



## From the Dean

This month I enter my next decade. Reaching a milestone in lockdown helps me appreciate just how tough this period has been for many people who have wanted to celebrate major life events over the past year or so. It's just not the same when you can't get together with family and friends. I can look back over all my other major birthdays and tell you just what I was doing. Reaching 30 was the most traumatic, which happened when I was at theological college. Suddenly I realised I was now a proper grown up, and had to behave as such, when I still enjoyed feeling young and carefree!

One thing it's been hard to do this year is to create the kind of memories that serve as mileposts on life's journey, and help foster a sense gratitude or contentment. You probably know the rather sentimental poem 'Footprints in the sand', but it's important in helping us realise that we often discern God at work in our lives as we look backwards. I am fortunate in having precisely that experience when I take time to reflect on where life has taken me because I certainly wouldn't have planned it this way. Of course, if you add in the training, just over half my life now has been full-time in the Church's ministry.

You will almost certainly have heard the key points from my story. How a mission at our parish church in Reigate set me on the path to ordination, and my mother's diagnosis with Alzheimer's gave added impetus: "I'd better get on with this because you never know what's round the corner." During my curacy at the Elephant and Castle, I went on retreat, and heard God say very clearly: "Jonathan, go sell everything. Come follow me." I pushed back: "No, Lord, I don't want to leave London or move away from my family. But if you want me to do that, help me get used to the idea." When I got home, there was a letter on the mat, asking me to become Chaplain to the Bishop of Truro. I'd never thought of moving to Cornwall, and had no idea who he was, but in the light of



my prayer, I had to take the invitation seriously. And so began my love affair with the West Country.

When I left Cornwall, I explored becoming a monk (“sell everything; come follow me”), but it wasn’t to be. My closest friend from Mirfield was murdered on his vicarage doorstep, so instead of going to see him as arranged to talk through the experience of my interview with the Superior at Mirfield, I went to his funeral. I was in no emotional state to pursue the religious life, and instead moved to the Good Shepherd in Brighton.

7 years on, I knew it was time to move, and this time I signed up to become a monk, in Boston, USA. As I put the phone down, the Bishop of Wakefield telephoned and asked me to become Archdeacon of Pontefract. I wasn’t interested: I didn’t want to be an archdeacon, and didn’t much want to return to West Yorkshire. But a Romanian friend twisted my arm: “What hope is there for the C of E if all its clergy push off to the States to save their own soul?!” And so, reluctantly, I headed to Yorkshire. And yet... within 6 months I’d met Pamela. And four years later, I moved very happily from being Archdeacon to become Dean of the Cathedral. Ten years on, Exeter advertised for a new dean, and a return to the West Country, with my Cornish wife, seemed a natural next move.

Looking back over these years, when I say I can see God at work, I’m not at all suggesting he’s been pushing buttons or levers. But there’s been a direction of travel and a building of experience, and all sorts of unexpected twists and turns, and ultimately a sense of contentment, that makes me feel as God is holding it all. I suppose it fits with one of my favourite prayers from the Communion Service in the Book of Common Prayer: “And we most humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may ... do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in.”

So there we are: birthdays - a celebration of life, and a chance to review where we’ve got to. I hope you don’t mind my review being quite so public, but I hope it might encourage each one of us, during this season of Lent, to consider our lives, and to pray for grace to continue to walk faithfully in the footsteps of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Jonathan Greener**

## **Happy Birthday, Jonathan!**

The Cathedral Community are as one in wishing Jonathan a very happy birthday. We hope that we will be able to celebrate with him very soon

## **News from the Company of Tapisers**

Many of you will remember Ann Barter who was a 'pillar' of our Cathedral Community for many years. As a former chairman of our Company, Ann was always fair-minded, kind, generous and very proud of the role of the Tapisers.

Every year, at the beginning of Lent, she announced that all our 'normal' work had to be put to one side in order for us to participate in a 'Lenten Penance'. First, she would send a couple of Tapisers into the Cathedral to inspect all the kneelers in the Nave and the Quire – over 500 of them! Each kneeler that showed signs of wear (usually bald patches in the hessian bases) would be brought back to the work room. They were distributed amongst the Tapisers, who set about removing the worn hessian and replacing it with new – using myriads of pins and ending up with *very* sore fingers!

This 'penance', which extended over the weeks leading up to Holy Week, ensured all the kneelers were kept in a state of good repair. It served as a useful reminder that, although the Tapisers stitch many new items – vestments, whitework altar linen and tapestry work – they also have a duty to maintain and care for what has been made before.

So, in the Tapisers' calendar, Lent is associated with mending – a process which is not always straightforward, needs skill and patience: a penance indeed.

We trust you are all keeping safe and well – and looking forward to the joys of Easter.

**Diana Symes, Chairman of the Company of Tapisers**

## **Pope Francis on Fasting this Lent**

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.



## Lucian Nethsingha

On 12<sup>th</sup> February Andrew and Alison Nethsingha sent us, and many other friends of Lucian, an email to let us know the sad news that he had died peacefully in his sleep early that morning. They told us that his final days, spent in the Cambridge Arthur Rank Hospice, were calm and without fear.

Lucian retired in 1999 after 26 years of being Organist and Master of the Choristers at Exeter Cathedral. His story is remarkable. Born on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1936 in Colombo, Ceylon, he was educated at St. Thomas's College, Mount Lavinia, and was awarded Gold Medals (Piano)

by the Trinity College in 1952 and the Associated Board in 1953. In 1954 he came to London to study at the Royal College of Music and was taught organ by Ralph Downes, and composition by Herbert Howells, who described him as "*one of my most musical pupils*". It is remarkable that Lucian hadn't played a real pipe organ until arriving in London a few days before his interview.

He moved on to study music at King's College, Cambridge with Boris Ord and David Willcocks. He frequently attended services in the college chapel and I'm sure that is where he learnt a great deal about choir training from both of his tutors.

In 1959, Lucian was appointed Organist of St. Michael's, Tenbury and broadcasts and recordings of the choir received much praise. He was kept very busy as there were 13 choral services per week, and he had no assistant to help him! In addition, Lucian broadcast several organ recitals from Tenbury. In 1965 he married Jane, who is remembered by everyone with great affection. Their son Andrew, now Director of Music at St John's, Cambridge, was born in 1968 and their daughter Alison, now a Senior Artist Manager based in London, was born in Exeter in 1973.

Lucian succeeded Lionel Dakers as Organist and Master of the Choristers of Exeter Cathedral on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1973. I remember the Head Virger's father stopping Lucian as he was about to go into the organ loft to play his first service saying 'Visitors are not allowed into the organ loft sir, only the organist' to which Lucian replied 'But I am the organist!'

From the start, Lucian built up a strong relationship with the men of the choir. Julian Sutton, a bass lay clerk, remarked that '*his many gifts and qualities inspired commitment, loyalty and a strong sense to sing well; his rehearsals were always relaxed, good-humoured and efficient, no matter what the circumstances*'. His relationship with the boy choristers was summed up rather

well by one of them who, on a special TV film about the choir, said *'Sometimes he's very strict and sometimes he's very kind. It's not a good idea to get him into a bad mood, so when he's in a good mood, you've got to keep him in a good mood!'* When conducting the choir, he knew the music so well that he didn't need to look at the score, enabling him to communicate exactly what he wanted from the choir by his expressive hands and face.

Through the Diocesan Choral Festival, and as Diocesan Organ Adviser, Lucian established warm relationships with many parish organists. For many years, and with great distinction, he conducted the local choral society, then called the Exeter Musical Society. He had perfect pitch and I remember, as the accompanist, he sometimes had difficulty keeping the chorus up to pitch during rehearsals. The concerts, however, were always of an excellent standard.

Twenty-four Choral Evensongs were broadcast by the BBC from the Cathedral during Lucian's 26 years at Exeter, and a number of commercial cassettes and CDs were produced. My wife, Heather, chose a psalm and an anthem from the collection to be played at her mother's funeral last year. It was good to be reminded of the beautiful and sensitive singing that Lucian produced so consistently from the Cathedral Choir, which caused me to remark to Heather: *'It's even better than King's!'*

Lucian and Jane held many parties in their home at 11 The Close, especially after concerts and other special events. Jane, who taught at Maynard School for many years, was a wonderful person and gave excellent support to Lucian and the family. When Lucian and Jane retired in 1999, it was not a great surprise that they chose to live in Cambridge. When Jane very sadly died of cancer a few years ago, Andrew and Alison were worried how Lucian would cope without her. They say that although he missed her every day, he had a wonderfully full and varied life in his final years. He was last in Exeter on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020 for the funeral of David Conway, who was an organist and great supporter of music at the Cathedral. Lucian was delighted to see so many friends again, and full of energy and stories. May he rest in peace.

**Paul Morgan, Organist Emeritus**

*We send our love and prayers to Andrew, Alison, Lucy, Emily, Peter and Helena, and to all Lucian's family and many friends. There will be a memorial service for Lucian in the Cathedral when circumstances permit.*

## **The Treasures of Romania**

**Monday 20th - Wednesday 29th September 2021**

Bishop Martin and Elspeth Shaw invite you to join us on a journey into the landscape, history, spirituality and resilience of a nation in its traditions and development. From the vibrancy of Bucharest, through rural Marmures' ancient villages; wooden churches; staying at an Orthodox Convent, we will move across the Carpathian Mountains to the famous World Heritage [UNESCO] Bucovina monastery churches. Via Moldavia, We will come to the mysterious culture of Transylvania, staying at the historic mansion of Szekerland. Our journey will be completed by a visit to a Children's Hospice, cared for by an Orthodox priest.

This journey is a pilgrimage into the heart of the Orthodox tradition. We'll have a daily Eucharist and time to enjoy new as well as deepen friendship.

Cost: £1695 [which includes a deposit of £200]

If you are interested to receive more information and a booking form, please get in touch with Bishop Martin: 07801 549615 or [amartinshaw@gmail.com](mailto:amartinshaw@gmail.com) The Pilgrimage company is: Worldwide Christian Travel, 36, Coldharbour Road, Bristol BS6 7NA. Email: [info@christian-travel.com](mailto:info@christian-travel.com) Website: [www.christian-travel.com](http://www.christian-travel.com)

## **From the Cathedral Flower Arrangers**

Well! Lent has arrived and now there is a strange sense of déjà vu as we talk about Easter flowers for 2021. Can we – will we – what shall it be – silks or fresh – who can arrange them – how many of us can go in??? The pillars are empty of decoration as is usual through Lent.

Having the Cathedral closed has been terrific for the amazing amount of work going on and I'm sure it has been easier without people around. There are several nasty looking exploratory holes in our Flower Room, but Luke assures me it can be made safe if we need to be in there. As I write, we are waiting for guidance on what we are able to do, and when, though we are hoping with fingers crossed for some good news. There will be no Easter Garden, and no Altar of Repose, nor flowers in every chapel. Do pray that we can resume our work in some form, so that our beautiful Cathedral looks wonderful dressed for Easter Day, even if it is only the Nave. The team of ECFA wish all readers a Happy Easter - with lots of chocolate eggs!

**Flick Evans**



## **Holy Ground : ‘Resurrection Now’**

**Sunday 11 April at 6pm on Zoom**

**with Bishop Rowan Williams,**

former Archbishop of Canterbury, Theologian, Author, Poet, and more.

We are delighted that Bishop Rowan has accepted our invitation to join us for Holy Ground on the Second Sunday of Easter. This online gathering will be a chance to allow the Easter message of new life to take root in our own lives.

The evening will include worship, Rowan’s talk, conversation in groups, and Q&A.

Details of how to join this meeting will be available nearer the time, but for now, please get it in your diaries and spread the word to others.

## **Governor for Exeter Cathedral School**

Under the governance arrangements agreed when the Cathedral School was legally separated from the Cathedral Chapter, the Chapter is able to nominate up to five governors. There are four such governors – the Dean, the Canon Precentor, Chapter Canon Jenny Ellis and Michael Totterdell. We would like to hear from any members of the Cathedral community who might be interested in being considered for the vacant slot. We would like to increase the diversity of the Board, for example, there is currently only one female Governor.

The role is unpaid and there is a commitment to attend meetings of the full Board of Governors – usually held once a term – as well as membership of one of the sub-committees, which also tend to meet once a term. In addition there are occasional meetings to discuss wider strategic issues as well as opportunities, in normal times, to visit the school and observe teaching and other activities. At present all meetings are being held on-line.

The Board of Governors undertook a skills audit two years ago and gaps remain for a Governor/governors with experience of ICT and PR/Marketing. We would also, however, be interested in hearing from anyone who might not have these particular skills, but who has an interest in education and the success of the Cathedral School.

If you would like any further information, or wish to express an interest, please contact Tina Robbens: [Tina.robbens@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:Tina.robbens@exeter-cathedral.org.uk) in the first instance.

## **Hope in the Hedgerows! A little book, but a big help**

Penny Adie has used her love of our wonderful Devon countryside, her mobile phone and her many contacts to produce Hope in the Hedgerows. I found it a delight, and can thoroughly recommend it as a treat for yourself or a gift to a friend.

The proceeds of this little book have so far supported the 'Help Musicians' charity to the tune of £4000. Live music and musicians have been hard hit by the consequences of Covid-19. 'Help Musicians' was founded in 1921 (and known for many years as the Musicians Benevolent Fund) and supports musicians' creativity, health and welfare and business needs across all genres of music.

Hope in the Hedgerows is now in its second print run and copies may be obtained by contacting Penny direct either by email or visiting the website

<https://www.hopeinthehedgerows.co.uk>

[adie.exmoor@btinternet.com](mailto:adie.exmoor@btinternet.com)

Though this is a little book it will be a big help to the world of music and musicians and, as its title suggests will bring hope and cheer to anyone reading it.

**Anne Foreman**

Hope in the Hedgerows ISBN: 978-1-5272-7747-2 £7.99

## **News from Exeter Foodbank**

Please remember the Foodbank. It is more urgent now than ever that we support the hungry. Thank you,

**Felicity Cawthra**

## **The April edition of *Cathedral News***

We hope to publish the next edition of the News on Easter Day, Sunday 4th April 2021. The deadline for material is **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021**. Please send any contributions to [hmm53@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:hmm53@tiscali.co.uk) or to any member of the editorial team; Heather Morgan, Rosemary Bethell, Jenny Ellis and Sheila Atkinson.

## Pat Young RIP



We were very sorry to hear of the death of Pat Young. Her husband, Ray, writes:

Sadly Pat (Irene) passed away peacefully on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan. Over 25 years we have enjoyed the rich fellowship with the Cathedral and the community.

In the peace of the evening on Budleigh Salterton beach when the water was silent Pat would remember the Festival of Flowers in July 2012 and the many art and craft displays in the Chapter House.

Against this background and many others associated with the Cathedral we have found a silence to renew our life and faith together.

The family joins me in thanking you for your prayers.

*We are very grateful to Claire and Ann, Pat and Ray's daughters, for this photo of their parents. To them and to all the family go our sympathy and our prayers. We are very sorry for the typographical errors in last month's edition, which have been corrected in this repeat of the article.*

## Living in Love and Faith

We were delighted that 120 people joined us on 3<sup>rd</sup> February for Zoom gatherings to introduce Living in Love and Faith. This project, to engage congregations across the Church of England in conversation about identity, sexuality, and gender, has created huge interest at the Cathedral, and 40 people have joined groups meeting this Lent.

There will be future opportunities to take part in the conversation in the summer and autumn – and we hope, by the autumn, in person. We know that some people were disappointed not to be able to join in during Lent, but these and others have the chance to join in during the course of the year.

There are a wide range of resources online at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith>

In addition the Living in Love and Faith book and The Course booklet are available from the cathedral shop:

<https://shop.myonlinebooking.co.uk/exetercathedral/shop/category.aspx>

A very kind donor has offered some free copies of the book for those who cannot easily afford them. Do contact the shop manager Alice Escott if you would like to make use of this offer: [shop@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:shop@exeter-cathedral.org.uk) or 01392 271354

## From Canon Chris Palmer

### Spring

by Gerard Manley Hopkins

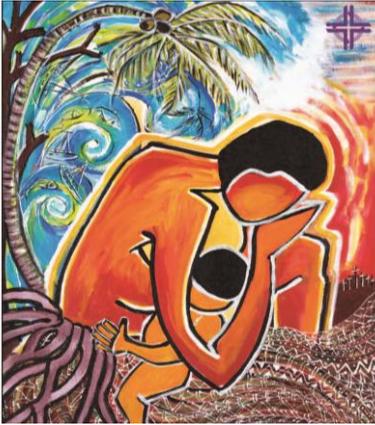
Nothing is so beautiful as Spring –  
When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;  
Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush  
Through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring  
The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;  
The glassy peartree leaves and blooms, they brush  
The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush  
With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their fling.

What is all this juice and all this joy?  
A strain of the earth's sweet being in the beginning  
In Eden garden. – Have, get, before it cloy,  
Before it cloud, Christ, lord, and sour with sinning,  
Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy,  
Most, O maid's child, thy choice and worthy the winning.

In the last week we've seen the unmistakable signs of Spring coming. People have been posting pictures of daffodils emerging, and it's been possible to get out running earlier and later as it gets lighter and warmer. It all put me in mind of Hopkins lovely poem 'Spring'. 'Nothing is so beautiful as Spring –'. It's easy to agree and understand why Hopkins so naturally moves to compare this 'juice' and 'joy' with the garden of Eden. And from there the poem acknowledges *both* the reality of sin – 'Before it cloud... sour with sinning...' – and the wonderful news that for Christ our 'innocent mind', our restoration, is 'worth the winning'.

Lent, of course, is an old English word for Spring. And this season of the church's year reminds us of the reality of sin – calling forth our sorrow and repentance – whilst looking towards resurrection, the life that springs up anew. Our world bursts with the signs of vitality, and our keeping of Lent is our way of co-operating with God who make his creation new.

**Canon Chris Palmer**



## **World Day of Prayer**

On March 5, Exeter Cathedral will be participating in World Day of Prayer, a global and ecumenical movement designed to share the thoughts, hopes, concerns and prayers of women around the world.

### **Join us on Zoom at 11:30am:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82373096177?pwd=QkY3c1BtbG5JNVdWTXl0L1k1c3FyQT09>

Meeting ID: 823 7309 6177 Passcode:888367

Or phone +442039017895

### ***Theme: Build on a Strong Foundation***

The service this year has been designed by the women of Vanuatu in the South Pacific. Vanuatu has a colourful culture and warm and engaging people.

Sadly, the islands are suffering from climate change and natural disasters. Cyclone Pam in 2015 destroyed several islands and damaged the international airport, the island of Ambea was decimated and had to be completely evacuated by the volcanic eruption in 2017, and in 2020 cyclone Harold created catastrophic damage to several other islands especially Espiritu Santo during the Covid pandemic. All the islands are subject to quite large tremors on a regular basis. However, the landscapes are beautiful, and just as you would imagine tropical islands to be, so tourism is a major source for the economy.

The islands are mainly Christian; their celebrations are colourful and engaging. Celebrations are usually held in the local language Bislama, a form of pidgin English, but depending on the islands English and French is also spoken.

Women's rights are a priority, and much work is taking place to educate girls especially. The opportunity for this Year's Day of Prayer has been significant for them all. So we hope that you will be able to join us, and if not, be able to pray for the people of Vanuatu, especially in their struggles against climate change

**Canon Cate Edmonds**

## Shop Snippets

I'm sure it's no surprise that there has been little happening with the Shop over the last few months hence our absence from Cathedral News. Our two brand new guide books continue to sell well, especially after Peter King's wonderful book reviews, and orders for *Living in Love and Faith* have hardly ceased, so thank you to everyone who has made a purchase!

With the encouraging possibility of being able to reopen in April, we begin to get ready for your return through the Shop doors. To be honest, it's in a little bit of a mess at the moment after stock taking, a complete reorganisation of displays and preparing to open with a massive sale (and yes, to those of you wondering, there will be Christmas cards etc. in the sale too!).

As we will once again be closed for Easter, our range of Easter cards and gifts are online; single cards, packs of cards and a few alternatives to Easter eggs as well. The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book for 2021, *Living His Story* by Hannah Steele is also available alongside *Candles in the Dark* by Rowan Williams, as reviewed by Anne Foreman last month, and *Enriching Our Vision of Reality* by Alister McGrath, as recommended by Mike Williams.

In the meantime, if you are looking for something specific and can't see it on our online shop please don't hesitate to get in touch as we may have it in the Shop instead.

As always, I wish you all the best and thank you for your continued support. We hope to see you very soon!

**Alice, Shop Supervisor**

## Cathedral Community Committee 9<sup>th</sup> February

**Living in Love and Faith:** We received a progress report and were delighted to hear that 120 people had attended the introductory gatherings on 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

**Planned Giving Group:** An introductory meeting had been held.

**Safeguarding Champion:** We agreed that Claire Griffiths would be the CCC Safeguarding Champion.

**Diocesan Prayer Diary:** Anne Foreman gave a progress report and invited offers of help to join the group who contact parishes and mission communities when they are being prayed for in the Cathedral in the Diocesan Prayer Diary.

**Worship:** The Dean asked for views about resumption of public worship in the Cathedral to inform the forthcoming Chapter discussion. A full and lively discussion ensued. All agreed that the decision was a difficult one, that Chapter was assured of our support, and that we hoped public worship would restart soon.

**Website:** The Dean would facilitate a meeting to communicate CCC thoughts on the new Cathedral website.

## Cloister Club

During Lockdown Cloister Club has gone online. Each week Canons Cate, Chris or Morwenna produce a video for YouTube for the children and activities to accompany the videos are sent out by email. The children receive weekly a YMC, Young Church Mag. This includes colouring and activities related to each Sunday. We understand how difficult it is for both parents and children at this time with home schooling etc. and we hold them in our prayers especially as they return to schools on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Christian Aid have produced a wonderful resource for children to help them pray and this can be ordered free from:

<https://letspraytogether.christianaid.org.uk/ordernow/>



We do hope that very soon we will be able to meet in person and have some fun together, but in the mean time we pray for all our children and young people remembering the words of Jesus.

*'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.'* Matthew 19:14

**Canon Cate Edmonds**

## Thank you from Anne Eyre

Anne Eyre has asked us to say thank you so much for the card and the lovely pot of flowers from the Cathedral Community, kindly delivered by Helen Whitehead. They are still blooming and providing lovely spring colour in Anne's conservatory.

She is making steady progress after an operation on her spine.

## The Real Easter Egg

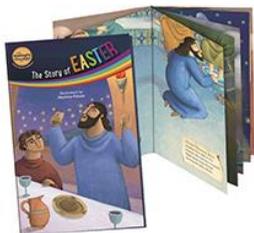
### About the Real Easter Egg

- Out of the 80 million chocolate Easter eggs sold each year in the UK, The Real Easter Egg is the first and only Fairtrade chocolate Easter egg to share the Easter story.
- The Real Easter Egg has been on sale since 2010 and involves thousands of churches, schools and groups. It crosses all denominations and offers individuals a simple way to share the Easter Story while supporting Fairtrade and charitable projects.
- The Real Easter Egg continues to be the UK's top mail order egg in terms of volume.
- To date more than a million eggs have been sold and more than £300,000 has been donated to charitable causes.
- In 2013 The Real Easter Egg was voted 'Gift of the Year' by Fairtrade supporters.
- Reviewers have placed The Real Easter Egg above eggs from Hotel Chocolat, Green and Black's and Ferrero Rocher.

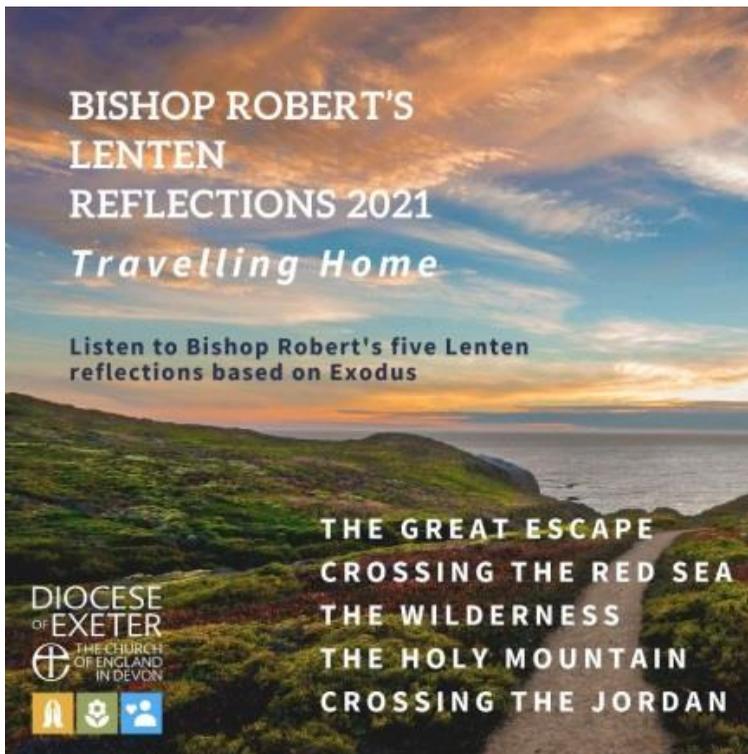


You can order direct from [www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk).

### A free activity/story book with every Easter Egg



The 2021 Original Real Easter Egg includes a new 24 page Easter story activity book. It features a rainbow design to remind us of the importance of working together, in amazing and inspiring ways, for the common good. It costs £4.50 and is delivered in multiples of six or as singles.



## **Bishop Robert's Podcasts**

The Bishop of Exeter has produced a weekly [5-part series](#) on Exodus for Lent 2021.

Bishop Robert says: “In these Lent talks I want to explore the idea of “homecoming”, and what it might mean for us.

I have chosen 5 episodes from the Exodus story to help you map your own experience of God.”

[Click here for episode 1.](#)

## **A Poem for Reflection for Lent and Easter**

Love bade me welcome. Yet my soul drew back  
    Guilty of dust and sin.  
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack  
    From my first entrance in,  
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,  
    If I lacked any thing.

A guest, I answered, worthy to be here:  
    Love said, You shall be he.  
I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah my dear,  
    I cannot look on thee.  
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,  
    Who made the eyes but me?

Truth Lord, but I have marred them: let my shame  
    Go where it doth deserve.  
And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame?  
    My dear, then I will serve.  
You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat:  
    So I did sit and eat.

*George Herbert (1593-1633)*

## **Why do you Volunteer at the Cathedral?**

Lockdown is a great time to reflect on why we're a part of this Community, our reasons for joining and our visions for the future. If you're a volunteer at the Cathedral, please get in touch with your thoughts and reflections in response to the question: 'why do you volunteer at Exeter Cathedral?' Please either e-mail [volunteers@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@exeter-cathedral.org.uk) or post a short letter to Joseph Patkai, 1 The Cloisters, Exeter, EX1 1HS with your reason(s). We look forward to hearing from you soon!

**Joseph Patkai, Special Projects and Volunteers' Assistant**