



## From the Dean

On 3 February the Moon lands in the Cathedral for a month. So when we were chatting last week, James Mustard asked me, ‘What is a Christian theology of the moon?’ I suggested he might preach on the matter while the moon is in situ, and



we’re much hoping that might happen. But of course I couldn’t help Googling the question, and in doing so, uncovered a story about Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin’s landing on the moon in Apollo 11. On their arrival, Buzz Aldrin asked anyone listening, 250,000 miles away, “to give thanks in his or her own way” for the safe landing. It wasn’t his first choice of words, but it would have to do. In the weeks leading up to the Apollo mission, Aldrin had discussed with his pastor at the Webster Presbyterian Church in Houston how he might Christen the Moon landing, and they both agreed he should enact some kind of communion. In this respect, Aldrin would be

following in the footsteps of generations of European explorers who believed it was God’s grace that had enabled their exploration and conquest of the “new world.”

Deke Slayton, who ran the Apollo crew operations, had implored Aldrin to keep his public comments “more general” - hence the neutral-ish words on the radio - but what he did in private was his own business. So he took out two plastic packages containing a wafer and a thimbleful of wine and, as Neil Armstrong looked on, read a passage from the Gospel of John he had written on an index card: “I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever abides in me will bring forth much fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing.”

The religious impulse is deeply human and has always played a significant part in our relationship to the cosmos. As we are told in Psalm 19, “The heavens are telling the glory of God and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.” Maybe it’s the beauty of the starry sky, alongside its vastness, that drives us to

wonderment. And the Moon plays a special role, since it so outshines every other celestial being.

When you come to the Cathedral this month, to one of our services, or specifically to see the moon in situ, please take time to give thanks for the magnificence of the universe, and to pray that we human beings might be responsible stewards of that small part entrusted to our care.

**Jonathan Greener**



## **LIVING IN LOVE & FAITH** Final Opportunity to Participate

Throughout 2021 we have held a successful series of courses helping us to engage in the Church of England's national conversation around issues of sexuality and gender. These areas of our individual identify are fundamental ones for us all. The *Living in Love and Faith* course exists to help us contribute in a considered way to the church's conversation.

The formal consultation period closes in April 2022 so there will now be only one more opportunity to join in a course if you haven't yet been able to do so. It will take place in the Pearson Education Centre between 11.45 and 1.15 on: March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3.

Spaces are limited and the course will run as a closed group and participants will need to be able to commit to each of the five weeks. In this way course members will get to know one another better, establish trust, and from there explore these important areas with sensitivity and respect for different views.

If you are interested in being part of this group and would like to find out more please contact Revd Phil Wales, Distinctive Deacon ([phil.wales@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:phil.wales@exeter-cathedral.org.uk)). The course will be co-facilitated by Chryssa Turner and Phil Wales.

Further information about the Living in Love and Faith project can be found on the cathedral's website:

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/news-events/latest-news/living-in-love-and-faith/>

## **Cathedral Community Committee (CCC) 11<sup>th</sup> January**

At the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January, the principal discussion and decisions were:

- To welcome Peter Emmanuel to one of the vacancies on the CCC
- The election of Chris Hampton as Vice-Chair of the CCC
- To note that Chapter had appointed Ann Barwood (Canon Librarian Emeritus) as Clerk to the Cathedral Community.
- Maggie Morris is to be our lay representative, joining Canon Chris Palmer, on CtaX -Christians Together Across Exeter. Anne Eyre will liaise with our link Dioceses of Cyprus and the Gulf, Thika and and Bayeux-Lisieux. Canon Cate Edmonds will continue as the link with the Melanesian Mission.
- Devon Historic Churches Trust: Fiona Moffatt with be our representative. She succeeds Diane Coombes, who for many years has ensured that we take an active and profitable part in fund raising, especially on Ride and Stride Day in September.
- We discussed how we might offer more help to the group of refugees from Afghanistan currently living in Exeter
- Progress reports about the Year of Invitation and Welcome were considered, in particular how best to equip everyone to be more confident in greeting newcomers.
- There was further discussion about the venue and dates for the CCC Awayday which we hope will be a Friday evening/Saturday event before Easter

**Heather Morgan, Chair CCC**

### **From The Company of Tapisers:**

The Tapisers have, due to the high Covid infection rates in December, not yet resumed weekly meetings. However, do not think that our members are sitting idly at home!!! Oh No! They are still busily stitching at home! Some of these items can be found for sale in the Shop – recently relocated to the North Transept.

We offer many congratulations to Alice, the Shop Manager, for all her hard work in creating a most attractive and inviting ‘new’ Cathedral Shop. We wish her every success with this venture and thank her for including our work in her new displays.

**Diana Symes, Chairman**

## From the Wednesday Kitchen

You may remember that the dear, late, Geoff Thompson, each year, asked all those who received a winter fuel allowance, but felt that they did not need it for heating payments, to donate the funds to the Wednesday Kitchen.

At present, we are serving take-away meals which does mean that we have additional expenses as we have to provide boxes and bags, as well as disposable cups. We are also doing our best, where possible, to ensure that the boxes, bags, cups and cutlery are all compostable.

However, we average 40-50 servings each week and it seems that recyclable items are far more expensive than the polystyrene and plastic that we are replacing. We are very keen to keep this going, but it will only be possible if we have the funds, and so please help us if you are able. Thank you.

If you would like to help in this way, please send a cheque payable to Exeter Cathedral, in an envelope marked "Wednesday Kitchen Fund". If a tax-payer, please always ask for donations to be gift-aided.

**Penny Harris**

## The March edition of *Cathedral News*

We hope to publish the next edition of the News on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2022. The deadline for material is **Monday 21st February 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.



## **From the Flower Arrangers**

It's almost one month into 2022, and we are still using silk flowers! Despite the relaxation of government guidelines, we are reluctant as a committee to ask any arrangers to be coming into the Cathedral just to water. The congregations are very understanding about this, so we have decided to go back to fresh flowers from Easter weekend, and not before. We have found some new "silky" foliage to add to our stock range, so hopefully we can keep the arrangements on the pillars and in the chapels going, and looking different.

Sylvia, our Chair, is designing pillar arrangements to complement the Moon for the period of the exhibition. Please let us know your views of Sylvia's designs! It is hoped that there will be a huge take up to see the exhibition, so hopefully lots of visitors will see not only the Moon but also our beautiful building.

We are still recruiting flower arrangers, so should you, or someone you know, have some experience, please get in touch via the Volunteers Office, for an informal chat before you decide to commit to joining. We never mind folks saying this is not for me. That's why we chat first and show what the commitment would be. We would be delighted to meet you.

**Flick Evans**

## **From the Visitors and Volunteers Coordinator**

We are pleased to announce that our Roof Guide Training Course, which took place at the end of January proved to be a great success! The calibre of applicants was extremely high and as of this week, we look set to welcome at least five more trained guides into the Cathedral, with the rest due to take their practical exam in the next few weeks.

We shall keep our fingers crossed for those doing their revision, and offer a congratulations to those who have passed!

Public Roof Tours look set to begin again in Spring, with the arrival of better weather.

**Julie Taylor**

## **Welcome!**

A warm welcome to Emma Laws who has taken up her post as Cathedral Librarian, and to Amy Haynes who has joined the Cathedral staff as Marketing and Communications Assistant.



## Shop Snippets

As you may have noticed by now, we have finally set up the brand new shop in its 'temporary' location in the North Transept. After a number of delays last year and then the arrival of the units coinciding with the opening week of the Christmas Market, it feels quite surreal to see it set up and open! The first time I switched the lights on felt

very similar to the moment Ten Fifty arrived back in April last year; I wasn't quite sure what I was expecting but it certainly exceeded my expectations.

The shop in the North Transept is going to take a bit of getting used to for everyone but I've already received so many compliments on how it looks ("very National Trust" said one Virger) and how wonderful it is to see the space no longer being used for storage. I have been conscious to keep a clear sight line to the cat flap, both Chapels are easily accessible, and you can get around to see the old clock mechanism too. So apart from when we're full with customers (most of the time I hope) we have hopefully opened up the area again for all to explore and enjoy.

We've a few new product lines in and have more scheduled for the coming months. Unfortunately, at this stage, due to the fact we have downsized, we are no longer offering second hand books.

Myself and the shop team are very proud of the new space and are looking forward to welcoming you all in soon.

And a little bit of personal news too...

I would also like to take this opportunity to let you know that I will be leaving my role of Shop Supervisor here at Exeter Cathedral in early March. I've been working at this wonderful and mad organisation for eight and a half years now and have been lucky enough to experience so many fantastic challenges, events and people. However, a new opportunity has arisen, so it felt like a good time to make a change. I will miss this place and the people dearly.

**Alice**

## Centring Prayer and the Sacred Word

Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you (James 4.8). Our God who is closer to us than we are to our very selves. In prayer, we both focus our attention and we let go. We place our attention at the edge of our finiteness and allow ourselves to be drawn beyond into encounter with God. We often find our attention wandering in prayer, but over the centuries, people well-versed in the practice have developed techniques that can help us approach this threshold.

One such technique is Centring Prayer, which was developed by the Trappist monk Fr Thomas Keating and others. First you choose a sacred word as the symbol of your intention to consent to God's presence and action within you during your time of prayer. Whenever you pray, you silently introduce the sacred word once as the symbol of your consent, and continue in silent loving attention for about 20 minutes. If you are distracted by your thoughts, you return gently to the sacred word.

Keating suggests your word be simple: just one word, preferably of one syllable, such as Grace or Love. You are not meditating on the meaning of the word, or repeating it over and over as a mantra, but using it to bring your attention back when you realise it has wandered. It's a word that you could remember during the rest of your day, when you might have a minute or two available for recollection.

Some of you may have been playing Wordle, the simple game in which you have six attempts to guess a five-letter word. After each guess, you are shown whether the letters in your guess were in the right place, or in the word but in the wrong place, or not in the word. Many versions have been created, so you may have also been playing Byrdle, in which the words all related to choral music.

On a whim this week, I created Prayerdle, in which the words relate to prayer or the Bible. But then it occurred to me that it has elements of Centring Prayer. If you let the puzzle sink into your deep mind, you find that the solution comes more readily. Treat this time as a bridge into prayer. Then you might use the solution as your sacred word. If you play the game on your phone, let it bring you back to prayer whenever you use it. (Note that this is absolutely not for all, as technology and its notifications are engineered to distract.) Then the next day, start your guessing with the previous day's word. Let it remind you of the things you can give thanks for and the day's challenges, and draw the thread through into your prayer going forward.

There is more to help you Explore Prayer on the Cathedral website at <https://bit.ly/exploreprayer2022>.

Re Centring Prayer, see Thomas Keating's books "Open Mind, Open Heart" or "Intimacy with God" and [contemplativeoutreach.org](http://contemplativeoutreach.org). Pray with Prayerdle at <https://bit.ly/Prayerdle>.

**Clare Bryden**



## The Friends of Exeter Cathedral

The Friends have an event planned in early March, which will be delivered online via the Zoom platform.

On Monday 7 March at 7pm the Head of Exeter Cathedral School, James Featherstone, will talk about the school and the cathedral choristers. There is no charge for this event and places, which are open to all, are still available. Please contact The Friends office, preferably by email, if you would like to have your name added to the attendance list.

The West Wing, The Palace, Exeter, EX1 1HY. Office Hours: 9am to 1pm Monday to Thursday. Enquiries: 01392 423931. Email; [friends@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:friends@exeter-cathedral.org.uk)

### **70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Accession of Her Majesty the Queen Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

The Cathedral will mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Queen's Accession to the throne at Evensong on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 4pm. We will have a glass of wine after the service to toast Her Majesty. All are welcome.

### **Car Parking Permits**

If you have a parking permit, please do keep the Cathedral Office informed if you change your car. Parking is now monitored by cameras, rather than relying on the paper passes. If the correct details aren't logged on the system, there is a risk of receiving a rather unwanted surprise.



## Choir Chaperone Volunteers

Do you enjoy choral music and have time to spare in supporting Exeter Cathedral? Then why not become a Choir Chaperone!

Our Cathedral Choristers attend Exeter Cathedral School, and they are the responsibility of the school when attending school or living in the Boarding House. They are the responsibility of the Director of Music, on behalf of the Dean and Chapter, when they undertake their chorister duties in the Cathedral or when involved in Cathedral activities elsewhere. This includes when singing away on parish visits, schools or on tour.

The role includes the supervision of the children before, during and after rehearsals and services, on a rota basis, with full training provided.

### Usual Service and Rehearsal Times

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 4.20 – 5.20pm followed by Evensong from 5.30 – 6.30
- Saturday: 2.50 – 3.50pm followed by Evensong from 4.00 – 5.00pm
- Sunday: 8.45 – 9.50am followed by Sung Eucharist from 10.00 – 11.30am; 2.50 – 3.50pm followed by Evensong from 4.00 – 5.00pm

### Usual Singing Duties

Girls: Evensong on Monday, alternate Friday and weekends.

Boys: Evensong on Tuesday, Thursday and alternate Friday and weekends.

For more information, please download a copy of the role description from the Cathedral website.

### Application Submission:

Email your completed application form to our [Visitors and Volunteers Coordinator](#).

- Post: Visitors and Volunteers Coordinator, Exeter Cathedral, 1 The Cloisters, Exeter, EX1 1HS.

**Please note you must submit a completed application form in order to be considered. Please download the form from the Cathedral website.**

If you would like to discuss the role before applying, please contact the Visitors Office on 01392 285983, for an informal chat.



## **ECS Charity Concert**

Exeter Cathedral School (ECS) is holding a Charity Concert 2022 on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 7.15pm in the Cathedral in aid of Balloons, an Exeter-based charity that supports bereaved children.

This year a small number of tickets are available to the general public (£5 each).

Tickets can be booked using this link:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/exetercathedralschool/t-reqrvr>

## **The Reverend Elsie Howell**

We were very sorry to hear of the death of the Revd Elsie Howell. A friend to many, she has been at the heart of the life of the Cathedral Community for many years.

She was ordained as a minister in the Baptist church in July 1969. In retirement, Elsie and David, her late husband, were regular members of the Cathedral congregation, where she served in roles including leading the weekly prayers for healing, as an intercessor during the 10am Choral Eucharist, a Eucharistic Assistant, and a member of the Pastoral Care Team. She will be greatly missed. Her funeral will be in the Quire on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 11am.

We hope to include a more detailed tribute to Elsie in the March edition of *Cathedral News*. Elsie was the subject of *Focus* in October 2018 where you can read about her varied and fruitful ministry.

## **Candlelight Concert Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm**

Do book now for the Cathedral Choir Candlelight Concert on 12<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm. The programme will include music by Byrd, Stanford and a complete performance of Duruflé's *Requiem*. All seats unreserved. Tickets: Adults £20, under 18s £5. Tickets can be booked online.



## Museum of the Moon

It's here! Luke Jerram's artwork *Museum of the Moon* lands at the Cathedral on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, and remains until 27<sup>th</sup> February.

Measuring seven metres in diameter, the replica of the moon features high resolution NASA imagery of the lunar surface latest moon science.

This photo of The Moon in Bristol Cathedral was taken by Bob Pitchford.

The installation is a fusion of lunar imagery, moonlight and surround sound composition created by BAFTA and Ivor Novello award winning composer Dan Jones.

Luke Jerram's multidisciplinary practice involves the creation of sculptures, installations and live arts projects. Living in the UK but working internationally for 19 years, Jerram has created a number of extraordinary art projects which have excited and inspired people around the globe. At an approximate scale of 1:500,000, each centimetre of the internally lit spherical sculpture represents 5km of the moon's surface.

Over its lifetime, *Museum of the Moon* will be presented in a number of different ways both indoors and outdoors, so altering the experience and interpretation of the artwork. As it travels from place to place, it will gather new musical compositions and an ongoing collection of personal responses, stories and mythologies, as well as highlighting the globe. Jerram has a set of different narratives that make up his practice which are developing in parallel with one another. He is known worldwide for his large-scale public artworks.

Find out more at: <http://my-moon.org/>

Visit The Moon as part of your admission to the Cathedral by booking a timed entry slot on the Cathedral website:

Adult admission – £5; Child admission (within a family group) – free.

*Please note that Residents' Cards and Friends Membership Cards cannot be accepted as free entry passes for this event.* Once inside, visitors can explore the installation and the Cathedral at their own pace.

***Under the Moon: Lunar Treasures from the Cathedral Library*** will give an opportunity to see works of lunar science and literature from the Cathedral Library.

15<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February: 1pm-3pm; 17<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February: 10.30am and 12.30pm.

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More information...

Revd Belinda Speed-Andrews, Programmes Coordinator & Administrator  
admin@swmtc.org.uk Tel: 01392 272544

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