



## From the Dean



You may well know that poem 'Warning' by Jenny Joseph - identified by the BBC as the UK's most popular post-war poem. It begins...

*When I am an old woman I shall wear purple  
With a red hat that doesn't go, and doesn't suit me,  
And I shall spend my pension on brandy and  
summer gloves  
And satin sandals, and say we've no money for  
butter.*

And so the poem goes on, until the final reminder:  
*But maybe I ought to practise a little now?  
So people who know me are not too shocked and  
surprised,  
When suddenly I am old and start to wear purple!*

Those words spring to mind as we prepare once more to don our purple vestments for Advent. For Jenny Joseph, purple is a slightly shocking colour. It's a sign of being different; of standing out from the crowd. Which is what we are invited to do as a church in this Advent season.

Here's the issue: in so many ways, Christmas is already here. That's true of course for our Christmas Market and the many concerts and services already happening inside the Cathedral. Inevitable really, since we cannot accommodate everyone who wants to celebrate Christmas at the Cathedral just on Christmas Eve. But that doesn't mean we have to make our personal advent fit the world's pattern. For our Christian tradition is to set this season apart as a time of spiritual preparation.

I remember hearing Bishop Tom Wright on the radio. He'd just flown back from the United States, and was suffering from jet lag. One way, he told us, to minimise jet lag is to adjust your watch a couple of days before you depart, and start to live your life in the new time before setting off. A great idea, but not always practical: travelling from Los Angeles, it means going to bed at four in

the afternoon. But that, said Bishop Tom, is exactly what is needed in Advent. For Advent is about looking forward to the coming of Christ

- the humble coming of Christ at Christmas,
- and the glorious coming of Christ at the end of time, when God's Kingdom will finally arrive.

And what Advent challenges us to do is to live here and now as though that Kingdom has already arrived.

Alternative lifestyles are all the rage nowadays, and Christianity encourages a massively alternative lifestyle. Time and again in the Gospels we find stories of Jesus living at odds with his contemporaries; showing us in word and action what shape our alternative living might take. That's the invitation he extends to us in Advent.

There's a lovely saying from St Anthony of Egypt: "A time will come when the whole world will go mad. And to anyone who is not mad they will say: 'You are mad, for you are not like us.'" I can't help thinking it would be a great achievement if that could be said of each of us at Exeter Cathedral this Advent? Maybe a first step towards it is for each of us to put on purple, so we all stand out from the crowd. We'll keep an eye out in church to see if the idea appeals!

**Jonathan Greener**

## **Cathedral Community Committee Elections**

Welcome to the new members of the Cathedral Community Committee who were elected recently: Allen Bowen, Anne Eyre, Fiona Moffat, Maggie Morris, Chris Uphill, and welcome back to Rosemary Bethell, who has been re-elected. They join the Deanery Synod representatives-Chris Hampton, Heather Morgan and Carys Puleston, the Dean and members of Chapter on the Committee.

## **The January edition of *Cathedral News***

We hope to publish the next edition of the News on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The deadline for material is **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022**. 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.

**Thank you very much....**to everyone who answered the call to help in the preparation for, and attendance at, the Christingle Service. It was a lovely and well-attended occasion, and making it happen was a great team effort.

## **From The Company of Tapisers: Ending the Year on a High!**

Everyone agrees that the Chapter House looks lovely, with its new draught-proof porch and re-rendered walls. Where, you might ask, are the cushions normally situated on the two stone ledges? The Tapisers have been industriously restoring them over the past three months.

Why do they need restoring? The answer in a word is 'Silverfish!' These seemingly inoffensive nocturnal insects (not 'fish' at all!) have a voracious appetite for the oil found in wool. (Another name for them is, appropriately, 'Carpet Shark'!) Well, they have secretly been at work on our cushions – many of which have significant bald areas and eaten patches. These creatures had set up home between the stones which have now been re-rendered – so we hope they won't find their way to the cushions in the future?

The Tapisers have a duty to mend and maintain work already completed, as well as tackling new projects, so we have been working hard to make the cushions fit for purpose once again. The task is almost finished, and we hope that the Chapter House cushions, which celebrate the roles within the Cathedral Chapter, will be returned to their rightful place by the end of the year.

We have also completed the Quire Stall cushion for the Precentor, which matches the one we made for the Dean earlier this year.

After our Covid-enforced break it is a real pleasure to be using our skills for the Cathedral once more.

All the Tapisers wish you a joyful Christmas and a happier, healthier year ahead.

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

## **Town Hall Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> December**

The Dean has invited volunteers to attend the Lunchtime Carols being held in the Cathedral at 1pm on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December, followed by a Town Hall Meeting, with tea & cake in the Chapter House.

Invitations have been sent to volunteer teams and group leaders. Could we please ask that you accept or decline the invitation before **7<sup>th</sup> December** so that we can reserve seats and know how many to cater for.

## Waiting on God

“Prayer is utterly impossible,” said Bishop Martin in his sermon on Advent Sunday. “Anyone in this congregation who thinks they’re good at prayer – you can leave now, because I just don’t believe you.” Prayer is also utterly simple, I respond. Anyone who thinks they don’t or can’t pray at all – you should keep reading, because I just don’t believe you either!

Ann Lewin captures the simplicity in her lovely poem “Disclosure”, which begins: “Prayer is like watching for the Kingfisher. / All you can do is / Be where he is likely to appear, and / Wait.”

Of course, it is hard to Be and hard to Wait. It means going against the flow of today’s instant culture, whether the waiting is for a meal, or a bus, or a kingfisher, or for God. And it is so easy to fill our time up with shopping or leisure, TV or social media, meetings or gossip, and miss the simple fact of our existence and relationship with God. At this time of year, it is thrown into particularly sharp relief, as consumer-Christmas encroaches on the Advent season of expectation and preparation.

So it might be helpful to think in terms of waiting *on* instead of waiting *for*. Expectation and waiting *for* are looking to the future. Waiting *on* is about being here and attentive in the present moment.

Each of us has our own way of stilling ourselves, and the first step is to notice this, because this is where God is more likely to appear. For some it might be seeking solitude and silence, for others it might be a walk in nature, or watching a child or grandchild sleeping, or digging the garden. Then we just let our thoughts drift by and instead tune in to listen for God’s still small voice... coming back again and again whenever thoughts become distractions.

God is patiently and longingly waiting on us for 1,440 minutes every day. Can we find 20 or even 5 minutes to wait on God? All we need to do is be where God is likely to appear, and wait. Yes it is impossible, because we are limited finite beings waiting on the infinite. “But sometimes,” concludes Lewin, “when you’ve almost / Stopped expecting it, / A flash of brightness / Gives encouragement.”

There is more to help you Explore Prayer on the Cathedral website at <https://bit.ly/exploreprayer>.

Ann Lewin’s book “Watching for the Kingfisher: Poems and Prayers” is available from Canterbury Press at <https://bit.ly/BeWait>.

**Claire Bryden**

## **From the Bellringers:**

### **Exeter Cathedral Bells ring for COP26: Climate Change**

When we were asked by the Dean if we could join in with the 'Ring Out for Climate Change' on the eve of the COP 26 Glasgow summit, he asked if we could NOT ring our normal joyous sound, but perhaps ring in a way that would symbolise the potential danger that climate change is causing throughout our planet. The Precentor suggested that the random chaotic sounds, such as you might hear from bells on the continent, might be appropriate. This proved to be more difficult than you might think, because our ears are tuned to try to obtain the most smooth and regular spacing of the bells. We did manage this apparently random sound, although it was actually co-ordinated in the ringing chamber by our Ringing Master Matt Hilling. We then moved on to a more mournful sound which ringers attempt when they are not able for any reason to muffle the bells. This is done by all the twelve bells ringing twice in sequence and then holding on the balance, whilst the heaviest tenor bell booms out twice on its own. This is then repeated continuously for about five minutes. This proved to be the most effective in terms of signifying the danger that is awaiting the planet, but it is also the most challenging aspect of our ringing, both physically and technically.

We also spent a few minutes 'Firing' the bells, which is when all the bells strike at the same time, and this gives a regular loud clash every few seconds. It was used in olden days as a warning signal. We followed this with some ringing on the Minor 10, which again gave a haunting sound. Finally, we rang for about 10 minutes in our normal style to indicate that it is possible to resolve these issues if everyone puts their mind to it.

We are never quite sure when we are ringing just who might be listening, and whether our ringing does have an effect on the population outside the tower, so it was pleasing for our Tower Captain to receive the following email a few days later.

*Dear Tower Captain and Bell Ringers of Exeter Cathedral,*

*Thank you so much for the symphony of bell ringing you gave us yesterday evening. The thoughtfulness, symbolism and variety in your ringing enabled worship outside.*

*About 14 members of Exeter Quakers and Sustainable Crediton gathered in a large circle around candles in jam jars across the cobbles from the west door at 6pm. We worshipped silently until the bells began and then continued with more worship as we listened. Several members of the public joined us for a while, and*

people spoke movingly (we call it ministry) until a little after 6.45pm in time for the bus back to Crediton.

My brother, Edward Gildea, led the campaign Ring out for Climate! which has been widely supported, especially by cathedrals. It meant a great deal to me that Exeter Cathedral took part. We are praying for COP26 in every way we can and your ringing, and our worship together outside as we listened yesterday evening, was unforgettable. Thank you.

In Friendship,  
Laura Conyngham  
Assistant Clerk of Exeter Quaker Meeting

It was good to know that our ringing was appreciated, and the 'cacophony of sound' as suggested by the Precentor had the required impact on those listening.

**Peter Bill, Secretary to the Cathedral Bellringers**

## Exeter Cathedral School (ECS)

We hope to include news from ECS regularly in future editions of *Cathedral News*. We were delighted to hear about the very successful Autumn Concert and we send our best wishes for the ECS Carol Service at the end of term.

See your child flourish  
*in a place where people matter.*

Rectangular Slip

### Apply for a scholarship today

Scholarships and Bursaries available for Year 7 entry  
in up to two of the following areas:

Music Sport Visual/Performing Arts Academic

Interested? Scan the QR code below or visit:  
[awards.exetercathedralschool.co.uk/cathedral-news](https://awards.exetercathedralschool.co.uk/cathedral-news)

Use your phone  
camera to scan

EXETER CATHEDRAL SCHOOL  
Nursery | Daytop | Prep

ECS:  
Awards

Pictured: our 2021 Award Holders

## **General Synod - A Fond Farewell!**

November 9th saw a new General Synod inaugurated amidst much ceremonial and preceded by a glorious service in Westminster Abbey. Such music! Such singing! Such an opportunity to spot old friends! The sun streamed in, stained glass shone, lights and candles gleamed and I saw the newly elected Exeter representatives, with Bishop Robert ready in their places, four 'old hands' and five new, all doubtless eager to serve the Diocese well.

After serving for seventeen years, for two different (very different!) dioceses, Guildford then Exeter, I chose not to stand for election again, but to make way for fresh eyes and ears. There are major issues facing the new Synod and Exeter Diocese is fortunate in having laity and clergy who between them represent the broad range of views and traditions in the diocese. Exeter has always been well represented by lay women, but it was a delight to see so many women clergy stand, and, for the first time, two women clergy elected. The times they are indeed 'a changing' - and high time too! For the first time since 1970 the Queen didn't inaugurate the Synod, and the Earl of Wessex read her address, with its powerful message to use the opportunity to pray for wisdom in balancing change and continuity, and draw on the Church's tradition of unity in fellowship when tackling the tasks ahead.

So what have been the highlights of my seventeen synodical years? Making my maiden speech has to be one; on the poor facilities for people visiting their spouse, son or daughter in prison as I recall, and not only facilities but also the cancelling of visits at short notice or the transfer of prisoners after those visiting had organised their travel to the former prison. Fortunately I was able to draw on my experience of delivering training to staff and volunteers at HMP Wandsworth Visitor Centre. Being appointed to the then Board of Mission chaired by Bishop James Jones, meant I learned about what a productive meeting looked like! Work as a member of the Business Committee, responsible for planning the Synod Agenda, offered yet another opportunity and this had the bonus of being an elected position; to have the confidence of one's peers is heartening. Seeing a Diocesan Synod Motion from Guildford Diocese asking that the formalities for enabling women to be bishops be started, and speaking for the motion was another significant moment. The work of Synod is underpinned by prayer and worship, and it was always a privilege and joy to be involved, culminating in preparing and leading intercessions in a packed York Minster in July. When two nuns sought me out afterwards to ask for a copy it left me feeling overwhelmed!

But back to the Abbey service. I had been invited along with three others to assist with the Induction of new synod members and the invitation to the

Abbey was a delightful 'thank you'. To my surprise I had seat number 11, which turned out to be a ring side one amongst other rather formidable guests - oh my! In the absence of Her Majesty it seemed to me an especially fervent rendition of the National Anthem was sung.

General Synod may not be everyone's cup of tea, but it has been mine, and a top quality loose leaf Earl Grey at that! But time to move on, I have other things to be getting on with and hope to remain much involved in the Diocese. My prayers go with the newly elected members as they start their work. Her Majesty referred to the many tasks ahead of the Synod, but said that one stands out supreme..."*to bring the people of this country to the knowledge and love of God.*" Amen to that!

**Anne Foreman**

## **Late Night Opening**

On the evening of Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December, the Cathedral will be opening its doors to the public; giving them the opportunity to enjoy the Christmas Market outside, before heading inside to experience the special atmosphere of the Cathedral at night. Mingle with characters from the past, meet Saint Nick or take a tour of the Cathedral's North tower, and get into the Christmas spirit! Join us after Evensong, from 6.30pm until 9pm.

## **Welcome Back, Cloister Club!**

It was great to see Cloister Club at the Choral Eucharist on 21<sup>st</sup> November. They celebrated the Feast of Christ the King by making a Crown of Thorns. It was lovely to welcome back so many children and young people after such a long absence, and to see how much they had grown in the last 18 months!

More helpers are needed, so if you can read a story, play a musical instrument, or do some arts and crafts that would engage the youngest members of the Cathedral Community for 10-15 minutes, please contact Eva Wooding at [evawooding@gmail.com](mailto:evawooding@gmail.com)

This would be an occasional contribution only, but it would be a real help to those who lead Cloister Club on a regular basis. Thank you.





## **Focus: The Reverend Phil Wales**

### **Distinctive Deacon at Exeter Cathedral**

*'Oh let me hear you speaking, in accents clear and still above the storms of passion, and the murmurs of self-will.*

*Oh speak to re-assure me, to hasten or control. Oh speak to make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.*

John Bode, 1816-1874

On a sunny Sunday morning following the 10am Eucharist, Phil and I went to the Richard Eyre Room. En route we passed the girl choristers, who earlier had sung so gloriously pieces from Mozart's Coronation Mass. Their voices were still echoing around my head. The sun was shining brightly into the room as we settled down.

Who is this man, who for many years has worked within the mental health arena as a mental health nurse and as a manager in the NHS, and now is employed by the Care Quality Commission alongside his role as self-supporting Distinctive Deacon here at the Cathedral?

Life began when he was born in Whitehaven in Cumbria. At the time Whitehaven was an industrial, fishing and coal-mining town. Windscale (now Sellafield) nuclear power station is close by. His parents were publicans and he has an older brother and sister; sadly his younger brother has died. As one can imagine his parents were very busy running the pub, and so Phil's maternal grandparents, who lived with his family were very influential in his early years

He initially attended the local Church of England Primary School, which had an inspirational Head Teacher, who introduced the pupils to classical music at Morning Assemblies, and who developed very close relationships with all the children. But then the family moved to Carlisle, where Phil found it hard to settle being separated from his grandparents. Here, his primary school teacher, Mr Braithwaite fostered an interest in acting. He encouraged Phil to participate in the school's dramatic productions. Phil took on the role of Joseph in Joseph and his Technicoloured Dreamcoat, and later played the part of Saul in The Conversion of Saul (a girl student played Paul writing his letters from prison).

In 1974, the family moved again, this time across The Pennines to Newcastle-on-Tyne, where he attended a large (more than one thousand students) Comprehensive School. Here he liked his English Teacher, who did not always stick to the curriculum/script!

While studying for his A levels, his mother was diagnosed with cancer and died six months later.

*'She had ignored the symptoms for a long time, and by then it was too late.'*

This, as you will grasp for certain, was a situation of immense pain, tears, rage and disruption. His mother's death had a huge effect on all the family.

*'I lost my way for a while. I just couldn't see the signposts! I thought about nursing, but after watching a television series entitled "Maybury" about psychiatric care, with Patrick Stewart playing the main role as the psychiatrist Dr Edward Roebuck, I could see that there was a special vocation there. I later applied for and commenced my training as a Mental Health Nurse at St. Crispin's Hospital in Northampton.'*

After first working as a Mental Health Nurse in the East Midlands, he moved to Devon in 1989. Having practised as a family therapist and mental health worker in primary care, he later became concerned with regulation, first with the Mental Health Act Commission, which later became part of the Care Quality Commission in 2009.

What drew him to mental health care?

*'I love it! I'm interested in people, helping them overcome their problems or learning to cope with them. I'm encouraged by seeing them taking ownership of their problems, and I want to see things improve in mental health and care services.'*

Phil and his former wife have two sons and a daughter. All have been to university and are becoming established in their working lives.

I wondered how and when he had felt the call to the priesthood.

*It was on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent 2008. I'd been an irregular churchgoer, but on that Sunday I was compelled to attend; I went three times! I fought against it, having so many doubts. I talked it through with the vicar at St. Margaret's, Topsham, and he encouraged me to put some feelers out. In 2011, I became a part-time student at Exeter University attached to the SW Ministry Course run by the Team from Exeter and Truro Dioceses. I became a Deacon in September 2019, and am licensed as a Curate to Exeter Cathedral. As a deacon I cannot preside at Eucharist, but can baptise under direction; I take funeral services.*

*I do not feel particularly called to parish ministry. I'm a visible Christian in the workplace and see my ministry as one of being on the threshold of the church and the world.'*

It's been a long journey to here. Phil recalled feeling wanting to be a vicar as a very young child. He's always had an interest in Jesus. His maternal grandfather was a man of faith, and very influential. But, sometimes life brings situations that make a route hard to navigate through. In 2009, he began attending the 8am Eucharist in the Cathedral....he soaked up the atmosphere and went on the Cathedral's Pilgrimage to York Minster. This confirmed the seriousness of his calling to ordained ministry.

*'It seemed so right being at York Minster, and I recalled vividly my first visit when aged ten. It convinced me of God's presence, and it being present in my life for certain.'*

This is a complicated working situation, being a full time employee of the Care Quality Commission and Curate/Deacon at the Cathedral. How does this man refill his energy store or restore some level of tranquillity within his mind?

*'I like walking, cycling, going to the cinema or theatre, and reading books both to do with my work, and for relaxation I enjoy Thomas Hardy novels, or more modern ones like "If on a Winter's Night a Traveller" by Italo Calvino and "We're all completely beside ourselves!" by Karen Joy Fowler. Julian Bream playing Vivaldi's Lute Concerto in D is a complete restorative. I enjoy cooking spicy foods, and eating sweet cakes. I can't pass by Piggies in Bridgwater without buying one of their cakes!'*

Finally, when it came to answering the questions about the best and worse aspects to the Cathedral, his response was swift. *'The best are the community, and the quiet places to be found inside the building; for example the Lady Chapel even when they are people around. For me, there are no worse bits!'*

Thank you Phil, it was a joy to spend time with you.

**Rosemary Bethell**

### **Post Script:**

Bishop Robert recently invited Phil to become the Warden of the College of St. Philip the Deacon, taking over from the Reverend Deacon Gill Kimber, who is to step down after many years of faithful service. This means he has responsibility for co-ordinating and convening his fellow Distinctive Deacons (9) as well as supporting the small number of Distinctive Deacons in training across the Diocese. We look forward to hearing more about his work here in a future edition of Cathedral News.



## **Jane Jones: A great loss to a great many people**

*We are very grateful to Christine Lethbridge, who has compiled this tribute from, and on behalf of, Jane's many friends and colleagues in the Cathedral Community.*

Jane was the most dedicated and reliable events steward that you could ask for, and as well as being a great support to the Events Department, she was a familiar face to many hirers and performers who use the building. The musical concerts were a great opportunity for Jane to enjoy her passion for classical music, but she was always delighted to support and champion the Cathedral School, charity and the more unusual events too.

### **Cressida Parsons (Peers)**

Jane loved meeting people; Jane loved listening to people; Jane loved helping people and the Cathedral Community gave her ample opportunity to use and develop these skills to the benefit of everyone around her. Having been a midwife at Heavitree Hospital, before having her family, her nursing background also put her in very good position to give advice, consolation or reassurance whatever was necessary.

Jane joined the Mothers Union when the then Archdeacon Ward's wife, Margaret, started a group at the Cathedral. We met at each other's houses and Jane was always the perfect hostess, generous and welcoming and we all loved meeting her lovely dogs. Part of our MU programme included helping with the preparation of Christingles and Mothering Sunday flowers for the Cathedral services. Jane played a vital part in the preparations for Christingle, ordering all the oranges, cocktail sticks etc, plus the important jelly tots! It was in this way we discovered the shops were cheating us, we used to buy the same number of tubes each year, but kept finding that we were running out – until we compared tubes from one year to the next - they were considerably smaller; but due to Jane's foresight we were able to rectify the discrepancy in good time.

Jane also found time to volunteer at the Mothers Union Office in Sidwell Street and was a governor at the Wynstream and Maynard Schools. At the Cathedral

she was regularly seen on coffee duty, and taking her turn as a Sidesman, welcoming people and taking the collection; she must have walked many miles up and down the Nave even when she was not too well. She was on the Committee for the newly formed Cloister Club, combining this with her other duties and helping out with the children when needed. However, when it was suggested at one meeting that we start a Story Bag scheme, she found her swan song, such that one of her titles could be 'the story bag lady'! It started fairly small, but was so popular that it grew rapidly and Jane would distribute bags to the Cloister Club seats, whilst keeping a watchful eye for any visiting children.

I know you will all agree that we have lost an amazing friend and we cannot do better than to echo the poem 'Memories of the Heart' that was so beautifully read at her funeral – 'talk about the good times.....Let memories surround you... I hope too that her own family, husband Robin, sons Nicholas and Andrew and their families, will also find comfort in those words. Her family were her pride and joy and she was always willing to recount all their dreams and aspirations. Sleep in peace Jane and know that your legacy will live on.

**Christine Lethbridge**

Jane always had a sunny disposition that made people smile and her ability to be interested in, and remember, everyone she met was remarkable. She was a very good listener and adviser to many people within the Cathedral Community and beyond. Her dedication and service seemed to have no bounds even when she was not well. Such a trooper and such a loss.

**Chryssa Turner**

## **Cathedral Community Committee (CCC) 9<sup>th</sup> November**

The main items of business included:

- "Pop-up" Exeter Cathedral events round the diocese, which we hope will enable us to issue invitations to parishes and mission communities to pay a return visit to the Cathedral
- The approval of a revised Constitution for the CCC (subsequently approved by Chapter)
- The administrative back-up needed to support Cathedral Community activities
- Creating a library of books on prayer, theology etc for members of the congregation to borrow
- Restoring and developing closer links with Exeter Cathedral School.

The meeting closed with thanks to all members who were not standing for re-election, all of whom made a hugely valuable contribution. Our special thanks to Diane Coombes, who has served on the CCC since it was formed in 1994.

## Melanesian News

At this year's AGM and Festival Day at Exeter Cathedral, Revd Richard Carter, the Archbishop of Melanesia's UK Commissary, vicar at St Martin in the Fields, London, and former Melanesian Brother was asked to speak about Patteson's Life and Legacy this can be found at <http://www.mmuk.net/news/for-those-we-would-gladly-give-our-lives/>.

Richard who spent many years as a brother gives a personal reflection and is an interesting insight into the legacy of missionaries.



On a personal note, I have been touched when speaking to many people, particularly in the Solomon Islands, about what Bishop Patteson means to them. Children and special places are named after him. When we have visitors from Melanesia the emotional response to visiting his childhood home, and first living at Alfrington (Ottery St Mary, not Exeter) are very moving, and when they see the memorial on our pulpit they will remain in prayer before it for many minutes.

I am pleased to report that the Islands have managed to stave off any major wave of infection from Covid, and after a long time and some persuasion, people are taking the vaccines provided, an answer to prayer.

If any of you are interested in finding out more about the work of Melanesian Mission UK, please do contact me. I look forward to sharing some more stories and information with you in future editions.

**Canon Cate Edmonds**

## **Zoom Morning Prayer has Restarted**

One of the best things about being a part of Exeter Cathedral is its strong sense of community; of sharing worship and connection with other Christians as we express and deepen our faith together. This togetherness was challenged in March 2020 with the advent of lockdown and the closure of the Cathedral for only the second time in its 1000-year history. We had to find other ways to be a community of believers and in this we had one big advantage over the Cathedral congregation of the 1940s: we had the internet and, in particular, Zoom. Morning and Evening Prayer moved online and proved to be one of our most successful online offerings, drawing together good numbers of people each morning at 9am and each evening at 5pm. Now the Covid situation has changed, these offices have moved back into the Cathedral building and that is right and proper. However, we recognise that the Zoom services held a unique value and so Zoom Morning Prayer returned on weekdays from Monday 1 November at 9am.

Morning Prayer on Zoom has the particular advantage of being accessible to participants who may find it difficult, or impossible, to get to the Cathedral for the 8.15am service. We found we had people joining us from all over the Diocese, from other parts of the UK and from overseas, including from Mexico on one occasion. People self-isolating or housebound, as well as members of the Cathedral Community working or studying away from home, were still able to participate. We were able to invite representatives of the mission communities we were praying for to come along, so we could hear directly from them what their particular prayer needs were and include them, strengthening our role as mother church of the Diocese and building relationships. Devon is a rural county with sometimes lengthy travel times across it and the Cathedral itself draws its congregation from a wide geographical area; Zoom is a wonderful tool for connection and access, where distance doesn't matter.

One other feature of Morning Prayer on Zoom is the opportunity to participate and be involved if you would like to be. Perhaps you might do a reading, or respond, or even consider leading. However, there will be no pressure to do this, and you are very welcome simply to come along and quietly join us in prayer; everyone is welcome. The words will be on the screen, so you don't need any books or any previous knowledge of the Office. I had never said Morning Prayer or any part of the Daily Office before joining in on Zoom during lockdown and have found it to be a wonderful focal point and start to my morning, which enriches the rest of my day.

If you would like to come along and have any questions or are unfamiliar with Zoom, please contact me on [carys.puleston@gmail.com](mailto:carys.puleston@gmail.com) and I will do my best to help. The Zoom details you will need to join are below and will also be found

on the Cathedral website and in the notice sheet. I look forward to seeing faces familiar and new at Zoom Morning Prayer.

<https://zoom.us/j/99638985011?pwd=amVtZk5oNk01UDDJeXVUOHBWQUg3QT09>

Meeting ID: 996 3898 5011

Passcode: 1F0puR

**Carys Puleston**

## **News from the Flower Arrangers**

Life continues apace. Poppies were arranged in advance of 11<sup>th</sup> November, Armistice Day, and remained in place for nearly three weeks. Two of our arrangers made a display opposite the Shop for “Follow the Star”, which took hours of preparatory work, and then about 12 hours to put together. It’s a journey under the stars, and not the Loch Ness Monster, as one visitor commented! We do enjoy the challenge of thinking outside the box. We hope you appreciate this too.

Tina designed a modern minimalist arrangement for the Advent pillars which she started working on early in the summer. Many visitors have already commented on it; it is completely different to the normal pillar arrangements. We have 2 Advent candles this year – the reason being that some services are in the Quire and some in the Nave. The Quire candle is low and modern-looking with dried foliage, which in the main we have dried ourselves, so good value for money. The traditional candle in the Nave has fresh foliage, Christmas roses, apples and cones, and will only be used for Nave services. Moving the main candle was a nightmare for the Virgers because it is very heavy and unstable; they can end covered with water, and very wet. The mechanics of making it up and holding it together would not feature in any arranger’s handbook!!!

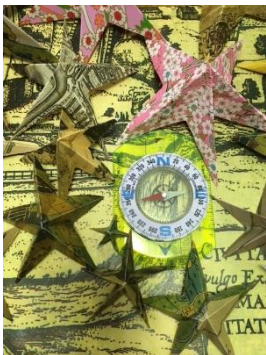
We have a Christmas wreath making workshop on the 15 December in the Chapter House and places are filling fast, followed by an Open Day for volunteers on 16<sup>th</sup>, and then we arrange for Christmas on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>, so we are not sitting at home writing cards!

On behalf of ECFA may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmastide with your families and friends this year, and a peaceful 2022 for everyone as life, hopefully, returns to normality.

**Flick Evans**



## Heritage and Engagement Department: Education Activities



### Schools Sculpture Exhibition 2021 – Guiding Star

Come in and see what schools have been working on!  
Entry is by donation

From Dec 5<sup>th</sup> in St Andrew and St Catherine's Chapel,  
come to see our representation of where Saint Nicholas  
might have lived.



### Meet Saint Nicholas

Do you know a young person who would enjoy meeting  
the real St Nicholas?

Did you know that the real Bishop Nicholas originated  
from Greece in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century?

Join us at Exeter Cathedral where our St Nicholas will  
tell the story of his life and how his persona has  
changed over the years to become the Father  
Christmas we know and love today. He will also explain  
how Saints are made, help your youngster think about  
offering up a good deed over the coming season and  
then leave with a super gift to inspire creativity.

This session is for children who are 5 yrs and over, the  
content and gift is not appropriate for younger children.  
£10 per child, there is no entry cost for adults accompanying children, whilst  
they wait for their child.

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 10.30am and 11.30am**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 10.30am and 11.30am**





**Angel or Christmas-Tree Book Crafts**  
**Date Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December pm 1- 3pm**  
**Pearson Building**

Enjoy a relaxing morning with us making bespoke angel decorations using old books. Bring your own old book or buy one from us for £1.

We'll show you the basic folds and then you can "change up" your angel and create a personality to take home. This makes a lovely Christmas decoration or present for a loved one!

£12 – tea and biscuits included.



**Some Highlights for your Diary in December**

(full details on the website)

5<sup>th</sup> December Handel's *Messiah* – Cathedral Choir with Devon Baroque

7<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> December Night Tours of the Cathedral

8<sup>th</sup> December National Trust Christmas Concert

11<sup>th</sup> December Christmas themed Felting Workshop

12<sup>th</sup> December Exeter Nativity – *A Journey to Life*

14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> December Exeter Philharmonic Choir Carol Concert

15<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Wreath Workshop

16<sup>th</sup> December Late Opening of the Cathedral until 9pm

17<sup>th</sup> December Night in the Cathedral for Families

17<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> December at 1pm Lunchtime Carols for Everyone

19<sup>th</sup> December Christmas with the Cathedral Choir at 3pm

20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> December Christmas with the Cathedral Choir at 7pm

23<sup>rd</sup> December at 6.30pm Livestreamed Carol Service with the Cathedral Choir

Christmas Eve 12 noon: Crib Service

6pm: Service of Lessons and Carols with the Ceremony of  
Bishop John Grandisson for Christmas Eve

11.30pm: Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY 8am: Holy Communion

10am: Choral Eucharist

11.45am: Choral Mattins

4pm: Choral Evensong with Carols from the Minstrels' Gallery

26<sup>th</sup> December 8am: Holy Communion; 10am: Sung Eucharist with hymns

## **Christopher Patterson with his wife Gill ‘Becoming a student in retirement’**



Chris Patterson, Chairman of The Friends of Exeter Cathedral and Member of the Cathedral's FAC (Fabric Advisory Committee) received his Doctorate in Philosophy at an award ceremony at Oxford's Sheldonian Theatre on 13<sup>th</sup> November after eight years of (not so part-time) study on the second Saturday in November.

Chris writes 'The subject of my thesis applied modern management spreadsheet analysis to the weekly building accounts of Exeter Cathedral from 1299 to 1342. My tutor, Paul Barnwell, was enthusiastic about the results and suggested that I should apply the methodology to all the surviving 'fabric rolls' of the English Cathedrals in a part-time doctoral thesis. My question to him was how many such accounts had survived - he thought about 200. I enrolled at Kellogg College, which provides facilities for part-time and mid-career students - and in due course discovered that the total number of annual accounts to be transcribed or translated was 500! Such was the lack of established knowledge relating to a significant medieval data set at the time.

We congratulate him on his use of the resources of our Cathedral Library and success in receiving his Doctorate.

## Happy New Year!

Advent Sunday, or the First Sunday of Advent, to use the title in the calendar, marks the start of the church's liturgical year, when we start again to tell the story, and to celebrate, in the words we hear from King's College Cambridge on Christmas Eve, "the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought to us by this Holy Child".

As the Dean reminds us in his article this month, Advent is a period of preparation, of "watching and waiting", but after that the pace becomes hectic. By the time the next edition of *Cathedral News* appears on 9<sup>th</sup> January, we will have celebrated the birth, baptism and circumcision of Christ, and the Epiphany. And the seasonal narrative will continue more or less unabated for about six months, until we arrive again at Trinity Sunday.

After that, we're back to what the liturgical calendar describes as Ordinary Time. It was the use of that term in an article for the *News*, and the ensuing discussion about what it meant, that gave the editorial team an idea. In a regular feature, we hope to unpack some of the riches, complexities and, at times, arcane mysteries of the calendar, which is, after all, the foundation and structure on which our public worship is based. The weekly service lists in the Cathedral are a helpful reminder of the hierarchy of principal feasts, lesser festivals and other holy days throughout the year, but these events don't always receive the attention they deserve, not least because they tend to fall on weekdays rather than Sundays. And anyway who are the people whose names appear? Why are they there? What are Ember Days and Rogation Days? You may have other such questions, in which case, please let us know. We hope to engage both lay and clergy colleagues in providing the answers.

As a start, this Christmastide, perhaps we could give more attention than usual to that cluster of significant, but easily overlooked, festivals between Christmas Day and 1<sup>st</sup> January; St Stephen, Deacon, the First Martyr on 26<sup>th</sup> December; St John, Apostle and Evangelist, on the 27<sup>th</sup>; and the Holy Innocents on the 28<sup>th</sup>? 31<sup>st</sup> December sees the commemoration of John Wyclif, a 14<sup>th</sup> century forerunner of the Reformation, who died on that day in 1384. And let's not forget Thomas Becket, who may or may not be remembered on 29<sup>th</sup> December, for reasons we will explore on another occasion!

Meanwhile, we have a very simple message to all our readers. Thank you for your interest and support. We hope you have a peaceful and blessed Christmas, and our very best wishes for 2022.

**From the Editorial Team: Heather Morgan, Rosemary Bethell, Jenny Ellis, Sheila Atkinson**