmother who lived about three miles NE of Bratton Fleming. Two of my cousins were evacuated with their mother during WW2 from London, and attended Bratton Fleming Primary School. Of course, during that time petrol was rationed, my father was an essential worker, so my mother and I went by train to Barnstaple, and then had to catch the bus to Bratton Fleming. When Great Uncle Will was alive, he met us with the pony and trap, but after his death it was a long 3 mile walk to Grandma's house. Mostly in my memory, it was raining AND I HATED IT! It took quite a few years to eradicate those negative images and appreciate the stunning landscapes and warm close communities that live in that part of Devon.

These last few weeks have brought to the surface so many of my own family memories, like recalling Great Uncle Will going off to take a service somewhere, riding his horse. My paternal grandfather did likewise until he bought a car, the first farmer in the area to do so. He was invited to take the Sunday School Anniversary Services at Parracombe and was given hospitality by Great Uncle Will, where my mother was his housekeeper following the untimely death of his wife. The rest is history!

I'm going to bring this special Focus to a close with a *Letter to Margaret* written by The Reverend Peter Nichols Rawle, our Tuesday Morning Chaplain. The Cathedral has been praying for Margaret since her death, and I invite all of you who read this Focus to find your own way of thanking God for the part she played in our lives, in the Cathedral, and especially for her family and those in the churches in North Devon, who will be in deep sadness. It was deeply touching to learn from the Reverend Rosie that eighty plus people lined the route the hearse took from the church to the churchyard. We will remember her.

Dear Margaret,

It's me, Peter, Duty Chaplain with your group of Tuesday Morning Stewards for the last fifteen years!

I sort of have this feeling that you will be horrified at a collective mass of us eulogising about you as the star of Focus.

All I can say, my dear, is that for the past years I've enjoyed talking with you; our discussions about your church (and the shed with the asbestos roof and what to do about it). Your Deanery, the Cathedral, and most of all, how your dogs are....and my cats!

This is the best bit; I have frequently felt that any parish priest would be so lucky to have you ministering in your quiet and unassuming way. You have shown such sincerity and commitment to our Lord.

Life without MP will be so very different.

Much love,

Peter.

Rosemary Bethell

Devon Historic Churches Trust: Walk and Stride Day 12th September 2020

Nothing Daunted! The Devon Historic Churches Trust has decided to go ahead with their main fund raising event of the year on 12th September. On this day, we are encouraged to either walk or ride to visit as many churches as possible and to get sponsorship. Half the money raised goes to the care of Devon's beautiful churches and half comes back to the choice of the participant. As a Cathedral, we have for very many years been active as both participants and sponsors. Last year we raised £800 and as half came back to the Cathedral we are helping both the DHCT and our Cathedral. This year will of course be different as we have to observe social distancing so our Deanery Prayer Walk is unlikely to take place in its usual form. What however will be possible is for individuals or small groups (socially distancing) to visit churches which we hope by then will be open for private prayer at least. Chapter is already looking at how they may take part, and we know of members of the congregation who will undertake some activity. We would love to hear of others who would like to take an active part. So now we also need sponsors!

What is going to be more challenging for some this year is that it is unlikely we shall be able to collect cash, as we have done in the past after the Sunday Eucharist. But do not give up!! Details will be available of how to give online, and for those unused to this method please send cheques made payable to the Devon Historic Churches Trust to Diane Coombes c/o The Cathedral Office, 1 The Cloisters, Exeter, EX1 1HS. You will have heard on many occasions of the financial shortfall facing our churches and our Cathedral, and whilst we appreciate there are many calls from every charity for financial help, please be as generous as possible to encourage those who will be walking or riding on the 12th September. Watch out for further details of who will venture out and how you can give money.

Diane Coombes

Exeter Cathedral Society of Bellringers

Our Cathedral is reopening, and from this Sunday morning we can worship together again, just one more step towards the return to normal life. Throughout lockdown, the Cathedral bells have been silent, and as I write, bellringing remains an activity that is not permitted. However, the Central Council of Church Bellringers, our national leaders, have been working behind the scenes with the Church of England's Recovery Group and the Church's Adviser for Medical Ethics, Health and Social Care Policy. These discussions have brought bellringing into focus, and guidance notes have been produced and agreed which provide a pathway for ringing to resume safely, and to form part of the resumption of church services.

Bellringing presents many risks; confined within a relatively small room with poor air circulation, it is difficult for ringers to maintain social distancing and hand hygiene. As with all group activities at present, consideration has to be given to the time spent together indoors engaged in a physical activity. For now, the first step back into bellringing is likely to be limited service ringing only; guidance suggests fifteen minutes bellringing, with ringers at least 1m apart. In some churches this will mean that not all bells can be rung; however, we are relatively lucky here at Exeter in our large ringing chamber. Still, the bells that can be rung, number of ringers permitted and length of time spent ringing will all be restricted, so it will be a different and challenging time for us all. Some of our older ringers, or those with family in vulnerable groups, will likely not yet feel comfortable returning to ringing, bearing in mind the risks involved.

As I write, we are awaiting updated Government and C of E guidance and confirmation on when service ringing can safely resume; it may well be that by the time you read this piece, the bells have once more called you to worship. I do hope so. Despite Zoom meetings, quizzes and talks arranged regularly by some of our members we have all been missing the sociability and musical physicality of our pastime. I am sure too that the bells have been missing our ringing! Under revised guidance, we are now allowed into the tower to carry out maintenance on the bells in readiness for ringing to resume, so our steeplekeeper, David Hird, is going through the process of a Covid-19 induction before awaiting clearance to enter the tower. Other essential works can also be completed; the Ellacombe Chimes are about to enter the modern age. No longer will they be operated from the familiar box in the South Transept. Instead, the bell hammers will be wired up and connected electronically, so that they can be operated to play programmed tunes at the touch of a button from a computer.

However, electrified chimes will never replace bellringers, or at least we hope not! We are very much looking forward to returning to the Cathedral very soon, to sounding the bells again and calling you to worship, telling the people of Exeter that it is Sunday morning and the Cathedral is there once again for them all.

Clare Griffiths, Secretary to Exeter Cathedral Bellringers

Hear the Canon Precentor

As we go to press, it's still possible to hear Canon James Mustard singing as a soloist in a performance of *Elijah*, on BBC Sounds. This was broadcast on Thursday 2nd July at 7.30pm on BBC Radio 3. It is a recording of a concert given in Birmingham Town Hall in 2008, featuring the Ex Cathedra XL Choir and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, conducted by Jeffrey Skidmore.

Happy Birthday!



Happy Birthday to Tabitha Nightingale, who was one on 23rd June. She seems to be enjoying her first taste of birthday cake.



And a very happy 80th birthday to Anne Eyre, seen here in her garden by the pond she made recently, known as the “lockdown lake”.

Curacy in the Time of Lockdown

As I write this, I realise that roughly 25% of the first year of my curacy has taken place during the period of lockdown. And my work at the CQC (Care Quality Commission) has also involved changes.

CQC is the regulator for all health and social care providers in England (www.cqc.org.uk). All but essential travel for CQC employees was suspended in March (about one week before lockdown). The planned inspection programme was paused for a short while to protect patients and employees (but surveillance of risks and acting on these continued). Some CQC employees were redeployed in frontline roles in health or social care services and others helped with the national emergency in other ways. For example, as CQC held details of all registered care homes this information was used to help set up the testing and screening system for social care staff. CQC has since adapted its inspection programme without compromising on its core purpose of helping ensure that people are provided with safe, effective and high quality care.

As a result of all this, my curacy as a self-supporting minister (SSM) has therefore taken on a different shape. Before ordination, I was occasionally troubled by how 'all of this would work'; how it would be that I could continue in paid employment and be an SSM serving two days per week.

But I ought not to have been so lacking in faith. Many new ways to minister remotely have emerged and, in some ways, the process of integration I referred to has been speeded up. Opportunities to proclaim God's love for His people have materialised in ways which were inconceivable just a few months ago. Thankfully, my initial (and somewhat self-centred), view that my curacy had somehow been 'interrupted' has changed too. I now have a deeper trust that this unfolding is not an interruption but, in fact, a Heaven sent opportunity to trust in the slow work of God.

Revd Phil Wales, Assistant Curate

News from the Foodbank

The need for foodbanks is as acute as ever. Please support them and the people who so desperately need help. There are collection boxes in branches of the Co-op, Sainsbury's, Tesco and Waitrose. They particularly need Rice 500/1Kg, Tinned Fruit, Tinned/Longlife custard, Microwaveable sponge puddings and Sugar 500g but anything nutritious is always welcome. Many thanks.

Felicity Cawthra

What does Exeter Cathedral mean to me?

Thank you to those from the Cathedral Community who responded to the question we posed last month. Our first correspondent has asked us not to attribute their contribution, but it is no less powerful for that.

Where to begin? Back in the 1950s, when, a small child, I first walked through its great West Door? Or today, stopping at the top of my street to take comfort from the sight of its twin towers rising steadfast over our city during these troubling times? In the years between, countless moments of meaning ... breathing in God's presence ... singing psalms of praise.... pausing in prayer beside Bishop Bronescombe's tomb.

Charles Dickens wrote of cathedral towers "cutting the bright air as if there was no such thing as change on earth". But our lives never stand still.

Cathedral Community Committee (CCC) Meeting 23rd June.

We met by Zoom on 23rd June, following Evening Prayer, at which the Revd Canon Ian Morter and the Venerable David Gunn-Johnson were re-licensed as Priest Vicars by Bishop Robert.

We had a short agenda, but such was the lively discussion, we had to adjourn after 2 hours, only half was through. The Dean gave a progress report on the gradual re-opening of the Cathedral, and the provisions for the return of public worship. The latter prompted a number of suggestions, including a strong recommendation that lay people should be involved in their customary roles in the liturgy as soon as possible, and that consideration be given to one of the Sunday morning services maintaining 2 metres social distancing, so that those in more vulnerable groups would feel safe to return.

Strong feelings emerged about the need for financial help for cathedrals and dioceses from the Church Commissioners, and for the particular characteristics of Cathedrals to be given due consideration when the issue of restoring music is discussed by the government and the central church institutions.

We agreed that Parish Giving/Planned Giving needed a boost, and that a group led by the CCC should assist Chapter in the detailed arrangements. We noted that with special appeals from Chapter, the Friends and the Music Foundation Trust all current, regular worshippers are not entirely sure where they should best contribute. We agreed that we should focus initially on increasing regular giving via the Parish Giving Scheme and the Development Appeal, as was the case before lockdown, while encouraging generosity to other fund raising where this was possible or preferred.

This led us to the question of the vision for the way ahead, which is the first item of the CCC Action Plan agreed earlier this year. And it is at that point that we shall resume our discussion on 14th July, the date of the next meeting. If there are any matters that you would like to raise at the CCC, please email to ccc@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

Heather Morgan, Chairman CCC

Anne's 80th Birthday Abseil for the Cathedral Development Appeal

Exeter Cathedral is a medieval masterpiece which has many treasures both in its fabric and its people. One of which is the not so medieval Anne Eyre who WAS planning to make a giant Jump from its North Tower to celebrate her 80th birthday!

As many readers will know, Anne is the widow of Richard Eyre, who was Dean in the 1980s and 90s. She was looking for a way to support development plans which will improve the Cathedral now and in the future. Being a somewhat determined character who enjoys a challenge (and to the slight consternation of her children and grandchildren), Anne offered to abseil from the top of the North Tower of the Cathedral on her 80th birthday, at the beginning of July 2020. A great way to celebrate as she moves into another decade!

Times have changed dramatically and, as with so many other creative projects, this plan has had to be postponed for a year. However, Anne will still launch her fundraising campaign on her 80th birthday, 5th July 2020. To find out how you can donate, email judith.kauntze@btinternet.com, or see the Cathedral website to donate online.

Thank you

A heartfelt thank you to all who prepared the Cathedral to receive worshippers on 5th July, and for those involved in the liturgy. A great deal of work and thought was involved in those preparations, and it was much appreciated by those who attended. It was great to be back in the Cathedral, to see members of the congregation in person, and to hear "live" music. Thank you.