



## From the Canon Chancellor : Year of Invitation and Welcome



During September we begin a Year of Invitation and Welcome – a conscious intention to be a community that invites and welcomes all, those familiar and those who are new, those who are confident and those for whom walking over the threshold take courage, those used to our ways and those who find them baffling.

It's easy to think that this is mainly about what we can do for others. But really it's about the kind of Cathedral and Community we wish to be. We are going to think about aspects of welcome in our worship – both that which comes from the front and how people are received at the door – and about how we build up relationships in a way that overcomes some of the distinctions we live with. At an initial meeting about this *Year*, we brought together weekday volunteers, Sunday congregations, and members of staff. It was encouraging to see the desire for those groups to know each other better.

Many of the plans for the year build on these desires. The plans are not radical – drinks parties for newcomers, training for welcomers, events for invited guests – but they are proactive ways of making connections.

But any number of strategies will fail unless they are accompanied by a growth in the culture of our community. And this comes by hearing and knowing the welcoming of God in our lives in a fresh way, and then becoming those who live this welcome. Next year we will run the *Everybody Welcome* course, which will help us achieve this growth in our culture.

We're also aware that, as we falteringly emerge from the pandemic, we also need to find ways to hold together those who are confident about being together, and those who are tentative to return due to the continuing risk of infection. All belong – including those who can't be with us physically at present.

When I was a school governor, one of our schools received a 'good' Ofsted report. Our stated aim for the next three years was to move 'from good to outstanding'. It feels a bit the same with the Cathedral. We're already good at welcoming people – our worshippers, our visitors, even reviews on Trip Advisor demonstrate this. And our crowd of volunteers, our staff, and our congregations make this possible. So the question is, how do we take the best that we already are and develop it even further? How do we move from good to outstanding?

There's a lovely prayer that we sometimes use at the Cathedral that expresses this desire to welcome and invite people. It comes from Bishop Thomas Ken, a beloved bishop during the seventeenth century:

O God, make the door of this house  
wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship,  
and a heavenly Father's care;  
and narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and hate.  
Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling block to  
children,  
nor to straying feet,  
but rugged enough to turn back the tempter's power:  
make it a gateway to thine eternal kingdom. Amen.

**Canon Chris Palmer**



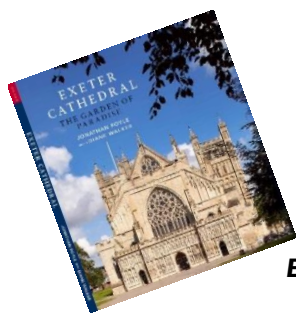
## The Friends of Exeter Cathedral

We are looking forward to hosting our first face to face event since early 2020, on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September, when Dr Robert Guyver will present a talk entitled *The Life and Legacy of John Coleridge Patteson: Missionary, Bishop and Martyr*.

The venue will be the Chapter House and drinks will be served from 6.45pm, followed by the talk at 7.00pm. Some spaces are still available so please telephone our office on 01392 423931 if you would like to reserve a place. Tickets cost £13 for Friends and £17 for non-members.

This event has been arranged in association with the commemorations of the 150th anniversary of the death of Bishop Patteson, and details about other events taking place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September can be found on the Melanesian Mission website -

<http://www.mmuk.net/news/patteson-150-mmuk-festival-day-agm/>



## Meet the Authors

**Jonathan Foyle, author of  
*Exeter Cathedral:  
The Garden of Paradise***

**Diane Walker, author of  
*Exeter Cathedral – Souvenir Guide***



**Chapter House, Exeter Cathedral  
Tuesday 21 September between 1.30pm and 3.30pm**

When these two exciting new books about Exeter Cathedral were published in December 2020, restrictions prevented us from holding a formal launch. A different type of event to celebrate these new publications will now take place on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September, when renowned architectural historian Jonathan Foyle, together with Exeter Cathedral volunteer and researcher Diane Walker, will be in the Chapter House from 1.30pm until 3.30pm.

1.30pm Introduction by the Dean followed by two short presentations:

*Exeter Cathedral as a Paradise Garden:* Jonathan Foyle

Why is this Cathedral so copiously decorated with carved and painted flowers and plants? What did they mean? And what relationship does this verdant scene have to the unusually fortress-like details of crenellations and arrow loops?

*Illustrating the Cathedral's Stories:* Diane Walker

This talk looks at a selection of the specially commissioned photographs, including some which didn't make it into print. Some secrets behind capturing these beautiful images will be shared, and reasons for choosing some of the subjects will be discussed.

2.45pm (approx. start)

*The Great Rebuilding, Revisited:* Jonathan Foyle

Exeter Cathedral is understood to have been rebuilt from the east end to west from the late thirteenth century, its evolution largely reflected in works accounts. However, the earliest accounts are missing. This talk offers a new rationale of when the Great Rebuilding started, by which Bishop of Exeter, and why.

*Whither the Dog Whipper:* Diane Walker

Recent research has shed new light on some old stories about the Cathedral. Long thought to have occupied the apartment over the north porch, we now know that the dog whipper lived elsewhere. This talk will include more about the dog whipper, the north porch apartment and other new research findings.

The event is free of charge and no booking is necessary. Each presentation will be about 15-20 mins. This is an opportunity to meet Jonathan and Diane, and to hear more about their work. Come for all, or some, of the afternoon, and bring your copies of the books if you want them to be signed.

The books and a selection of mounted prints of photographs taken by Peter Smith for these publications will be available to buy in the Chapter House during the afternoon.

## **Shop Snippets**

Exciting things are happening...

As many of you may have heard by now, Chapter has approved a trial of the shop in the North Transept commencing mid-October. This trial will be monitored closely to ensure that the shop does not impact on daily Cathedral life. This will allow the North Transept to be cleared of all its existing contents (into the current shop space) improving the area, allowing better access and enhancing the overall visitor experience.

This, therefore, means that throughout September the Shop is having a huge sale! Lots of lines are already reduced and more will be added each week. Everything from jewellery, to giftware and greetings cards.

New books available (all recommended in this month's *News*):

*Everyday God* by George Guiver, *Taste & See – Adventuring into Prayer* by Margaret Silf, *Sadhana* by Anthony De Mello, *Writing the Icon of the Heart* by Maggie Ross and *Living in Love & Faith* (now only £15).

**Alice Escott, Cathedral Shop Manager**

## **Lectio Divina Group**

The Lectio Divina slow Bible reading group is starting up again on 1 September. It will now be meeting on Wednesdays (previously on Tuesdays), but will continue to be at 8pm on Zoom, Meeting ID: 940 4683 2921 Password: lectio.

## **From The Company of Tapisers**

It is now a staggering 17 months or 75 weeks since we last met together for our weekly stitching sessions! Having said that, the work of the group has continued unabated in our homes! Now, we are looking forward to the resumption of our meetings in September – albeit with face masks and keeping a safe distance apart.

There is much work for the Tapisers to do:

The Textile Group are eager to complete the ‘Mayflower Cope’ that was begun two years ago! Although the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower to the New World in 2020 has passed, there will still be opportunities to wear the cope and celebrate the courage and achievements of those early Pilgrim Fathers.

The Canvas Group’s first task is to restore the Chapter House cushions. As many of you will have seen, the work in the Chapter House has transformed the building – with new underfloor heating, re-rendered walls and a splendid porchway. The cushions which were made to make sitting more comfortable on the side ledges will be returned as soon as we have replaced the damaged hessian bases. Voracious silverfish have left their mark by eating through some of our work! Now that the walls have been restored – and their homes no longer easily accessible – we hope our restoration work will make the cushions serviceable for many years to come.

Finally, the Whitework Group will be able to reassess the condition of the altar linen and replace or mend as necessary.

So, once our meetings recommence our fingers will be fully employed!!!

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

## **Devon Historic Churches Trust – Walk and Stride Day Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

This event will soon be upon us and we are looking for sponsors. It isn’t too late to contribute. Our usual collection table will be in the south aisle of the nave after Choral Eucharist on Sundays. Please be as generous as possible.

Thank you.

**Diane Coombes**

## **Surfing in Heaven: A Week of Prayer** **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October**

Prayer isn't what you think it is. We are delighted to welcome Sister Elizabeth Jane CSMV and Fr George Guiver CR to lead us in a week exploring different ways of praying. Each day they will open to us approaches to prayer, from engaging in the Daily Office (Morning and Evening Prayer) to contemplative forms of prayer. There will be opportunity to try out prayer in practice, as well as times for questions and conversation.

What is the meaning of everything?

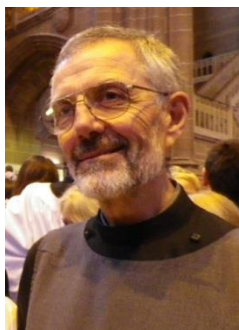
Where do I belong?

In prayer, what do you do?

What comes of it?

Is there any firm ground anywhere?

This week we will explore both corporate and personal prayer. We will explore the ways that prayer forms us in community. For when we pray we do so in company with all others who worship. Come along and listen, learn some things you didn't know, and some things to do, and ask your questions.



### ***Father George Guiver***

Brother George grew up in Leicester. He has a degree in music, worked in Italy and Germany, and was 9 years in parish ministry before joining the Community of the Resurrection in 1983.

He taught Liturgy for 20 years, and has written several books, including *Everyday God*. He is working on another book at the moment, on the subject of this week's explorations.



### ***Sister Elizabeth Jane***

Sister Elizabeth Jane is a Sister of the Anglican Community of St Mary the Virgin in Wantage near Oxford. Prior to joining the Community in 1989, she worked for the Intercontinental Church Society in London and then spent 18 months with the church in Botswana – both horizon broadening experiences.

The Community to which she belongs is centred around the Eucharist, Daily Office and personal prayer – and from this wellspring flows their ministry and outreach.

She writes:

“One of the joys I have had over the years is to be alongside others through the ministry of spiritual direction and retreat giving. I feel very blessed in being called to the Religious Life and I look forward to sharing some of its riches with you in our week together. I also look forward to getting to know Exeter – having only ever been through on the train!”

*Fr George Guiver CR and Sr Elizabeth Jane CSMV are both members of Anglican religious communities. You can find out more about their Communities via their websites - Community of the Resurrection <https://mirfield.org.uk> and Community of St Mary the Virgin <https://csmv.co.uk>*

***The detailed daily programme for the week is available on the Cathedral website and in a leaflet.***

### **Slow Book Group: *Writing the Icon of the Heart* by Maggie Ross**

A slow book group, co-led by Clare Bryden and Revd Phil Wales, is being planned for the **3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays between October 2021 and March 2022**, for those who wish to read and reflect together on the writings of Maggie Ross, and our relationship with God. (Note that this was billed in August’s news as September to February, but on reflection it was felt best to start after the Week of Prayer.)

*Writing the Icon of the Heart* is a collection of twelve short essays that cast new light on ancient texts and long-established spiritual practices. It is a book that challenges as well as inspires, and takes us deep into what it truly means to worship, to love, to pray – and to be human, made in the image of God. Archbishop Rowan Williams describes it as “really transformative.” Maggie Ross is an Anglican solitary who divides her time between Oxford and the USA. She blogs at <http://ravenwilderness.blogspot.com/>.

On each of the six months we shall cover two essays. We shall devote our time together to reviewing what we have read, sharing insights, seeking answers to questions, and reflecting on how the Spirit is calling us to deepen our faith and prayer.

Meetings will take place on Zoom at 7.30-8.30 pm. Places are limited. If you would like to sign up or have any questions about joining please email Revd Phil Wales, Assistant Curate ([phil.wales@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:phil.wales@exeter-cathedral.org.uk)).



## John Coleman – Iconographer

In the summer of 2002, thanks to an initiative of Chapter, John, aka “Ikon John”, was invited to take up a period of residence to ‘write’ two icons for the Cathedral, one of St Peter, and one of Pantocrator or the All Holy One. Whilst with us, John also worked on an icon of the Blessed Virgin which he bequeathed to the Cathedral. He was offered a small flat in Cloister Garth and

spent all day working in the Chapel of St John the Baptist where he welcomed many visitors. He enjoyed talking about his work and he heard many very sad stories from people, some of whom just sat with him and wept. He was with us for over two months as Chapter debated the words of Christ for the open Bible on the Pantocrator icon. His was an extraordinary ministry and brought many people into the Cathedral. He was also very generous and wrote individual icons for members of Chapter and others.

Shortly after John left us, our then Dean, Keith Jones, moved to York Minster and the Exeter Chapter commissioned John to write an icon of St Peter, to whom York Minster is also dedicated. Many members of Chapter and members from our congregation travelled to York for Keith’s installation and presentation of the icon.

John’s reputation spread among other Cathedrals and churches where he spent time writing icons, including Truro, Bradford, Salisbury, Bury St Edmunds, Sherborne Abbey and the Chapel at Lambeth Place. Mention must also be made of the twelve icons depicting the Great Fathers of the church which adorn the pillars of St Peter and the Holy Apostles Church in Wyndham Square, Plymouth. Following a visit by members of the Cathedral congregation to Canon Carl Turner in New York, where he is Rector of St Thomas, Fifth Avenue, John also wrote an icon of St Thomas for that church. Carl was our Canon Precentor in 2002, and was instrumental in persuading Chapter to invite John for his period of residence.

In spite of his ability and pleasure in talking and arguing, John was at heart a very private person. It was only because a priest at St Endellion Church in North Cornwall, where John had also had a period in residence, spotted a small personal announcement from his children in the Church Times of 6<sup>th</sup> August that we learned the sad news that John died on 20<sup>th</sup> July. His funeral took place at Weymouth Crematorium on 12<sup>th</sup> August. Thank you John for your amazing legacy, friendship and teaching. **Diane Coombes**





## From the Flower Arrangers

A number of the Cathedral regulars will know that Tim Parsons and Cressida Peers were married on July 30<sup>th</sup> – at the fourth attempt! We did ALL the flowers which is unusual for ECFA.

It was a great deal of work, with people working on various days during the previous week. Some talented ladies made a beautiful bouquet and posies. Another team worked hard to make all the table flowers in one day – 16 of them – and then the Quire was decorated on another day – all green and white. Cressida and Tim popped in several times as we worked, and seemed very happy with our work.

*(The arrangement at the Golden Gates, including organ pipes!)*

It was lovely to see how excited they both were about their big day. Cressida looked simply beautiful and Tim scrubbed up very well! The Nave and the Quire looked magnificent, with candles and flowers lining the tables and beautiful arrangements everywhere, which were left for everyone to enjoy. The team comprised Sylvia, Linda, Tina, Jill, Carole, Leila, Alison and myself. It was a pleasure and a privilege for us all.

We are happily into our regular routine, but still short of arrangers. Several ladies (and one gent) have come forward so we are keeping our fingers crossed that one or two will be happy to join us. The promise of a new flower room does not persuade anyone I'm afraid, and having to show our current conditions doesn't encourage people - although we do seem to manage quite well!

**Flick Evans**

## The October edition of *Cathedral News*

We hope to publish the next edition of the News on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021. The deadline for material is **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 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.

## Year of Invitation and Welcome Groups

As part of the *Year of Invitation and Welcome*, we've set up seven small working groups to undertake aspects of the work. Look out for these during the coming year:

- Training for welcomers
- Drinks parties for newcomers
- Promoting Justice, Peace, and Care for Creation
- 'Second-tier' welcome (what happens *after* you've got in?)
- Profiling different groups in our community
- *Everybody Welcome* course
- Events for invited guests

For more information, do be in touch with Canon Chris Palmer – [chris.palmer@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:chris.palmer@exeter-cathedral.org.uk) / 07906 249132

**Canon Chris Palmer**

## Prayer Groups

September brings changes for three prayer groups at the Cathedral, as they either move back into the building or change meeting times. Any of these groups would love you to join them – regularly or occasionally.

***Prayers for Healing.*** A group meets each Monday at 12.30pm in the Gabriel Chapel for 40 minutes to pray for God's healing for our world, for those who are in need, and for members of the community for whom our prayers are asked.

***Contemplative Prayer Group.*** A group meets on the second Monday of each month at 2.30pm in St John the Baptist Chapel to encounter God through silence and stillness.

***Lectio Divina Group.*** A group meets on Zoom each Wednesday evening at 8pm for prayerful reflection on the scriptures. They are delighted to welcome new members. Zoom Meeting ID: 940 4683 2921 Passcode: lectio

**Canon Chris Palmer**

## London Marathon

Once again Liz Searle is running the London Marathon for Hospiscare on Sunday October 3rd, her 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive annual Hospiscare marathon. If you could support her (as many of you have done in previous years) she would be very grateful. You may do so on line if you prefer at

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Elizabeth-Searle4](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Elizabeth-Searle4)



## Welcome, James

*A very warm welcome to James Anderson-Besant, our new Assistant Director of Music. We asked James to introduce himself.*

Hello! I'm James, the new Assistant Director of Music, and I'm really looking forward to meeting everyone from across the Cathedral community over

the coming weeks. Everyone I've met since I moved two weeks ago has been so welcoming, and I can't wait to get stuck in at the start of term!

I've been asked to write a few words about what I've been up to before moving to Exeter, so here we go...

I grew up in Benson in South Oxfordshire, and started learning the keyboard with Judith Ward while at the village primary school. Fortunately, Judith also happened to be the Director of Music at Benson Church, so I ended up joining the choir age 9 and singing there until I later became the organist age 14. From 11-18 I attended Abingdon School, and started properly learning the organ there with James Brown (not the Godfather of Soul), Organist of the University Church, Oxford. All of this combined with my growing love for making music with various groups in and around Oxford (including Oxford Concerto Orchestra and the Cathedral Singers of Christ Church) made me decide to study music at university – otherwise I think I might have done something like engineering.

I took a gap year as Organ Scholar of Gloucester Cathedral, where I played for services, helped train the choristers and did a lot of singing work in schools throughout the diocese. The 2016-17 year there was especially exciting as it was the Cathedral's first year of girl choristers, so seeing them grow in skill and confidence was fantastic. I've then spent the last four very happy years at St John's College Cambridge, three as Organ Scholar and one as Assistant Organist, under Andrew Nethsingha, (former chorister at Exeter). I've had the huge privilege of accompanying the College Choir in its routine of services, broadcasts, tours and recordings and assisting in the training of the choristers. This inspiring experience and everything I learnt from it left me in no doubt that I wanted to go into cathedral music as a career.

I feel very thankful now to be here in Exeter – I've been looking around the Cathedral in awe every time I walk in, and I've really enjoyed getting used to the Cathedral Organ which is wonderful. It's exciting to be joining the Music Department at such a significant time, when choirs are getting back to normal routines and performances post-Covid (we hope!), and I'm especially looking

forward to directing the St Peter's Singers. Living in this area is rather nostalgic for me, as my grandparents lived in South Brent on the southern edge of Dartmoor while I was growing up, so I spent many holidays walking on the moors and going to all the good beaches. In my spare time I enjoy walking, occasional running, cooking, history, engineering, and playing a few sports incredibly badly but with a lot of enthusiasm.

On a side note, if anyone has any bits of furniture they would like to get rid of, I'm looking for some more things to populate my new flat! – do email me on [james.ab@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:james.ab@exeter-cathedral.org.uk)

**James Anderson-Besant**

## **From Chapter, the Director of Music, & the Cathedral Community Committee**



Gordon Pike was a member of the Cathedral Choir, serving successively as chorister, choral scholar, lay vicar and punctator, for over 40 years. He retired on Easter Day 2020. Unfortunately we couldn't mark his wonderful service at that time because of lockdown, but we will do so at Evensong at 4pm on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September.

In May 2020, Tim Noon wrote, *"In addition to his steadfast and utterly reliable presence in the choir, Gordon has also been an inspirational teacher to countless generations of choristers, a fabulous mentor to choral scholars, and a wonderfully supportive friend and colleague. His support of every aspect of Cathedral life, and his unparalleled institutional knowledge are such that in his case, it would be fair to say he is irreplaceable"*.

Chapter and the whole Cathedral Community want to thank Gordon for his outstanding contribution to the Cathedral, not just his singing, but all that he has brought to the Cathedral and to the Cathedral Choir by his presence among us. We hope that as many people as possible will want to contribute to a thank you gift. We also hope for a large congregation on 19<sup>th</sup> September, when we will celebrate all that Gordon has done for the Cathedral over a glass of wine.

Please send a donation towards a thank you gift for Gordon either to the Finance Department, Cathedral Office, 1 The Cloisters, Exeter EX1 1HS, or donate via BACS. The bank details are –  
Dean and Chapter of Exeter, Sort Code: 56-00-49 Account Number: 00708526, using the reference PIKE.

If you send a donation by post, please mark the envelope 'Gordon Pike's Gift', and make cheques payable to 'The Dean and Chapter of Exeter'.

## **Sylvia Pritchard RIP**

*Sylvia Pritchard died on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2021. She was a longstanding member of the Cathedral congregation and will be greatly missed by her many friends in the Cathedral community, throughout Exeter, Devon and further afield. Her funeral, a Requiem Mass, will be in the Cathedral at 11am on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September.*

*We are very grateful to Bishop Martin Shaw for this tribute.*

‘Who is Sylvia?’ may have been a Schubertian question, but in the context of a St David’s Singers’ practice back in 1982, it was whispered among the ‘bad boys’ of the tenors and basses, of whom I was one. The whisper was followed by, ‘Who is she not?’ Sylvia Pritchard our director told us to shut up! That exchange is important, as I recall one of Exeter’s, indeed one of Devon’s characters, whose service to music and with music, stretched far beyond directing and conducting, but indeed into influencing and, perhaps more importantly, nurturing music, both in the context of Liturgy and Concert. Many have been encouraged to sing who otherwise would never have felt confident to do so.

Describing her own Exeter background as ‘ordinary’ was always, for me at any rate, something of a smokescreen. Perhaps she had a humble background, her own parents not belonging to any Exonian elite. Sylvia showed me several instances in a book of a relative, who had fought in World War One, being ‘mentioned in dispatches’. Most importantly, throughout her life she regarded having been an only child as significant to her development.

Displaying an intelligence and brightness meant that she won a place at the Maynard School, where she flourished in music, particularly the piano. She was led to the Royal College of Music in London, where she was taught by such luminaries as Henry Ley and William McKie, both of whose music is frequently used in Cathedrals and Colleges. While at the Royal College, she was helping at a rehearsal of Vaughan Williams’ ‘Serenade to Music’. The great man came and stood beside her and asked her what she thought. Sylvia was never one to be overawed by anyone! “Well,” asked Vaughan Williams, what do you think of this piece?” “Maybe” replied Sylvia, “It’ll become part of repertoire throughout the country, but I’m not sure whether these singers have practised it enough.” Vaughan Williams smiled. “I couldn’t disagree with you more. The singers are doing their best with not one of my best pieces, I fear.” These and other memories of her time at the College remained vitally important for Sylvia.

Eventually Sylvia herself would dedicate much of her adult life to teaching, particularly in Exeter College, where she became head of the Music Department. There she built up the Exeter College Choral Society and with the use of Devon musicians, her performances around Devon, particularly in the

Cathedral will be remembered for the sheer courage in putting them on. Sylvia wouldn't be regarded as the finest conductor in the region, nor would she pretend to be. Whatever conducting skills she lacked on the rostrum, she made up with detailed and careful preparation and rehearsal. I, for one, would never in my life have had the opportunity to sing the baritone solo in one, let alone two, performances of Benjamin Britten's 'War Requiem', singing alongside such great tenors as Ian Partridge and John Graham Hall, if it wasn't for her encouragement and trust.

Sylvia had been organist of St David's church for many years, which led to her marriage to Tom Pritchard, the one-time Vicar. Theirs was a close relationship which nurtured friendship around them. Many will attest to the outstanding generosity of Sylvia through her love of, and skill, at entertaining. This generosity didn't stop at her hospitality skills, but also in taking several of her friends to such centres of excellence as Stratford-upon-Avon and also to Glyndebourne with all its additional joys of evening dress and carefully prepared cordon bleu picnics. Following Tom's death, Sylvia continued with her encouragement of music by becoming the director of music at Budleigh Salterton Parish Church. That was followed by her creation of the Heritage Singers, which, with the help of the musicians such as Andrew Millington and Stephen Tanner, and a small voluntary choir, took Choral Evensong around to rural churches who haven't the resources to provide such worship.

For me, it came as a pleasant surprise to discover that Sylvia was a fan of rugby, particularly during the Six Nation championship. She called the game 'ruggie', which I suspect was a hangover from her husband Tom's time at Harrow. Woe betide anyone who interrupted her while she was watching cricket. Right up until the last week of her life, she was insistent on reading The Times, which ensured that she was well-informed about current affairs, coming at them with her deeply concerned criticism of contemporary politics and occasional stinging criticism of politicians, giving her an air of being a liberal with socialist tendencies.

As with many of her age, the last year of her life which was in the context of the coronavirus pandemic, was hard. She felt increasingly cut off, as she was used to, and indeed thrived on, close contact with friends through her hospitality. The months that led to her death became particularly hard, as she was less and less capable of looking after herself, and found it hard to accept inevitable diminishment. The restrictions on visitors during her time in hospital, and latterly nursing homes, added to her sense of isolation, despite the care and attention she received over many years, particularly from Phil and Nicki Hobbs. However, her last days were of acceptance, which brought her a certain measure of peace.

The last part of Schubert's Song, with its text from the Two Gentlemen of Verona, also set by Gerald Finzi, are perhaps fitting praise of Sylvia Pritchard.

May she rest in Peace.

*Then to Sylvia let us sing,  
That Sylvia is excelling;  
She excels each mortal thing  
Upon the dull earth dwelling:  
To her let us garlands bring.*

**Bishop Martin Shaw**

## **Welcome to our new Musicians**

A very warm welcome to all the new members of the Music Department. In addition to James Anderson-Besant, Assistant Director of Music (see page 11) we welcome Laurence John who is joining us as organ scholar. Laurence was organ scholar at Hereford Cathedral before going on to The Queen's College, Oxford, as organ scholar there. He has just completed a M.St whilst serving as organist of Pusey House.

In the Cathedral Choir Joseph Ward (bass) and Thomas Smith (tenor) join the back row. Joseph is about to start his first year at Exeter University, and Thomas has graduated, and is having a 'gap year' in the choir.

We have nine more probationers joining the front row, 5 boys and 4 girls, making a total of 41 choristers.

**Timothy Noon, Director of Music**

## **Thank you Joseph**

Joseph Patkai, the Cathedral's Visitors and Volunteers coordinator is leaving the Cathedral to take up a new post of Volunteer Manager at Ely Cathedral. His last day with us will be Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

Joseph writes: *I am of course very sad to be saying goodbye to you all and will miss the Cathedral enormously. Thank you for all your support and encouragement since I joined the staff team here and I would like to wish each and every one of you every success and happiness in the future.*

Chapter, his staff colleagues, volunteers and all who work and worship at the Cathedral congratulate Joseph on his new post, but we are very sorry indeed to lose him. His kindness, efficiency and industry have been exceptional, as indeed has his sensitivity to the mission and ministry of the Cathedral. As our friends at Ely Cathedral will rapidly discover, they are very lucky to have him!

To Joseph we send our huge thanks, our prayers and our very best wishes.



## **Cathedral Community Committee 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

At the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> August, we received progress reports on the Year of Invitation and Welcome, Living in Love and Faith and the Week of Prayer, all of which are included elsewhere in this edition of *Cathedral News*. With regard to the Year of Invitation and Welcome, members of the committee indicated the working groups in which they have a particular interest. We expressed the hope and intention that these groups would enable relationships between worshippers, staff and volunteers to develop and grow.

Canon Chris Palmer also gave revised details of the launch of the St Boniface Pilgrimage Way, now on 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

A review of the arrangements for the return to worship after the lifting of Covid restrictions explored the likely reasons why regular congregations are reduced in number, by about 100 in the case of the Sunday 10am Choral Eucharist. Three principal suggestions were made in the hope of encouraging those who are reluctant or anxious to return.

- issue a warm invitation to return to worship in person to those watching the service on livestream;
- alter the camera angle at some point to indicate the generous space available in the Cathedral, even within the current seating arrangements;
- make the side aisle seating more generously spaced and encourage other members of the congregation to leave it for those who want to keep a distance

Plans will continue for the community party on **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October** when we hope that many members of the Cathedral Community will enjoy being together again and sharing refreshment and each other's company.

Meanwhile, we agreed on the importance of identifying and keeping in touch with those people who had not yet returned in person.

The long postponed elections to the CCC will be later in October. The new Constitution and Statutes will not be in place until next year, so these elections will be conducted under the current rules. The CCC constitution will, however, be revised for the elections. In order to stand for election and/or vote in the elections, you must be on the Cathedral Community Roll, so a reminder please to check that you are on the Roll, especially if you have joined as a volunteer or regular member of the congregation in the last four years.

We considered a proposal to use some CCC meetings during the year to engage more widely with people from across the diocese. This was agreed in principle but more work is needed on the detail of how this can best be achieved.

**Heather Morgan, Chair CCC**



## Living in Love and Faith

Living in Love and Faith is the Church of England's big conversation around issues of gender, sexuality, and identity. It will inform and guide the Church's decision making and ministry for years to come. These are hard topics with which to engage – they touch the very core of who we are – but for the same reason these conversations also have the capacity to help us grow in love for each other and greater understanding of God's desires for us.

We are running three further courses this Autumn, and are able to offer courses in person for the first time!

Fridays in Pearson Room 2.30 – 4pm, with Revd Phil Wales and Judith Hosking

- 8th October
- 15th October
- 22nd October
- 5th November
- 12th November

Sundays in Pearson 11.45am – 1.15pm with Sue Gunn-Johnson and Geoff Bush

- 10th October
- 17th October
- 31st October
- 7th November
- 21st November

Sundays in Pearson 11.45am-1.15pm, with Phil Wales and Chryssa Turner

- 7<sup>th</sup> November
- 14<sup>th</sup> November
- 28<sup>th</sup> November
- 5<sup>th</sup> December
- 12<sup>th</sup> December

Places in each group are limited, so please sign up soon! Contact Canon Chris Palmer via [pastoral.care@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:pastoral.care@exeter-cathedral.org.uk) or 07906 249132

**Canon Chris Palmer**

## Planned Giving Group

If you would like to contribute to the work of the newly-formed Planned Giving Group, please contact the Revd Phil Wales, Cathedral Curate [phil.wales@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:phil.wales@exeter-cathedral.org.uk) This groups is looking at ways to develop, promote and improve planned giving in the Cathedral Community. This is very important work, and something in which lay members of the regular congregations have a particular interest and responsibility. We need your help!

**Phil Wales, Cathedral Curate**

## **Heritage and Engagement Team - Welcome to the new team at the Cathedral!**

With the creation of two new posts and the joining together of library, archives and learning, the Heritage and Engagement team was born. The team now consists of an Education Officer, Community Outreach and Partnership Officer, Heritage and Engagement Manager, Archivist and a vacant Librarian post. There are some familiar and new faces.

The team are currently focused on supporting the National Lottery Heritage Fund application as well as delivering a summer activity programme and providing access to the diverse collections that the Cathedral cares for.

You can find us on the ground floor of the Bishops Palace West Wing and we are thrilled to be gradually welcoming back volunteers and visitors.

### **Ellie Jones – Archivist**



Ellie has been Archivist at the Cathedral for 10 years, having previously worked elsewhere on collections of modern literary archives, Second World War American Air Force veterans' records, and stained glass conservation papers. The role of archivist is wonderfully varied, and it's difficult to choose a favourite part of the job. Knowing that you are helping to preserve unique historical records - some of them over 1000 years old - for future generations is certainly a big part of it. However, the real fun and variety comes from all the many different people who see and

engage with the documents, from school children and artists, to family historians and academics. Witnessing people's excitement at seeing and handling real pieces of history for the first time never gets old.

### **Lisa Gordon - Education Officer**

Before coming to the Cathedral, Lisa worked backstage in the theatre, trained as an outward-bound instructor and then ventured into teaching, specialising in primary education and the arts. Lisa finds heritage learning much more rewarding and diverse than main stream teaching. Lisa loves a challenge and embraces new projects and opportunities to continue to enhance her knowledge. She loves the variety afforded to her role at the cathedral and the opportunity to devise creative new projects or activities. Interpretation through stories, architecture



and the grandeur of the Cathedral in a meaningful and relevant way, for visitors or learning groups, is very satisfying. Working with enthusiastic and knowledgeable volunteers is also a real bonus for Lisa. It is an exciting time to be part of the emerging Heritage and Engagement Team, on the cusp of launching new projects and initiatives.

### **Bryher Mason - Community Outreach and Partnership Officer**



Bryher joined the Cathedral's Heritage and Engagement team in May having been working on a freelance basis for the Exeter Canal and Quay Trust amongst others. Prior to that Bryher worked for the National Trust at a number of different properties as Project Curator, Heritage Manager and House & Collections Manager. Most recently based at Hardwick Hall in Derbyshire, but also spent ten years on Dartmoor at Castle Drogo. The role at the Cathedral involves engaging with a broad range of community and heritage partners, and Bryher has been delighted by how keen everyone is to work with us. Exeter Cathedral is a beautiful place to work with so much to share with the communities around us.

### **Jonathan Scott - Heritage and Engagement Manager**



Jonathan joined the team at Exeter in May after stints working freelance and with a variety of heritage organisations including Royal Collection/Historic Royal Palaces and National Trust. Jonathan is most excited about working with the new integrated Heritage and Engagement team to help everyone discover the amazing treasures and stories that the cathedral has to offer.

### **Librarian**

After over 40 years caring for the library and its many treasures, Peter Thomas Cathedral Librarian retired in 2019. We are currently in the process of appointing a new librarian to carry on the great work started by Peter.

*Ed. Thank you very much to Jonny for introducing his new team. A warm welcome to all new members, and our continuing thanks to all the team for their contribution to the life and ministry of the Cathedral.*



## **Patteson 150: Festival Day Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September**

This photograph of a panel from the Cathedral Nave Pulpit, for which we are very grateful to Martyn Stubbings, reminds us that on 18<sup>th</sup> September, we commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the martyrdom of Bishop John Coleridge Patteson. The Archbishop of Canterbury will preach at a Eucharist at 12 noon. From 10am the Patteson Exhibition will be open in the Cathedral. All welcome.

For full details of the programme for the day, please see

<http://www.mmuk.net/news/patteson-150-mmuk-festival-day-agm/>



## **Congratulations!**

Many congratulations to Tim and Cressida who were married in the Cathedral on 30<sup>th</sup> July. It was a lovely, happy occasion enjoyed by guests from many areas of Cathedral life.

The joy of Tim and Cressida, and of their families was infectious, and all the more precious for being the day on which, at last, we returned to worship in the Quire, and were able to sing hymns again-and very rousing hymns at that.

The music for the service ranged from Byrd to Walton, via Bach, SS Wesley, Elgar, Vaughan Williams and Howells. Tim composed a lovely setting of the Lord's Prayer and the choir and organists were in top form.

Our very best wishes to Tim and Cressida.