



## From the Canon Chancellor



If the government's Roadmap goes to plan, there will be a further opening up in the middle of May. This will be especially important for the Cathedral as we will be able to open for sightseeing again, in time to welcome visitors over the summer.

We sometimes draw clear distinctions between those who come to the Cathedral to take photos and look around, those who come for events, and those who come for worship and prayer. But I suspect that God doesn't see the

distinction. All these come to wonder, reflect, enjoy beauty, and seek connection.

I suspect a further distinction God doesn't see is between 'us' and 'them' – 'us' being those who 'belong' to the Cathedral Community and 'them' being occasional visitors. But with God there are no visitors and strangers; we all belong in God's presence.

These are easy sentiments to express, but we need to translate these into practical actions. They touch everything from the welcome we offer people at the door, through the conversations the church is having at present about sexuality (in *Living in Love and Faith*) or race (in the report *From Lament to Action*), to the development we're planning to make our building work for future generations – and much more. And we're designating a 'Year of Invitation and Welcome' starting in September 2021 in order to focus on inviting and welcoming in a way that breaks down barriers.

But before we can offer this welcome, fully, generously, and attractively, there's a question we need to ask ourselves. Do we believe – deep in our souls – that we belong and are welcome in God's presence? I don't mean, do we like being in the Cathedral building? (though I hope we do!) or, do we like being with friends in the Cathedral Community? (though I hope we enjoy that too!). But

much more directly: when I think about myself and God, do I believe that I belong with God? Do I believe that God desires me to know me, that God delights in my presence, that God welcomes me to come close?

And I ask this, because in over 20 years of Christian ministry I've met so many people who *don't and can't believe* that they really belong with God. Something in their story has left them feeling they are shut out from God's presence and cannot approach; tragically the Church has sometimes added to this sense of exclusion.

But the good news of the Gospel is that God's grace is so expansive and penetrating that God's love, forgiveness, and welcome extend to everyone. All are welcome.

This is the best starting point for offering welcome and invitation to others. When we experience and know God's wonderful welcome ourselves, then we can do no other than extend it to others. Of course, there are still skills we can learn, prejudices we can free ourselves from, and plans we can lay to make our welcome better. But it all begins with wanting to welcome others because God welcomes us.

**Canon Chris Palmer**

## **The June edition of *Cathedral News***

We hope to publish the next edition of the News on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The deadline for material is **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 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.

## **Notes from the Foodbank**

Please continue to support the Foodbank generously. It is needed as much as ever. If you shop online, a number of supermarkets will make it possible for you to donate to the Foodbank.

Thank you.

**Felicity Cawthra**

## **Zoom details for Morning and Evening Prayer**

To join Morning Prayer at 9am and Evening Prayer at 5pm, the Zoom codes are:

Meeting ID: 972 8247 6293

Password: 7A3kHQ

## **Cathedrals Cycle Route Challenge – 42 Cathedrals in 42 days**

To launch the Cathedrals Cycle Route in England ([Cathedrals Cycle Route challenge | Cycling UK](#)) a baton will be cycled around all 42 Anglican Cathedrals in 42 days, starting on the 30<sup>th</sup> May in Newcastle. The baton is due to arrive in Exeter from Salisbury on the 22 June.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> June, a number of us from Exeter will set off towards Truro arriving there on the 24<sup>th</sup> June. The set route takes us up to Okehampton, across to Launceston, down to outside Bodmin and then on to Truro. It is mainly roads (avoiding main routes) with a couple of cycle paths, the Granite Way from Okehampton to Lydford, and part of the Camel Trail. Our aim is to get at least to Launceston on day one, and then come back the next day to pedal all the way to Truro.

There are a few riders who are doing all 42 Cathedrals and we will be cycling with them. You may wish to join us for the whole ride to Truro or part of the way. Devon and Cornwall are full of short sharp hills. You will need to be fit and experienced to ride all the way in two days. Those not wishing to go all the way can join us as we set off from the Cathedral and ride out of the City, or for the beautiful Granite Way, starting at Okehampton Station.

The logistics and timings are still to be worked out. It is likely that we will hire a van and return to Exeter to stay the night at the end of day one, transport us back to where we stopped the next morning, and then home from Truro on day two. Alternatively, if people wish to make their own transport or accommodation arrangements they will be welcome to do so.

If you are interested in cycling all or part of the way then please let Heather Hagen ([heather.hagen@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:heather.hagen@exeter-cathedral.org.uk)) know and she will keep you informed of the plans.

**Mike D Williams, Canon Treasurer**

## **From Christopher Hampton**

I am grateful to you all for your prayers for my daughter Katherine who has been on the prayer list for the past year. You may like to know that I am running a half marathon on 23<sup>rd</sup> May to raise funds for Hospiscare and Force, charities which have offered guidance and support to Katherine.

If you would like to contribute, there is a Virgin Money giving page: <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/BearnesHamptonandLittlewoodRunners>

## **From The Company of Tapisers**

I'd like to continue the short history of our Company which I began last month:

Over 120 members joined the newly-formed Company of Tapisers between 1933 and 1938. There were SIX groups, each with its own leader, under the guidance of an overall chairman: Rug, Tapestry, Textile, Whitework, Calligraphy and Ropes.

The first – and at that time – the most important group was the RUG group. It was envisioned that small carpets would be made for all the side chapels within the Cathedral.

The TAPESTRY group was faced with the monumental task of making kneelers and cushions for the Nave, the Quire, the Lady Chapel and all the side chapels.

The TEXTILE group not only made new vestments, but had to maintain and mend all the older vestments.

The WHITEWORK group produced white-embroidered altar linen for use during Eucharist services.

The CALLIGRAPHY group neatly wrote out the labels for all the chapels, all the Cathedral notices and the daily list of services and where each service would take place. This was a full-time job!

The ROPE group made ropes which were used to cordon off areas, within the Cathedral, where the public was not allowed to enter. This group ceased to operate in 2013 when it was no longer possible to buy the correct yarn (even on e-bay!).

Today, three groups remain: Tapestry, Textile and Whitework – all working towards one aim: the beautification of worship within Exeter Cathedral.

What an active Company it has been – and how much the Cathedral has benefitted from the countless hours of devoted stitching by Tapisers over the last 88 years!

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

## **Archdeacon of Barnstaple**

The next Archdeacon of Barnstaple will be the Reverend Canon Verena Breed, currently Team Rector of Bicester in the diocese of Oxford. She will take up her post in September, and be installed in the Cathedral later in the autumn.

## **From the Cathedral Flower Arrangers**

I write having just been to a wonderful Sunday Eucharist with the full choir, and the most glorious music, for the first time since December. It is such a joy to be moving very slowly back to normal. As the sun was shining from a deep blue sky, and with the magnificent organ voluntary still ringing in our ears, it seemed strange to think we are still in a pandemic.

Having filled the Cathedral Nave with white lilies, which seemed appropriate for Easter, and for the period of national mourning for Prince Philip, it looked lovely having flowers back after the period of Lent.

Two of us went in last week and took out some of the large white silk lilies, and replaced them with some bright pink silk ranunculas and pink silk kalas, so they look different and fresh, and a sign of better days ahead. We hope you like them. The arrangement around the Paschal candle will remain green and white until Pentecost.

Our plan is to continue with the silks until lockdown ends in June, and then return to fresh flowers, which we can look after daily. In the meantime, we plan to change the Nave flowers fortnightly to ease everyone back into “normality”. Do please let us know what you think of them, as we love to hear and it helps us to plan.

**Flick Evans**

## **Quiz 3 Results from Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April**

In first place with 40/48

### **Vestal Virgers**

Luke Stevenson, James Stevenson, Morgan Philpott, Alan Drew

In joint second place with 38/48

### **Green Blades**

Margaret Guyver, Robert Guyver, Paul Morgan, Heather Morgan

### **Team Isca**

Phil Wales, Shelagh Orrell, Simon Aston, Jane Skinner

### **The Sieve of Eratosthenes**

Clare Brydon, Peter Frances, Alistair Endersby, Penny Endersby

With thanks to Louise Spencer-Mistress of Questions, Caroline Prince-Scorer, and Co-host, Chris Palmer-Zoom Master, who enabled the evening to be enjoyed by all.

*Ed. And special thanks to Canon Ian Morter who organised the Quiz.*



## Wednesday Kitchen News:

As we pass the 12-month mark since lockdown, and the requirement for the Cathedral to close its doors to the Wednesday Kitchen, the WK team are feeling immensely proud of our achievements and extremely positive about our future.

We were able to respond swiftly to modify our service to encompass social distancing whilst continuing to serve hot food to the homeless and vulnerably housed. Under the 'Everybody In' scheme, the government provided additional beds in local hotels and hostels (now closed as the scheme finished in March 2021) to which we took food each and every Wednesday as well as serving to our visitors on the green. Whilst providing food for 30 people in the hotels, we also served 20-30 who turned up on the Cathedral Green each week.

Numbers of street homeless did drop to below 10 at one stage, but have crept up again to above 30, including many new faces and there are many more in temporary bed and breakfast and hostels - not all of which have cooking facilities. Back in February/March 2020, we turned to cooking and packing hot meals into takeaway bags from home and delivered them to the Cathedral Green, initially serving from the back of a cattle-trailer.

This worked well as long as the weather was good but was never going to be a long-term solution and so we are hugely grateful to have recently been gifted, by Kenniford Farm, a kitchen trailer, which now bears the "keys of St Peter" and from which we feed the local community. As the 'Everybody In' scheme has drawn to a close, we have received a card written by the temporary hotel guests thanking all of the food services for their care. As has always been the case, our visitors on the Green continue to express their gratitude for our service.

The active WK team has had, necessarily, to be small during the pandemic and deserve a massive vote of thanks for their continued dedication to this essential food provision. We look forward to welcoming back, as restrictions lessen, some of our volunteers who have not been able to attend over the past year and who have been missing the joy that is the Wednesday Kitchen. In

order for this service to continue, we ask for ongoing support, prayers and funding from the people of the Exeter Cathedral community.

If you would like to come along to see us in practice, once restrictions allow, please contact [penny@harris58.com](mailto:penny@harris58.com)



## And another new vehicle for hospitality

The Cathedral's new, and very cleverly named, catering van will soon be making its debut on Cathedral Green.



## Please support Lucas

If you haven't done so already, please do support Lucas Davis, the student at St Peter's C of E Aided School Exeter, who was interviewed by the Dean about his work for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, during the memorial service for HRH Prince Philip.

Lucas has been painting pictures to raise funds for The Pulmonary Fibrosis Trust in memory of his Nan. If you would like to support Lucas, you can do so [via Justgiving](#). He is pictured here after the service with Megan, a fellow pupil and D of E award winner from St Peter's.

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

*In March, we published a request from Joseph Patkai, Special Projects and Volunteers' Assistant at the Cathedral, for volunteers to write to him with their response to this question. We are very grateful to Joseph for sending us, with the authors' permission, the anonymised replies, some of which we published in the April edition of the News. Here is the second instalment. We hope this will encourage other people to volunteer.*

### **Response 4**

Volunteering at The Cathedral of Exeter is balm for the soul. Did a visitor once tell me this? If so, he/she may have detected an undercurrent of joy; an enthused volunteer pointing out the wonders of her workplace. Several days per week I strive to set The Cathedral apart from all of the other 42 diocesan cathedrals of England. This engrossing job aids my concentration, boosts confidence, and piques my curiosity. There is non-stop learning of even things that I ought to have known. The interaction with fellow stewards and guides opens doors to hidden away treasures of lustre (éclat), and mystery. Visitors' remarks and questions add to my repertoire from the downright quirky to the true pathos behind a Latin inscription. This volunteer is indebted to the Cathedral of Exeter for having "hired" her. Over the years she has flourished.

### **Response 5**

1. I am very interested in the history & architecture of Exeter Cathedral and volunteering gives me a great opportunity to learn more about the Cathedral at first hand.
2. I enjoy being part of a team of volunteers who have a similar interest and desire to contribute to the smooth running of the Cathedral.
3. It is very rewarding to welcome visitors and share my enthusiasm and appreciation of our Cathedral which plays such an important role in the City of Exeter and its surrounding communities.

### **Response 6**

I started to volunteer many years ago for the following reasons. At the time I had increasing spare time and wanted to volunteer to work for an important organisation, meeting the public and working in an historic building. The cathedral was an obvious choice as I had a background in teaching about religion and had held various volunteer positions in various churches in Kent and subsequently in Devon. I had also recently been involved with writing a history of a large church in Kent which had caused me to become interested to some degree in church architecture and Victorian restoration projects.



### **Response 7**

For those who know me it's simple, I'm nosey. I like to talk to people, and order them around.

What better than guide strangers around the building, the most beautiful building that I have had the privilege of working in.

### **Response 8**

The Cathedral has given me so much in terms of wonderful worship, friendship and made me feel part of a loving and supportive community. To be given the opportunity to volunteer has increased my sense of belonging and to be able to help in any small way has been such a privilege. Particularly through lockdown the supportive network of the Cathedral has been an absolute life line. Whatever I may have been able to give is minute in terms of what the Cathedral has given me. I hope and pray we may soon be able to be back as volunteers.

## **Elections to Christianity Deanery Synod Cathedral Community Roll**

The election of representatives to Christianity Deanery Synod, postponed from last year, will be conducted during May. Invitations for nominations were due to be sent out during the week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> April. At present, the Cathedral can elect three representatives. They will serve a three-year term. Those elected to Deanery Synods form the electorate for the General Synod elections later this year, and also become members of the Cathedral Community Committee.

If you wish to stand for election, or to vote in the election, you must be on the Cathedral Community Roll. If you worship or volunteer regularly at the Cathedral, or are employed by the Cathedral and are not yet on the Roll, please complete the enrolment form as soon as possible.

It is some time since the Roll was revised, so if you have joined the Cathedral Community recently this notice is of particular importance. Longer standing members of the congregations may wish to check that they are enrolled. If you are on other areas of the Cathedral database, it doesn't follow that you are also automatically on the Community Roll.

The application form to be on the Cathedral Community Roll is available in hard copy from the Cathedral and from the Cathedral Office, and online.

Enquiries can be made to Joseph Patkai [joseph.patkai@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:joseph.patkai@exeter-cathedral.org.uk) and Chris Patterson [reception@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:reception@exeter-cathedral.org.uk) in the Cathedral Office.

## **Cathedral Community Committee 13<sup>th</sup> March**

The main items of business at the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> April were:-

- Progress report on Living in Love and Faith-very positive feedback had been received. It was agreed to publish some of that in *Cathedral News*. The careful preparatory work for LLF was praised. It was suggested that the Pastoral Principles should be explored further.
- Sheila Miles has agreed to be part of the group which contacts parishes and mission communities when they are being prayed for in the Cathedral in the Diocesan Prayer Diary.
- Arrangements for a week of renewal in daily prayer and growing as a Christian community, as suggested at our last meeting, have progressed. There is a provisional date of the week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> September.
- Professor Grace Davie has agreed to come to speak to Chapter, the CCC and volunteer group leaders on how the Cathedral can best respond practically, theologically and ecclesologically to the growth in numbers of those participating in online worship, and how to develop and integrate that area of ministry within the life of the Cathedral. This will be on 11<sup>th</sup> May.
- A related issue, the need to encourage people to return to worship in the Cathedral as lockdown is eased, was also discussed.
- A provisional date of Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October has been agreed for a party after the 10am Choral Eucharist. The title “Back to Church Sunday” has been dropped because we hope there will be many newcomers there, including new members of the Cathedral Choir, and students. The Social Events Team requires new recruits to be prepared for congregational hospitality to resume.
- A timetable for Deanery Synod elections was agreed. Efforts would continue to bring the Cathedral Community Roll up to date.
- We expressed the hope that it would be possible to say thank you and goodbye to members of staff who had left the Cathedral in the last year when that was appropriate. We had been able to say farewell to Tim Parsons and Cressida Peers, and it is hoped soon to have a date to celebrate Gordon Pike and the contribution he has made to the Cathedral Choir and the wider life of the Cathedral.

**Heather Morgan, Chair CCC**

## **From the Bellingers: Bell tolled half muffled in memory of HRH Prince Philip**

Because of the Covid 19 pandemic the Cathedral bell ringers have been unable to access the tower to ring the bells since the very brief and limited removal of the restrictions over the Christmas period. We were able to ring six bells for both the Grandisson service and also on Christmas morning.

We therefore felt it both an honour and a privilege to be asked, along with other churches and cathedrals throughout the country, to toll a single bell half muffled 99 times to mark the passing of Prince Philip on the day following his death, Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April at 12 noon. The weight and deep tone of our bells makes them particularly suitable for this kind of occasion, but in some ways it is technically more difficult than our normal ringing, because the required speed of about once every 15 seconds is much slower than the natural speed of the bells.

A team of three was required so that, in addition to the person ringing, we could have assistance in the belfry to ensure the sombre speed of ringing was maintained. We also chose to ring our second heaviest bell, as that would be easier to control, but even so still weighs just over 2 tons. This bell is called 'Stafford' after Bishop Edmund Stafford (1395 – 1419) who was the original donor, but it was recast in 1676 by the Somerset bellfounder Thomas Perdue, and to quote the bell historian, the Revd John Scott it 'is reckoned by many to be one of the noblest bells in the kingdom'.

The team of Ringing Master Matthew Hilling, Steeple Keeper David Hird, and ringer Oliver Bates, were accompanied by a crew from BBC Spotlight, who captured the event on film which was then broadcast on the local television news later that evening. The same team returned a week later and this time tolled 'Stafford' for 30 minutes prior to the one minute's silence at the start of the funeral.

We were so pleased to be part of the tribute to Prince Philip, especially as bell ringing is one of many volunteer activities involved in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme, from which our art has benefited greatly over the years. Some photos and videos of the occasion can be found at:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bKsK-6iVSHs7SyFmRjJXYdrori4i518F?usp=sharing>

We now wait with anticipation for further reduction of the lockdown restrictions when we will be able to return to the tower for service ringing, hopefully from May 17<sup>th</sup> under the rule of six, and if all goes to plan from June 21<sup>st</sup> when we should be able to ring all 12 bells again.

**Peter Bill, Secretary to the Cathedral Bell Ringers**

## From Chris Sampson: the Clerk of Works

*In October 2020, Chris reported to the Friends of Exeter Cathedral on the extensive work completed in the Cathedral during lockdown and on future plans. We are grateful to Chris and to the Friends for making this more widely available. This is the first of two instalments of edited extracts from his report. We start with a photo of the Cathedral in April 2020 when the building was closed during the first lockdown.*



Throughout the pandemic, the Cathedral has not ceased its need for repair, upkeep, maintenance as well as our duty to remain safe and legally compliant. At the outset of the pandemic, when many found themselves asked to work from home or placed on furlough and life on hold, including a large number of cathedral staff. Luke, the Cathedral's Custos, and I found ourselves testing fire alarms, carrying out inspections and tests of emergency lighting etc. and even clearing gutters and drains to keep the essentials covered, a far cry from our normal duties in a busy Cathedral!

Eventually as the weeks passed, and with no clear directive to shut down the construction industry, we managed to assess our situation and

with risk assessment and control measures in place, we began to consider the real possibilities to continue our programme of planned works, many of which are funded through the grants given by the Friends.

We were able to take advantage of the Cathedral being empty, with no services or visitors. We had planned to take out the South Nave Aisle window in Bay 14 for major refurbishment. With an empty building, this was a lot easier to deliver. This window was in perilous state and now the transformation is incredible, with the beautiful depth of colour from the painted glass having emerged from years of dirt and grime dulling their true hues, and with the sun flooding through and dancing on the floor almost magical. The window is now structurally sound and stable so will give us all pleasure for years ahead.



*Detail of painted glass peacock  
in trefoil of the Bay 14 window,  
now cleaned and restored*

We've been able to undertake some overdue repairs including; repointing the Cathedral floor, removing non-breathable plastic paint from the stair turret to the old Song School, and removing some asbestos.

It was also very encouraging for the Cathedral finally to be granted both permission and grant funding to develop two large capital schemes. So the project for new underfloor heating in the Chapter House has been tendered and awarded to a contractor to start a 5 month project in October.

This gave us a deadline to complete archaeological investigations, to establish viability and design detail of a new Cloister Gallery linking the Cathedral again with the South and partial East wings of the cloisters: we were up against time in following the critical path on these. We now have all the information to progress the design of the new building, and are working on the bid for Heritage Lottery funding for the rest of the scheme which will be submitted later this year. More investigations will be taking place around the Cathedral over the coming months.

We have now completed the South Clerestory windows, unveiling the fantastic work and quality craftsmanship expressed in the conservation and repair of the glazing and stonework.



*A Tracery Springer in Beer stone in the workshop*



*New Tracery springer stones in Beer stone Bay 11 South Quire Clerestory*

**Chris Sampson, Clerk of Works**

*For more information about the Friends of the Cathedral go to <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/support-us/the-friends-of-exeter-cathedral/>*

## Shirley Ann Williams



*Shirley Ann is pictured here front left after being made a member of the Company of St Boniface in the Cathedral in November 2019*

Shirley Ann Williams, who died on Friday 12th March 2021, was a woman of courage and conviction with a long and significant record of service to Exeter Diocese and the wider church, nationally and internationally. I knew her as a colleague and friend of some 30 years. In 1991, as a newly appointed Youth Officer for the Board of Education in Church House, Westminster I faced my first meeting of the then “Voluntary and Continuing Education Committee”. The sense of concern at the appointment of a lay woman from ‘outside’, ie a Local Education Authority was tangible! Then I met Shirley Ann’s eyes and immediately recognised an ally. Here was a woman who knew about informal education, about youth work and youth ministry, as befitted a member of Exeter Diocesan Council for work with Children and Young People. Shirley Ann was an early and articulate advocate for the role of committed lay people in serving and shaping the work of the church in partnership with clergy.

A glance at her CV will reveal the extent and range of her skills and interests. She was a tutor and examiner in Speech and Drama, Public Speaking and Communication Skills and a tutor for the College of Preachers, chaired the House of Laity of the Exeter Diocesan Synod and was Lay Chair of Ottery Deanery Synod. Shirley Ann chaired the Diocesan Board of Patronage, was a member of the Diocesan Liturgical Group and the Council for Worship and Ministry, a trustee of the Mothers’ Union, and a member of Churches Together

in Exeter and of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. Then there was her work for, and support of, the Diocesan link with Bayeux-Lisieux.

On General Synod Shirley Ann was a member of the Appointments Committee, and of the Review of the Dioceses Pastoral and Related Measures, and an influential member of the 'Open Synod' group - unlike other synod groupings 'Open' to those of all church traditions. She edited the Open Synod group magazine and helped organise the (sometimes hilarious!) end of Synod Reviews.

Not surprisingly, Shirley Ann was a campaigner! A long-time member of MOW, the Movement for the Ordination of Women, and subsequently WATCH, Women and the Church. She chaired the National Working Party for the Ecumenical Decade of Christians in Solidarity with Women, and the Churches Working for Women Group. She didn't restrict her work to church circles and institutions - she was a Trustee of the Rural Community Council of Devon and the Diocesan representative on the then Community Council of Devon - an example of being a Christian *in* the world.

The woman behind this extensive example of service was great fun! We stayed in touch after she stood down from Diocesan commitments and regularly headed off to Joshua's in Ottery for lunch and conversation. Coffee back at her house was an occasion of much laughter as we shared a penchant for risqué jokes so were glad not to be overheard! After she moved to the care home in Surrey I was able to speak with her on the telephone and she was delighted with the "Hope in the Hedgerows" book I sent her as a reminder of Devon. She was thrilled to have been among the first recipients of the St Boniface medal and full of praise for the kindness she received from Justine in the Bishop's Office in ensuring her wheelchair wouldn't inhibit her participation in the ceremony and celebrations afterwards.

The last word about my remarkable colleague and friend should go to Dr Jamie Harrison, Chair of the General Synod House of Laity who described Shirley Ann to me as "*...a great role model....kind, gracious and wise....we miss such generous spirits in our midst...*". Amen to that. Dear Shirley Ann you will be remembered with gratitude and thanks.

**Anne Foreman**



## From Canon Chris Palmer : Living in Love and Faith

Our first round of conversations about sexuality, gender, and identity came to an end, and we're planning a next round for the coming months. It's been wonderful to see the high level of engagement with these conversations – and more people wanting to take part than we could accommodate. But look out for further opportunities soon (if you're not on the mailing list for these, do ask Canon Chris Palmer to add you – [chris.palmer@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:chris.palmer@exeter-cathedral.org.uk)).



LIVING  
IN LOVE  
& FAITH

Over the coming months we're going to hear from some of those who have taken part.

### **This month, Carys Pulleston writes:**

I have found the LLF sessions to be incredibly rich and thought-provoking. Our group was made up of people bringing a wide range of life experience, which meant the discussions were lively and full of interest. We used the Commitments at the front of the course book to build the framework for these, including keeping confidentiality within the group and ensuring all voices were heard without putting anyone on the spot who wished to remain silent. I felt this was absolutely key in providing a sense of safety in our time together and allowing us all to share more freely.

Each week, we used the material in the Living In Love & Faith course booklet and the online resources, including the Story Films. I found the Story Films particularly powerful. They featured numerous different people describing their own experiences with regard to their sexuality, their relationships and their faith, and watching the films, hearing what they had to say, impacted me greatly. For me it underlined how important it is for us as a Church to engage sincerely with these issues which so fundamentally affect people's lives and wellbeing, and which can too often lead to felt or actual exclusion from aspects of church community or ministry. I was humbled by the courage and honesty of those involved. Even if someone doesn't feel that taking part in an LLF course is for them, I would still really encourage them to go online and watch the films.

In coming to the course, I was aware of already holding a view on sexuality and gender diversity in the church; borne both out of experience with a family member and from my personal convictions; however, I was not sure I could explain that view coherently to anyone else. The LLF course, with its Biblical foundation, its emphasis on respectful listening and the benefits of small group discussion means that I now feel better equipped to engage meaningfully in this important conversation.

## Thy Kingdom Come 2021



Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. Christians from more than 170 countries and 65 denominations have taken part.

Thy Kingdom Come runs between Ascension and Pentecost, and in 2021 will take place from 13-23 May. You can join in in many different ways – in person and online, with national or local resources.

Here are some of the ways to get involved.

- Join in the regular prayer of the church

If you've never joined us online for Morning Prayer, Thy Kingdom Come is a great time to start. Just log on on Zoom – see the Cathedral website for details. And remember there are plenty of services you can join in in the Cathedral now, including weekday Choral Evensong and Sunday services – and special services for Ascension Day and Pentecost

- Walk the Cathedral Labyrinth

A labyrinth is a 'pilgrim path' – a chance to journey slowly and reflectively, praying as we go. We are putting a labyrinth on the Cathedral Green for TKC and the weeks that follow. You can come and walk it on your own. Alternatively take part in one of the Labyrinth Workshops we're running – see details below.

- Explore prayer resources in the Cathedral.

One of the chapels (tba) will contain information and invitation to explore different forms of prayer – lectio divina, imaginative contemplation, praying the office, using a rosary, and more. Come and spend time in the peace and quiet of this space.

And remember there's also lots of information about types of prayer on the Cathedral website:

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/worship-music/join-us-for-worship/explore-prayer/>

- Join in the Diocesan Zoom Prayer Room

This is a 24/7 Zoom Prayer Room. We will be booking 3 one hour slots for the Cathedral, and we'd love people to come along and spend an hour with others in prayer. Look out on Sunday notices sheets for what's happening when.

- Come to our Sundays@6 Pentecost Service

There's no big diocesan service this year. But we're delighted that Prebendary Philip Sourbut will preach in the Cathedral for Sundays@6 on 23<sup>rd</sup> May at the end of TKC. Philip is the Director of Mission and Ministry for the Diocese, and we look forward to welcome him – and you – as we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit.

- Join the Chain of Prayer on the South West Coast Path

A bit outside the TKC time slot – but on Saturday 19 June at 10.30am – SouthWest Awake is inviting people to prayer on the coast path – hopefully with people praying at each point on the way. You can find out more and book your pitch here: <https://www.southwestawake.com/>



### **Labyrinth Workshops**

One Path, Many Journeys *with Karen Curnock*

Tuesday 18 May and Saturday 22 May – both at 10am on *the Cathedral Green*

**A labyrinth is not a maze.** This workshop offers an opportunity to explore and ponder your inner landscape as you tread a path with no concern about finding the right way. To walk the labyrinth is to follow a

one-way route into the centre and then to retrace the same route back to where you started. The journey inwards and the journey outwards though can feel completely different; you may find some clarity to a difficult situation in the simple act of placing one foot in front of the other. The physicality of walking can help to focus our attention on the inner landscape. However many times we walk the labyrinth we are in a different place on each occasion and can experience it differently each time. Come and see if following the labyrinth path can help you on your journey.

**Karen Curnock** is an Anglican priest who retired to East Devon in 2010. She lives just a hundred yards from a full-sized Chartres style labyrinth on a clifftop overlooking Lyme Bay and has walked this on many a moonlit evening with others from a local multi-faith group. This and walking other labyrinths over the years prompted her to delve further into the use of the labyrinth as a spiritual exercise. As with all spiritual exercises, there is no expert to say what is right or wrong, only guides to help us on the way.

*There will be 12 places on each workshop. Please book on the Cathedral's Eventbrite page so as not to be disappointed.*

## **Music Notes**

On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April it was wonderful to welcome back the full Cathedral Choir and to hear a rousing and exuberant performance of Vierne's *Messe Solennelle*. It is perhaps just as well that the congregation cannot sing at present, or some of us might just have been moved to join in!

We give a particularly warm welcome to James McVinnie, Acting Assistant Director of Music, who has joined the Cathedral for the summer term. His virtuoso accompaniment of the Vierne suggests that we are in for a treat. James was Assistant Organist of Westminster Abbey from 2008-2011, and before that he held similar posts at St Paul's Cathedral, St Albans Cathedral and Clare College, Cambridge. Since leaving the Abbey, he has had a distinguished career as a solo performer. Tim Noon has pointed out to us that James is the only British person included in the June series of organ recitals at the Royal Festival Hall, which features among others the distinguished French organist, Olivier Latry. In September, James will be the organ soloist in a Prom Concert with the BBC Concert Orchestra. As Tim says of James, "we are very lucky to have him".

On Easter Day, we said thank you and goodbye to Tom Noon, whom we congratulate on his appointment as a lay clerk at Guildford Cathedral. Congratulations also to Molly Noon, who is joining VOCES8, a world-renowned consort. We will watch Tom and Molly's future careers with great interest.

Notwithstanding the practical difficulties, voice trials for choristers went well in February and March with all places being filled from September. Two choral scholars have been appointed to succeed Tom Noon and Dan Maw in the next academic year.