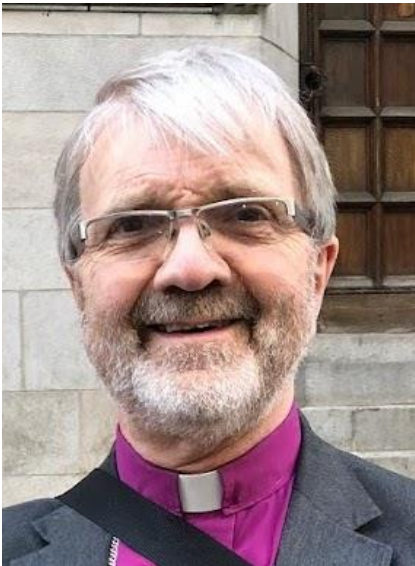




**We wish all our readers a very Happy New Year !**



**From Bishop Martin Shaw**

## **Chaplain of Exeter Cathedral School**

In late 1983, I left being Succentor [the Sub-Precentor] of Exeter Cathedral and Chaplain to the Exeter Cathedral Choir School, as it was then known, never imagining that I would return to being Chaplain of the School! If Joe Biden, the President of the United States, can take up his role at the age of 78, surely then at 77 being Chaplain of the School is not beyond me! Most children under 13, I have found have a good relationship with me, irrespective of my age.

In the 1980s, the connections between the School and Cathedral were more structural and financial in terms of governance than they are now. The connection of School and Cathedral, you might be forgiven for thinking, is only through the Cathedral choristers, who are not only pupils at the school, but are installed as members of the Cathedral foundation, a connection that is hundreds of years old. However, both the Dean, Jonathan Greener, and the Precentor, James Mustard are members of the School's Governing body, the Dean being its Vice-Chairman. Most parents are attracted by that connection, even if its significance is not fully grasped.

The expectations on me as the Chaplain of the School currently are that I give some hours each week to the school. I don't 'teach', nor am I qualified to do so.

Thus, my role is a limited one, contributing to the three assemblies a week, one of which is held in the Cathedral Quire on a Monday morning, the others being in the Chapter House, or Kalendar Hall, the large hall in the school, if the Chapter House is unavailable or Covid restrictions apply. A school Eucharist is held in the Cathedral Quire on the weekday feasts of the Church, for example, this term on Ash Wednesday.

Of course, being available pastorally to the children and the staff is essential. However, I'm also conscious of the huge change in religious education. In the past, a Chaplain was much more involved in issues such as ethics and personal health, which are now handled on a much more professional basis according to the expectations of the teaching world. The word 'Well-being' is now an established word in the care of children in education, again handled by staff highly trained in matters of physical and social health. Further, religious education has to be inclusive, taking into account the plurality of our culture. This presents a challenge, particularly as I realise that I cannot take for granted that children or their families have even a basic acquaintance with Christianity. Nevertheless, to experience the professionalism and commitment of the staff of the Cathedral School is impressive indeed. The Head Master, James Featherstone has created a team atmosphere among the staff, requiring high standards and energy in everything from science, the arts through to sport and drama. He is particularly committed to building the connection between the Cathedral and School, not least through his own musicianship, deputising as a tenor in the Cathedral Choir.

To have a warm relationship with the children, for me as Chaplain, is as important as any educational project. My own approach is to regard myself as a 'story-teller'. And that after all is what the Gospels seem to portray Jesus as being. Behind that story-telling is a sense of wonder at the possibilities that spirituality can create and sustain. In some small, and maybe insignificant way, I try to emphasise the importance of simple loving action daily, strengthened by a combination of wonder and praying.

In this last year, I've had two periods of school Confirmation preparation, leading to 20 children and 4 parents being confirmed, 11 of whom are choristers. Most of this process was conducted online. Online sessions may seem unsatisfactory and in many ways they are. However, not only because of Covid, but given the packed schedule of the Children at school and at home, including the parents, online live video communication means that, without travel, children and adults can be 'present' for 45 minutes on a Saturday morning. To be able to be the 'Confirming' Bishop on Advent Sunday in the

Cathedral was a privilege I will not forget. Being a Chaplain and a Bishop, albeit a retired one, has its advantages!

On December 5th, Timothy Noon, the Cathedral Director of Music, conducted the annual performance of Handel's 'Messiah'. What struck many of us was that the four soloists have children who are choristers, another important sign of the vibrant connection between the school and Cathedral.

Earlier last term, Julia Featherstone, the School's Head of Music, with the school's music staff, mounted a performance involving the whole school in the Cathedral, thus emphasising that music is not just about the choristers but is the priceless gift of the school's overall educational vision.

I hope that through some of these reflections, when you see and hear the Cathedral Choristers, perhaps you will have a greater understanding and appreciation not just of them but of the whole School. After all, there are 265 young people and, of course, their families, right on the Cathedral's doorstep to be nurtured and indeed be nurtured by, a life-giving opportunity that few organisations have. Please pray for the School in your own intercessions. Further, I'm hoping to do a regular update from the School which should build on a historic and vibrant collaboration of School and Cathedral.

**Bishop Martin Shaw**

## **Beryl Trist Newman (1906 – 1991)**

I am currently doing research on the artist Beryl Trist Newman and I'm hoping that some of your readers might be able to help. In particular, I'm looking for the location of works by her. Beryl Trist was born in 1906 in St Albans and she trained as an artist in Bushey, Hertfordshire and in London. Works by her were exhibited in various galleries including the Royal Academy, and portraits by her are in several national collections. Beryl went to live in Lustleigh in 1931 and remained there until her death in 1991. In 1946 she married the Reverend Canon Newman, who was Rector of Lustleigh from 1945 – 1957.

In 1986 and 1995 numerous paintings, drawings and sketches by her were sold at auctions in Exeter, in aid of various charities including the Exeter Cathedral Music Foundation Trust. Hundreds of works were offered for sale in a total of four auctions, the last one in 1995 raising over £4,000.

As well as her portraits, Beryl made pictures of children, animals and scenes on her travels. There are also references online to paintings of Dartmoor, but I'm yet to locate any of these. Beryl used both her maiden and married names when signing her work. Please contact me at [peter@moormasons.plus.com](mailto:peter@moormasons.plus.com) if you have any paintings or can provide me with further information on her life.

**Peter F. Mason**



## **Wednesday Kitchen**

The Wednesday Kitchen team served hot food parcels to the homeless and vulnerably housed each and every week, right the way through lockdowns and the other restrictions.

We are grateful to the Diocesan Office for the use of the West Wing car park during the Christmas Market.

Our customers are always delighted to see us, and so very grateful to receive warm welcomes, encouraging smiles and conversation alongside nutritious food.

If you would like to see us in action, do pop by any Wednesday between 6-7pm.

Happy new year to all of you from Penny, Rob, Helen and the team.

## Forming habits of prayer

In December's monthly news, I asked whether we can find 20 or even 5 minutes to wait on God, given that God is patiently and longingly waiting on us for 1,440 minutes every day. It might seem difficult or impossible to *find* time when we have a lot of other commitments during the day, but if our relationship with God in prayer is really a priority then might it be possible to *make* time?

Or is it like many other good things in life? We want to do them, but we do other things instead because we experience some sort of internal resistance. I know I feel both relaxed and energised after a walk in nature, yet sometimes it's hard to motivate myself to get out of the house. It's sometimes a little like Paul's words in Romans 7.17: "I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate."

The key for me is not to think about it, but to form a habit instead. So on a day when I am working at home, however I am feeling and whatever the weather, when the clock ticks to 3pm I simply get up and get out. With prayer, it is first thing in the morning. Over a cup of tea, I read or listen to a spiritual podcast until something strikes me and leads me into a time of silent prayer. The cup of tea is my bridge between waking up and my prayer time. The routine holds my prayer. It's a habit I've formed and now I just do it.

Different routines and bridges will work for different people. Maybe praying after a morning tea or coffee will also work for you, or maybe you could pray after taking the dog out, or on your lunch break, say. Or it might be easier to make it weekly instead of daily, and to block out a longer period on one evening a week.

Two final things. Note the difference in focus between praying while you are walking the dog, and walking the dog while you are praying. The first is good and fine. The second is a distraction. But you could use the routine of your return home, towelling down the dog, putting the lead away and hanging up your coat as a bridge to sitting down and focusing on your relationship with God. And lastly, it is much much better to start small and build up, rather than be too ambitious and give up. So for your New Year Resolution... 5 minutes and an intention to build up to 20?

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

**Clare Bryden**

## **Elizabeth Searle**

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Elizabeth Searle on 29<sup>th</sup> December. She touched the lives of so many in the Cathedral Community by her kindness, warmth, generosity, and the deep personal interest she took in people. She will be greatly missed. We hope to have a full tribute to Elizabeth in the next edition of *Cathedral News*. There will be a private family funeral, followed by a Service of Thanksgiving on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 2.15pm at St Leonard's Church, Exeter. We send our love and prayers to John and to their family.

## **News from the Cathedral Flower Arrangers**

What a strange year 2021 was! Planned events were off/on/last minute/next year including weddings, fairs and workshops. Arrangements went from dry/fresh/silk/nothing and back to the beginning again. Our fund raising wreath workshop was cancelled as 45+ people in the Chapter House was not a good idea in mid-December. I rang all our customers personally to explain. Responses went from "I'm not surprised" to "I was a little concerned" to "Oh my goodness I shall have to make my own and my family will never believe that the one I made with you last year was really mine!"

We also had to make the decision about arranging for Christmas. The consensus was that fresh flowers were a great risk – so we added to the dried pillars; although they looked great, sadly they were not the Christmas bling the Dean wanted. The Advent candle in the Nave became the Christmas candle – green, white and silver with a little sparkle. Sylvia and Kathy decorated the pulpit, which we love to see arranged for Festivals. Sadly, too there was no stable tableau because there wasn't a clear space for it once all the Christmas trees were up. Perhaps the three Kings will find one?

Very sadly we lost one of our greatest supporters between Christmas and New Year – Liz Searle. A remarkable lady who made everyone feel special and important; week on week she had something complimentary to say about our arrangements. We shall miss her hugely!

May I, on behalf of the Cathedral Flower Arrangers, wish you all a healthy, less stressful and virus free 2022.

**Flick Evans**



*The Crib Service on Christmas Eve was well attended and much enjoyed by all. A simple nativity tableau was formed for the most part by members of Cloister Club. Rufus Nightingale, now aged 6 months, played the part of the baby Jesus; he sat up and took a keen interest in all that was going on. Canon James Mustard and Canon Chris Palmer told the Christmas Story. Members of the congregation were invited to place a star at the foot of the crib as an offering of our prayers, and the choristers led the singing of familiar carols.*

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

We hope to publish the next edition of the News on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The deadline for material is **Monday 24<sup>th</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.



## Edgewise?

**Experiences of some Anglican lay women**  
**Edited by Hannah Ward and Jennifer Wild**  
**Published by Darton, Longman and Todd**

Hard to believe it's nearly 30 years since the first women were ordained priest in the Church of England. The nine essays that form **Edgewise?** (The question mark is important) represent the thoughts of nine women on what it means to be lay in the church since ordination became possible.

Written during lockdown by women who had been meeting annually for some 20 years, their stories really do reflect their 'lived experience'; a term much used of late by the institutional church, though whether it truly welcomes, or acts on, expressions of actual lived experience is questionable. (Look at some of the casualties of Living in Love and Faith.)

The introduction acknowledges that whilst the range of views and experience of the contributions might be diverse, the group itself is not. Here is a gathering from the tribe of all white, middle class, middle/late aged, educated women with experience in 'professional' Church work, diocesan posts, chaplaincy, youth work, theological education etc. A fact, not an apology! And, as such, contributions shaped by feminism, campaigning, liberation theology et al. I quickly resonated with their experiences – I too have been a first woman in an all male team, campaigned for MOW (Movement for the ordination of women), encircled Greenham Common and witnessed Una Kroll's ...'*we asked for bread and you gave us a stone...*' cry from the public gallery at General Synod. I too fetched up with a professional church post. But the important questions emerging from these essays deserve a wider readership than that of like-minded sympathisers.

Quite a bit has been written about women who became priests, but these **Edgewise?** reflections are from women whose working lives were formed when ordination was not a possibility, and who then chose to remain lay when that door was eventually opened. Themes emerging from these engaging stories point to a church that appears more, not less, hierarchical since the inclusion of ordained women, that has become more, not less, clericalized, where there are fewer conversations between lay and ordained women, where there is more rhetoric than actual practice around collaborative ministry, and where there is



less opportunity for the existence of what Hannah Ward refers to as the liminal spaces. Liminal spaces being those places where *'we can be held and supported to see and think the world (or a small part of it) differently ..... spaces where not knowing is vital...'* (for me at the Cathedral one such space has been Lectio Divina on Wednesday evenings). And all this against a background of apparent decline in the Eucharist as the central act of worship in the Church of England. On the whole lay women don't want to appear disloyal to their ordained colleagues, but conversations need to be had.

Lay ministry, continues Hannah Ward, often refers to lay people *'being sucked into all sorts of churchy jobs and away from the places of encountering other human beings in their everyday lives. It makes everything need to have some sort of qualification (and control), from giving out hymn books and welcoming people, to visiting a member of the congregation who's sick.....'* Nearly 40 years ago Ruth Etchells (the first lay woman to be appointed Principal of a Church of England college) when writing about the laity said...*'...we need to look at the way we are telling – and **being** – the Gospel story.'* **Edgewise?** is indeed a series of stories of **being**, and confirms for me the value of the small group, the need to remain faithful despite exasperation, the necessity of collaborative leadership, and the importance of places where ideas can be tried out, doubts expressed and minds expanded. Helen Stanton offers a note of hope in suggesting that being lay in a clerical church means we can learn to be a presence and a prophetic voice, whilst seemingly on the margins. But to do that we have to stay, and many of us are clinging on by our fingertips.

**Anne Foreman**

## **Cathedral Community Committee (CCC) 14<sup>th</sup> December**

The new CCC met for the first time on 14<sup>th</sup> December.

The committee now comprises:

Chapter: The Dean, Canon Chris Palmer, Canon Cate Edmonds.

Elected Deanery Synod Representatives: Chris Hampton, Heather Morgan, Carys Puleston

Elected from and by those on the Cathedral Community Roll: Rosemary Bethell, Allen Bowen, Anne Eyre, Fiona Moffat, Maggie Morris, Chris Uphill.

In addition, the chair of the Social Events Team, currently James Hayward, the Cathedral Administrator, Catherine Escott, and all members of the clergy team are invited to attend.

## The CCC

- works with Chapter to build up the Cathedral Community in worship, discipleship and service
- gives advice and makes recommendations to Chapter on matters concerning the life of the Cathedral and its community
- is consulted on matters which significantly affect the life and work of the Cathedral Community, and
- is a channel of communication between Chapter and the wider Cathedral Community and between the various parts of the Cathedral Community.

## At the December meeting the CCC

- elected Heather Morgan as chair
- approved a paper proposing the appointment of a Clerk to the Cathedral Community for consideration by Chapter
- considered co-options to widen the scope of representation on the new committee
- agreed that Carys Puleston would be the CCC Safeguarding Champion
- considered ways in which the membership and work of the committee could be better known within the Cathedral Community
- agreed to have an Awayday, preferably before Lent 2022

A few days after the meeting, we were made aware that a group of refugees from Afghanistan were living at a hotel very close to the Cathedral. Among them are about 20 children and young people. With very little time to Christmas, we made contact with those looking after the group, and had a special Zoom meeting of the CCC at which we agreed to buy some Christmas gifts from the Cathedral Community for the children. They were purchased and packed in record time, and ready to be delivered on Christmas Day after the 10am Choral Eucharist. It was lovely to see the smiling faces of the children and to communicate as best we could with their parents. We hope to be able to support them in practical ways as they adjust to life in a new country over the coming weeks and months.

The CCC meets on the second Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is on 11<sup>th</sup> January. If you would like to suggest an item for the agenda please let me know.

**Heather Morgan, Chair CCC**

## From The Company of Tapisers:



It is a real privilege to offer pieces of completed work to be dedicated to the Cathedral. On the third Sunday in Advent our latest work: a beautifully embroidered whitework Credence Cloth, four tapestry cushions for the Quire and the long-awaited Mayflower Cope were presented to the Dean. He spoke appreciatively of our work and then blessed these six pieces which will now be put into use.

After the service this new Mayflower Cope was put on display in the Quire alongside explanatory notes by Canon Ian Morter. Here is what he wrote:

“The Mayflower Cope is a Dignity Cope for members of Chapter Clergy to wear. It was made to commemorate the 400th Anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower from Plymouth to New England USA on 16th September 1620. The Mayflower landed on 11th November at Cape Cod, at what is now known as Provincetown, Massachusetts. The day after Christmas it deposited its 102 settlers nearby at the site now known as Plymouth. The commemoration of the 400th anniversary reflects a shared history of four nations – the Wampanoag (the native people of the area) the UK, the USA and the Netherlands. There was a high mortality rate amongst the Pilgrim Fathers: 52 settlers died in the first year. Their bravery was astonishing as they headed out into the unknown, (perhaps an echo of many people’s journey through the recent pandemic?) There has been much reflection on the part played by early settlers in North America: although previous parties brought European infections, which contributed to so many deaths of First Nation People, who had little immunity,

there is sufficient evidence to suggest that there was a reasonable working relationship between the Wampanoag and the Pilgrim Fathers.

Our interpretation of this epic voyage is portrayed on the Hood Orphrey with the Mayflower ship, in full sail, crossing the Atlantic Ocean. On the Morse clasp the white flowers of the Mayflower, or white Hawthorne, have been embroidered. The Anchor of Hope, signifying the search for religious freedom, and the sea-faring Compass representing Salvation through Jesus Christ, are also featured on the Orphrey and Stole.”

We hope you all enjoy seeing our latest contribution towards worship within our Cathedral.

The Company of Tapisers would like to wish you all a happy and healthy 2022 .

**Diana Symes, Chairman**

## **Wanted: Volunteer Roof Guides**

Have you got a head for heights and a passion for learning? Then why not consider becoming one of Exeter Cathedral’s Volunteer Roof Guides!

The Roof Tour is one of our most popular attractions here at Exeter Cathedral, offering visitors a chance to see behind-the-scenes, exploring the roof void above the Nave, the North Tower and the Ringing Chamber, before heading onto the roof for spectacular views of Exeter.

You will be delivering organised, time specific tours and providing an entertaining and informative experience for visitors. Roof guides will need a good head for heights, as well as reasonable fitness and stamina. If you suffer from a heart condition, breathing difficulties, or a fear of confined spaces, we do not recommend that you apply for this role.

Initial training for the role is currently scheduled over 4 days, starting on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

For the full role description and a copy of the application form, please head to Exeter Cathedral’s website and look for the Vacancies page. Or if you would like to discuss the role before applying, please contact the Visitors Office on 01392 285983, for an informal chat. [volunteers@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@exeter-cathedral.org.uk)