



## From the Dean



Pamela can be very determined at times. I witnessed it in Waitrose the other day. Taking back a carrier bag that had broken, and that had printed on it: *Should this bag fail, bring it back and we'll replace it.* I was understandably anxious when I heard the young assistant's response: "We've stopped doing that. You can buy a new one for 50p." It must have been the look in Pamela's eyes, but mercifully he very quickly had the sense to make an exception - "but just this once, Madam" - before horns were locked. In our experience, all too often a bag for life, or any other lifetime guarantee for that matter, is advertised proudly at the time of

purchase, but fails to materialise whenever you attempt to enact it. At least Waitrose had the grace to honour their promise on this occasion, albeit as a one-off exception.

Which led me to wonder: what about the Church and our promises for life? Abundant life. Eternal life, even. Which figure so prominently in our thinking and teaching as Easter draws near. What guarantee can we offer?

For eternal life, we look of course to the resurrection of Jesus. And not just to the resurrection narratives themselves, but to the extraordinary transformation which his resurrection delivers in his disciples. We know that in the aftermath of the crucifixion, they huddle together frightened about what might happen to them. And yet because they believe that the cross is not the final word, that their leader lives on, so these disciples are the ones who go out and transform the world as they proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. It is of course to their proclamation that we can trace back our faith and so we stand in their shoes in our day. Hence we are the present day witnesses to Christ's resurrection, and it is in this witness that we can root any talk of eternal life. Our promise, while offered in faith, is very much rooted in historical reality.

And abundant life. Perhaps here it is to the saints that we most usefully look. Those who have faithfully lived the life of a Christian pilgrim, who have

glimpsed the glory of heaven and made it a reality in their day. Of course there are the big names, the ones we celebrate in church, but there are also the quiet, godly souls, whom we have all met and admired, who have touched our lives with their love. They are the ones who help bring God to life for the world around them, and who show how powerful and exciting abundant life with God can be.

The reality of course is that we can proclaim abundant life, we can preach eternal life, and we can bring evidence to back up our claim. But it is only as we and others inhabit and live out our Christian faith day by day that we stand any chance of finding out how true such claims can ever be.

**Jonathan Greener**

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

Hooray! At the end of March we resumed our weekly meetings. There is a tangible eagerness to 'get going' once again and we sincerely hope that Covid will not interrupt our plans for the rest of 2022!

The Textile group has begun a banner for Exeter Cathedral's Company of Servers. Our servers fulfil the role of supporting and assisting celebrants during liturgical services and make a significant contribution to our worship. We feel honoured to be asked to make a banner for them. It will feature their 'logo' of a red cross on a blue background; within the cross, in gold lettering, is an Alpha, Omega and Chi Rho (the first two letters of the Greek word, Christos).

The Canvas Group has decided to make celebratory spectacle cases for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. These will be on sale in the Shop from mid- May.

The Whitework Group has to assess what new items of altar linen are needed after the changes to services brought in for Covid.

So, we all have plenty of work to do - and renewed enthusiasm - to keep our fingers busy! It's good to be back!

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

### **The May edition of *Cathedral News***

We hope to publish the next edition of the News on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022. The deadline for material is **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 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.

## **Year of Invitation and Welcome:**

### **Getting to know the Cathedral Community Better**

*We have been asked to help the many disparate parts of the Cathedral Community to get to know each other better. Last month we gave an overview of the many volunteer groups in the Cathedral Community. In this, the first of a new series in which we will highlight different groups and their activities, Laurence attended Prayers for Healing and Wholeness.*

**David Owen, Laurence John, Heather Morgan**

### **Prayers for Wholeness and Healing**

Each Monday afternoon for the past 20 or so years, Prayers for Wholeness and Healing has taken place in the Cathedral's St Gabriel Chapel. The group was founded by the then Canon Treasurer and Pastor, Tom Honey, and long-standing member of the congregation, the Reverend Elsie Howell, in order to pray for those on the Cathedral's intercession lists, as well as to bring before God prayer requests left by members of the public. It was a privilege to be welcomed by the group last Monday to take part in the service, and find out a little bit more about their background.

The format has been adapted slightly over the years, but remains very simple. The members (currently about 10 regulars) take it in turns each week to lead a short time of opening prayer and Bible reading; the themes meditate on bodily, mental, and spiritual well-being, as well as being made right with God. Then, the requests which have been left on the prayer board by the Lady Chapel over the past week are read out – everyone, should they so wish, is invited to take a turn to read a few of the requests aloud. Last week there were about 50 petitions – the group told me that during the Museum of the Moon there was a vast increase, culminating in just over 400 requests in the final week of the event: a real testimony to the importance of this aspect of the cathedral's public-facing ministry.

Attention is then turned to the names of members of the Cathedral Community who are ill or recently departed, as well as a time for prayer requests to be offered by anyone present at the service. General intercession is made around the theme of wholeness and healing: for those in prison, those suffering with poor mental or physical health, and a prayer for doctors, nurses, and health workers.

The service lasts for about half an hour, after which all are invited for refreshments in the Cloister Garth room. Whilst chatting to the various members, I gained a real sense of how valued the work of this group is by regular members of the congregation and visitors alike. 'To be able to come into the Cathedral and

leave a prayer request knowing it will be prayed for by other people must help relieve part of a burden,' one member told me. Someone else remarked on the value of votive candle stands, and how full they were during "the Moon". There was a shared sense that whilst being a privilege, it's not always an easy ministry to be a part of – someone told me that they are 'occasionally moved to tears' by some of the prayer requests that come in. It's not all serious, though: the conversation over refreshments afterwards moved through all manner of interesting topics!

The group's organiser, Howard Moffat, is always happy to hear from people who would be interested in joining Prayers for Wholeness and Healing regularly or occasionally, or anyone is welcome to turn up to the St Gabriel Chapel at 12.30pm on Monday afternoons. I would like to thank Howard and the other members for making me feel so welcome, and giving me a real insight into this most important part of what our Cathedral offers.

**Laurence John**

## **Cathedral Community Committee (CCC) 8<sup>th</sup> March and Awayday**

At our meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March, the CCC again discussed the return of communion in both kinds at the Eucharist. This was in response to representations that the chalice should be available, to those who wished, from Easter Day. In view of the current rapid rise in Covid cases, we again supported Chapter's decision to be cautious, and concluded that it was still too soon to take this step.

There was discussion and feedback on the new Cathedral website, agreement on the arrangements for the Awayday, and approval of the idea that members should try to attend Cathedral Services different from their usual routine in order to get to know the congregations better.

In future on the first Sunday of the month, when we are available to discuss issues with the congregation, we will be more visible, thanks to Chris Uphill, who has designed and obtained some colourful name badges for the CCC.

We agreed that it was time to untangle the funds held in the Chapter accounts in the name of the CCC and the Social Events Team. Thanks were expressed to those who had arranged the Shrove Tuesday party when a good time was had by all.

On 26<sup>th</sup> March, we had a very valuable and enjoyable Awayday at Mill House, near Tiverton. The theme was taken from the CCC Statement of Purpose - *How can we work with Chapter to build up the Cathedral Community in worship, discipleship and service?*" We were inspired by an introductory talk by Grace Davie. We will report in greater detail next month and hope to make a summary of the day available in hard copy and/or online.

**Heather Morgan**

## Praying with a prayer-phrase: Maranatha and the Psalms

Part of being in any relationship is paying attention to the other. Likewise, Christian prayer is not only praise, thanksgiving and petition – good as these are – but making space to simply ‘be’ in God’s presence. We humans cannot grasp our Creator, except in that God makes Godself known. So in contemplative prayer we place ourselves at an interior threshold, freeing the mind of all surface thoughts and waiting on God to draw us into encounter.

There are many ways that different people find helpful in preparing themselves to receive this gift and returning to the threshold. In February’s monthly news I touched on Centring Prayer, in which you choose a single sacred word as the symbol of your intention to consent to God’s presence and action within, and, whenever you notice you are distracted by your thoughts, as a means of returning to silent loving attention.

Another approach is to repeat a short phrase over and over, to hold the surface mind’s attention while the soul encounters God in the depths. Fr John Main, the Benedictine monk who founded the World Community of Christian Meditation in London, taught this approach to prayer in his book *Word Into Silence*:

“Sit down. Sit still and upright. Close your eyes lightly. Sit relaxed but alert. Silently, interiorly begin to say a single word. We recommend the prayer-phrase, ‘Maranatha’ [see 1 Cor 16.22]. Recite it as four syllables of equal length. Listen to it as you say it, gently but continuously. Do not think or imagine anything – spiritual or otherwise. If thoughts and images come, these are distractions at the time of meditation, so keep returning to simply saying the word.”

The Psalms also contain many short phrases that can be repeated in time with your breathing to focus your mind and still your thoughts. Here are some examples:

“O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you” (Ps 63.1; all Common Worship psalter)

“You will show me the path of life” (Ps 16.10)

“God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever” (Ps 73.26)

“On God alone my soul in stillness waits” (Ps 62.1)

“Into your hands I commend my spirit” (Ps 31.5)

“Be still, and know that I am God. Be still, and know that I am. Be still, and know. Be still. Be.” (a suggested use of Ps 46.10)

As John Main also wrote: “The important aim ... is to allow God’s mysterious and silent presence within us to become more and more not only a reality but the reality which gives meaning, shape and purpose to everything we do, everything we are.” Amen.

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Explore Prayer on the Cathedral website – <https://bit.ly/exploreprayer2022>

The World Community for Christian Meditation – <https://wccm.org/>

## **Staff Changes**

Erin, who has been busily working away in the Visitors and Volunteers department left the Cathedral on 24<sup>th</sup> March. She may not have been with us for long, but she has done a great job and we will miss her. We were able to say thank you and goodbye in the Chapter House on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

Alice, who has managed the Shop and Ten Fifty in more recent years, but also worked in Events, on the Entry Desk and the Christmas Market, left us on 30<sup>th</sup> March. Having spent over 7 years at the Cathedral we will miss her, especially her wealth of knowledge. A large number of staff, congregation and volunteers were able to say goodbye and wish her well in the Old Cafe on 30<sup>th</sup> March.

We send our thanks and very best wishes to both Erin and Alice.

## **Social Events Team (SET) – Urgent!**

The Social Events Team is planning a reception for what we hope will be a large congregation at the special service for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

In expectation of a full house of several hundred people, the Social Events Team would like to enlist the help of up to 40 people – to serve drinks and nibbles, welcome everyone, and direct the traffic so that we can all reach the refreshments in good time.

If you are able and willing to help, please contact Anne Eyre, the secretary of SET at [anne.eyre75@gmail.com](mailto:anne.eyre75@gmail.com)

And please put this very special occasion in your diary!

## A Proposal under the Moon!

As Visitors and Volunteers Coordinator, I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of those who gave their valuable time and helped us during the Museum of the Moon. Although it was a wonderful experience, and fantastic to see the Cathedral so full of life, I'm aware that for many volunteers it was also an experience that took them out of their comfort zone! We are immensely grateful to all those who provided extra help checking tickets, answering questions and generally supporting staff. It seems only fair to thank all those staff that gave their time as well, with extra shifts at the Welcome Desk and late evenings that lasted the whole month. The hard work of everyone involved made it possible!



One of those blue soaked, late evenings, threw up an opportunity that doesn't come along every day; the chance to propose beneath the moon! I was contacted by David as soon as the exhibition arrived in the Cathedral, and a plan was quickly formulated to get the couple down from London for a surprise proposal. Gemma (his intended) is a moon fanatic and has stayed with David through some incredibly hard times – I have added David's website at the bottom, for those who wish to know more about his story – so it seemed fitting to give her the perfect evening beneath the moon. The imperative was to keep it as a surprise for Gemma, and a series of furtive phone calls and emails passed back and

forth, including a photographer and friendly accomplices.

The weeks of planning came to fruition, rather fittingly, on the night of the Snow Moon February 16<sup>th</sup> and I am pleased to report that at 8.30pm, she said yes! We wish David and Gemma all the happiness in the world and hope to see them again soon.

I have a lot of time for love here at the Cathedral, so if anyone else has a proposal in mind, don't hesitate to get in contact!

David's website is [www.davidomahoney.com](http://www.davidomahoney.com)

**Julie Taylor, Visitors and Volunteer Coordinator**

## **St Boniface Way in a day**

**23<sup>rd</sup> April 2022**

The St Boniface Way is one of the Devon Pilgrim routes that invite you to wander and wonder through our little piece of Heaven in Devon. We are planning a pilgrimage along the whole of the longer route on the Saturday after Easter, aiming to arrive in time for Evensong. Our planned start time will allow for a reasonably (but not very) leisurely pace.

The longer route is **14.5 miles** from Crediton to Exeter, avoiding Cowley Bridge Road

**Start: 9.30am** from Crediton Parish Church

**Finish: 5.30pm** Evensong at Exeter Cathedral

Details to be confirmed re church openings, pilgrim halts and (hopefully) refreshments

More information about the route can be found at  
<https://www.devonpilgrim.org.uk/route/st-boniface/>

Chris Palmer and Clare Bryden



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

A very slow start to 2022 as the Moon had arrived in the Nave. It was magnificent and a terrific attraction so we filled the Nave pillars with dried flowers and foliage to complement the gentle colours of the Moon with a hint of shine. This worked particularly well once the Moon was lit up. We had a number of compliments – all much appreciated – but especially when folks saw us doing various jobs in our pinnies around the Cathedral.

We held our AGM in the Pearson Room, which was well attended despite our total numbers of arrangers being down. Little has had to change and the committee stays the same. We remain planning for a future between the current Flower Room and the brand spanking new one we are promised in a couple of years' time. Some of that time will be spent in a storage container, so we are beginning to plan for that and the additional problems that could well bring.

By the time you read this, the Easter season will be upon us, with work on the Easter Garden and Altar of Repose as well as the exciting arranging on Easter Saturday to make our whole building glorious. This will include lilies and there is the opportunity once again for members of the congregation to donate towards these by popping cash or cheques in envelopes marked "Easter Flowers" into one of the collection boxes. We are grateful for any funding to help with these and wish all readers a very Happy and Healthy Easter, with lots of chocolate eggs.

**Flick Evans**

## **Happy Birthday, Mary**

Our love and best wishes to Mary Nesbitt, whose 100<sup>th</sup> birthday is on 28<sup>th</sup> April. Mary remains keen and interested in all that goes on in the Cathedral. She participates in the 10am Choral Eucharist via streaming, and reads *Cathedral News* every month.

## **From the Visitors and Volunteers Co-ordinator**

Following the Museum of the Moon, I just wanted to take a moment to offer my sincere thanks for all those volunteers who gave their time and effort towards the Luxmuralis event that ran from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> March.

The show was a great success and brought in a wide variety of visitors, but I am very aware that such events would be almost impossible to run without the helping hands and good will of our volunteers.

**Julie Taylor**

## Planting a tree for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee: 27<sup>th</sup> March

Thank you to all who attended and made possible the planting of this sapling to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, part of the Queen's Green Canopy. And thank you to the Woodland Trust for the free gifts of saplings, including large-leaved lime, silver birch, field maple and walnut that were available for the congregation.



## St John Passion: Palm Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April at 4pm

The Cathedral Choir, directed by Timothy Noon will perform Bach's *St John Passion* on Palm Sunday, the start of Holy Week, with the specialist baroque orchestra, Charivari Agréable Sinfonie, and soloists Ruari Bowen, Evangelist, and Tim Mirfin, bass.

Tickets priced from £5 - £20 are available on 01392 285983 (Mon-Fri) and online at [bit.ly/st-john-passion](https://bit.ly/st-john-passion)

## Welcome to the new Canon Chancellor : The Reverend Prebendary Deborah Parsons



*A very warm welcome to the Reverend Prebendary Deborah Parsons, who has been appointed Canon Chancellor. We asked Deborah to introduce herself.*

I am delighted to have been appointed as Canon Chancellor of Exeter Cathedral, with particular responsibility for pastoral care and Christian nurture/education. These have been a golden thread throughout my vocation, lay and ordained.

A pioneer at Rossall School, originally founded to educate the sons of clergy, I was one of the first girls to be admitted at the age of eleven. The experience of a daily rhythm of prayer was to be formative, even if I didn't always appreciate it at the time. It enabled me to discover from the inside out, what gives me life and instilled in me not only a love of Divinity but a curiosity to learn

more about Celtic Spirituality and a commitment to being a life-long learner.

For twenty years, I taught English at Epsom College, bringing in co-education at 13+ and serving on the Senior Leadership Team. Two of the mothers in my first cohort, went on to be ordained and I was delighted to witness a former pupil being ordained in Exeter Cathedral, last year. We never know what seeds are sown or how they will bear fruit in the future.

At Christ Church, Epsom Common, I was nurtured by the ministry of Mark and Mavis Wilson, an inspirational duo, who not only had a flair for teaching and preaching, for prayer and creativity but were gifted in growing and releasing those gifts in others. They invited me on an Alpha Course, taught me about the Holy Spirit and instilled in me the importance of annual retreats, regular spiritual direction and participation in house groups.

A long placement at St. Peter's, Walton-on-the-Hill and my curacy at St. George's, Goodrington deepened my appreciation of liturgy, the sacraments, and contemplative prayer. My ministry in Totnes, collaboration with River Dart Wild Church, and Interfaith training have given me a language for how to speak to those who would describe themselves as spiritual but not religious.

I am looking forward to being able to serve at the Cathedral, at this exciting juncture in its history, whilst also continuing my parochial ministry in Totnes. I hope the interplay between parochial ministry and cathedral ministry will be fruitful and life-giving for us all. As T. S. Eliot said:

“We must be still and still moving

Into another intensity

For a further union, a deeper communion

Through the dark cold and empty desolation,

The wave cry, the wind cry, the vast waters

Of the petrel and the porpoise. In my end is my beginning.”

I will be installed during Evensong at Exeter Cathedral on Tuesday 26 April at 5.30 p.m. and hope you will join me then. I won't start work officially until a little later in the year but look forward to meeting you and discerning together, where the Holy Spirit is at work! Please pray for me, as I will be praying for you.

**Deborah Parsons**

## **Christians Together across Exeter – CTaX**

For those of us, like myself, who were unfamiliar with CTaX, and a gentle reminder for those who do know about CTaX but might have lost touch with it over the pandemic years, CTaX is an 'ecumenical grouping and a member of Churches Together in Devon'.

To quote from their website <https://ctax.chessck.co.uk>

'We desire to unite in pilgrimage those churches and fellowships across Exeter who, acknowledge God's revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures; and in obedience to God's will, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, commit themselves to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church which is His body, and to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world.'

Their website gives information about their Mission Statement, Objectives and Membership.

Full membership is open to Christian churches or fellowships within the boundaries of the city of Exeter. Those churches who are members of CTaX may nominate one clergy member and one lay person to represent them on the Council. The Cathedral reps are Canon Chris Palmer and myself, Maggie Morris.

Just a word or two of explanation as to how I came to be the lay representative. I have been a member of the Cathedral congregation and a Friend of the Cathedral for many years now. I have been a Cathedral guide for about 6/7 years and also part of the team of education guides.

Towards the end of last year I was asked to stand as a lay member of the Cathedral Community Committee (CCC). Being appointed, there were a number of roles to be taken up by the members and I found myself drawn to becoming the lay rep for CTaX taking over from Rosemary Bethell who had filled this role admirably over the years.

Knowing nothing about CTaX previously, I have become excited to discover the many ecumenical events it advertises on its website. I never knew that there was so much going on. I would like to make CTaX events much more visible to the Cathedral Community. I will sift through and disseminate what's going on across Exeter churches. There will be a regular update in the weekly sheet plus a monthly summary in the Cathedral News. As there is limited space in both publications I encourage you to check the 'What's on' section on the CTaX website for even more events.

So let's start with what's on in April.

### **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April**

#### **Christian Aid SW Get Together at 7pm online.**

This is an opportunity to share thoughts, ideas ahead of Christian Aid Week (15-22 April). For more details contact Katrine on [KMusgrave@christian-aid.org](mailto:KMusgrave@christian-aid.org)

### **Good Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April**

#### **Passion for Exeter 10am Exeter Cathedral**

At this year's ecumenical United Service and Act of Witness to mark Good Friday the preacher will be Helen Sherlock (Unlimited Church) in the Cathedral. If you have never been to this ecumenical service please do attend this year. It will be good to see some familiar faces from the Cathedral congregation at what is a popular and very well attended service by Christians across Exeter.

After the 10am service there will be creative witness with Rediscover Church and others on Cathedral Green.

**The Liturgy of Good Friday** at the Cathedral is at 2pm. If you can, do attend both services.

### **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April – Music and Song for Ukraine -7pm** **Salvation Army Temple EX2 4AY**

An evening of music and song. Donations will go to the Salvation Army's Ukraine Refugee Relief Programme. All welcome.

### **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April Mint Methodist Church – 7.30 – 9 pm Living More Lightly**

First in an occasional, free, open meetings exploring how we might reduce our impact on the earth and its creatures. Illustrated talk by Lucy Mottram – Waste Management Officer for Devon CC. Opportunity for questions and discussion. All welcome.

### **Exeter Free Food Network and Homelessness Partnership**

You can find and share the latest Exeter Free Food Guide at <http://stpetrocks.org.uk/menu-text-in-need-of-help/free-food-guide-in-exeter/>

### **A pop-up Conversation Café - 6 Paris Street for Ukraine refugees and host families to meet up:**

This initiative is a collaboration of organisations such as Devon for Ukraine, Exeter City Council, City of Sanctuary and Maketank. Please contact Maketank [hello@maketank.org.uk](mailto:hello@maketank.org.uk) or more info.

### **Refugee Support**

**The Mint Methodist Church** is currently hosting a group of refugees for weekly coffee and conversation.

The Mint has put a call out for donations of large frying pans and other kitchen utensils for new accommodation for refugees. Also bicycles to enable folks to travel to job offers.

The Mint reception team is present from 10am Monday to Friday and will act as a collecting point for donations. <Http://themint.org.uk/>

### **Exeter Free Food Network and Homelessness Partnership**

You can find and share the latest Exeter Free Food Guide at <http://stpetrocks.org.uk/menu-text-in-need-of-help/free-food-guide-in-exeter/>

### **CTaX Volunteers**

CTaX are looking for a Meeting's Secretary, a Treasurer and a Webmaster to join their team. If you have these skills and would be interested in volunteering please contact [ctaxexeter@gmail.com](mailto:ctaxexeter@gmail.com). **Maggie Morris**

### **Old Choristers' Reunion: Easter Monday**

The Old Choristers will attend, and sing, the Choral Eucharist at 11am and Evensong at 3pm on Easter Monday. In the evening at the annual dinner, the guest speaker will be Simon Toyne, a former Head Chorister, who is now Executive Director of the David Ross Education Trust, where he is responsible for the music programme for 13,000 students in 34 state primary and secondary schools in the East Midlands. He is also a member of the Government's Expert Panel for developing a model music curriculum, and the current President of the Music Teachers Association.

## **Global Interfaith Commission on LGBT+ Lives : Conference 21-22 March 2022**

So what, you might ask, is the relevance of this headline and the Conference to Cathedral News? Two reasons - Safeguarding and LLF (Living in Love and Faith), both issues 'live' in our diocese and indeed for the whole church.

The Global Interfaith Commission on LGBT+ Lives was launched in 2020 and its director is Jayne Ozanne of the Ozanne Foundation of which I'm a Trustee. Hence finding myself at the closing Act of Celebration and Commitment in Church House Chapel, Westminster and at the subsequent formal dinner to meet participants and hear addresses from the Dean of St Paul's, and fellow Trustee, the Very Revd David Ison and The Rt Hon Crispin Blunt MP. (Other MPs were there, from across the political parties, including Exeter's Ben Bradshaw)

The conference, funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, brought together over 150 religious leaders, academics and lay leaders, including the Primate of Canada, Dr Linda Nicholls, former President of Northern Ireland Dr Mary McAleese and the Chief rabbi of Poland, Michael Shudrich. It followed the Dignity for all Declaration drawn up by the Commission in 2020 which *"affirmed that all human beings of all sexual orientation, gender identities and gender expressions are a precious part of creation and a part of the natural order"* and called for an end to conversion therapy and anti LGBTI+ discrimination.

So, the link to Safeguarding and LLF? The Conference culminated in drawing up six 'safeguarding principles' designed to protect people who are rejected by their religious communities because of their sexuality or gender identity.\* In the Cathedral's year of welcome I'm sure there is absolutely no desire to reject anyone, but those of you who have participated in LLF will have been made sharply aware of the unhappy situation and experiences of members of the LGBT+ community in their churches, and of the Archbishops aim for the church to develop "a proper 21st century understanding of being human and being sexual." I pray that our welcome really does mean welcome, not mere acceptance or toleration.

In case you are wondering about the attitude to homosexuality of other faiths, this is an issue for them too, as the openly gay Jewish, Muslim, Hindu folk I met will attest.

*\*The principles include Empowerment, Prevention, Protection, Proportionality Partnership and Accountability, for more details go to [globalinterfaith.lgbt](http://globalinterfaith.lgbt)*

**Anne Foreman**

## **News from the Serving Clerks – The Guild of St Gabriel**

### ***Refurbishment of the Lenten Processional Cross and wooden Tapers***

In January the Lenten Processional Cross and wooden acolyte tapers were taken away for a long overdue refurbishment. They were returned just in time for the start of Lent and are looking marvellous. The Processional Cross has had a new coat of “passion-red” and the tapers have a new colour scheme. Two red for use in Lent and Passiontide. Two silver to match the silver processional cross and lights. Four gold and black for feast days and celebrations.

As well ten new “oil candles” were purchased to avoid wax dripping on the fresh paintwork.

The work was carried out by the Men’s Shed in Ottery St Mary, a group of volunteer DIY enthusiasts whose aim is to repair items for the local community while focusing on men’s mental health.



The work was coordinated by Wilf Reynolds and paid for by the help of a generous and anonymous donor. We hope to have the Processional Cross and tapers

rededicated in the near future.

### ***Annual General Meeting***

On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March the AGM of the Serving Clerks was held followed by a bring and share lunch.

The meeting is attended by the Guild Committee, Canon Precentor and by members of the Serving team. At the AGM Alan Drew retired from the Office of Head Server after 12 years. We are pleased to report that he will still remain a Serving Clerk and is still a member of the Virgers’ Department. The Guild extended their thanks to Alan for all he has done as Head Server.

Committee elections were also held this year. The Officers and members of the Committee duly elected to office are:



Caroline Prince – Head Server

Morgan Philpott – First Deputy Head Server

Wilfred Reynolds – Second Deputy Head Server

together with Alan Drew, Malcolm Pomeroy and John Wood as Committee Members.

It has also been decided that after many years of being the Guild of St Stephen, the Guild's Patron Saint would change to reflect more on the life of the Cathedral. The decision was made to adopt St Gabriel.

There are now around 20 Adult Servers and 4 Junior Servers on the team and the group has been steadily growing since the start of the pandemic. We welcome people of all ages and full training is given.

We are also pleased to report that the Venerable David Gunn-Johnson has been elected to serve as Chaplain to the Guild. As Chaplain David will have a pastoral oversight of the members of the Guild. We would like to extend our thanks to David to kindly agreeing to take on this role and for all he has done for the Guild over the lockdown period.

We would also like to thank Canon James Mustard for all he does as Precentor and for the work he contributes to the Guild and for hosting Committee meetings in the warmth of Number 6!

If you would like to find out more about the Serving Clerks, please do come and speak to one us after a service.

**Caroline Prince, Head Server**  
**Morgan Philpott, Deputy Head Server**

## **Prideaux Lectures 2022: *Guard This Rich Trust*** **Professor Teresa Morgan (University of Oxford)**

### **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May at the University of Exeter**

1. Trust and Risk: God's trust and ours

### **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May at Exeter Cathedral**

2. Guard this rich trust: what Christians are entrusted with, and why

### **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May at Plymouth Marjon University**

3. Stories from Galilee: the adequacy of imperfect trust

More details with start times and live-stream links in due course.

## **Exeter Cathedral Ringers Qualify for the 2022 National 12 Bell Final**

The final of the 2022 National 12 bell competition will be held in June at Guildford Cathedral, but the important eliminators took place on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March and we are pleased to hear that the Exeter Cathedral ringers have again qualified for the prestigious final.

The competition has not been held since Exeter Cathedral hosted the event in 2019 (due to covid-19), where our ringers won the competition and became only the 7<sup>th</sup> different team to win the competition in its 48 year history.

The eliminator on the 26<sup>th</sup> March was a close fought battle and the Cathedral ringers made the 450 mile round trip to attend the competition venue at Chester. They had to make many changes since the last competition, and due to Covid-19 had to make several last minute changes too due to several positive results in the last few days.

It was a chance for our younger talent to shine, and they did just that – with four brand new ringers ringing for the Cathedral in the competition for the very first time, they managed to qualify again for this year's June final.

We wish our Cathedral ringers all the best for the final at the Guildford final in June.

**Paul Pascoe, Secretary, Cathedral Bellringers**



## Education and Learning Activities for the Easter Break 2022

From Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April to Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April join us on the Easter Egg Hunt at Exeter Cathedral. Entry for children is FREE when accompanied by a paying adult.

*Please note on Good Friday & Easter Day there will be no prizes available due to no shop-staff on duty for these days. Quiz / colouring sheets are still available.*

**Pick up the Egg Hunt Quiz Form at the Welcome Desk as you arrive. Search around the nave, quire, aisles and chapels and count the eggs you spot as you go. Before you leave pop into the shop to see how good your spotting skills are and claim a chocolate egg prize.**

**Also, join us on one of our specialised craft days in the Cathedral nave – all ages can join in. We hope you will leave a donation for our Education Department so that we can continue to offer future activities for free.** There will be colouring pages available on each day too.

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> 10am – 12 – Easter Shrinkie Badge or necklace.** Design and colour your own bespoke design, watch it shrink before your eyes in our mini-oven. Wear your art work home.

**Maundy Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> 13pm – 2pm after service – Easter Baskets.** Stick, colour and put together your mini- basket to take home for Easter goodie collecting.

**Easter Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> 10am-12 Easter Craft – Colour and make a special Easter Gift for yourself or a loved one. Make compact Easter Mirrors using our special handmade badge machine.**

**Wed 20<sup>th</sup> 10am-12 – Spring Craft – Easter Shrinkie Badge or necklace.** Plan and colour your own bespoke design, watch it shrink before your eyes in our oven. Wear your art work home.



## **Exeter Cathedral Education Department needs some great volunteers to help with our Summer Programme**

### **What we are looking for:**

Reliable, flexible people above the age of 16, who would like to take on an opportunity to discover the various activities carried out by the Education Department at Exeter Cathedral. You will be working in a small team with the chance to learn and develop skills and gain an understanding of heritage working in this lovely building. You may well have existing skills that we would welcome.

### **Some of the areas you can get involved in:**

- You will primarily help facilitate children's workshops, crafts and trails and/or the possibility of planning mini-events or running mini-tours for children and families.
- Help the Education Officer deliver holiday activities to family groups and children – these are mostly arts / crafts / dress up workshops or tours.
- Use initiative and judgement for new situations and to keep the activity running smoothly.
- Help the Education Officer in delivering activity sessions for school and learning group visits, during weekly sessions.
- Lend a hand for special large events that need a learning element to run alongside it. *These events are likely to happen in school holidays or at a weekend*

**If you are interested in offering your time and expertise to us, please get in touch with Lisa.**

Call 01392 345 887 or email [education@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:education@exeter-cathedral.org.uk)

### **From the Visitors and Volunteers Co-ordinator: Can you help?**

We need more volunteers please to help in various roles including welcoming visitors, guiding tours, flower arranging and chaperoning the choir.

For more information, please contact me via email at [volunteers@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@exeter-cathedral.org.uk) or call me for an informal chat on 01392 285983

**Julie Taylor**



## Support for Ukraine

The Cathedral is supporting the work of The Diocese of Exeter which is working with the charity Citizens UK to act as a key sponsor in Devon to co-ordinate providing homes for Ukrainian refugees and help ensure ongoing community support. Citizens UK is part of the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme and will be working alongside the refugee charity Reset Communities and Refugees.

At the moment the Diocese and other charities are waiting for the Government to announce the exact details and timescale of phase two of Homes for Ukraine, which allows organisations to act as sponsors.

People would be expected to offer accommodation for at least six months. The individual family sponsorship scheme is already up and running.

<https://exeter.anglican.org/exeter-diocese-working-with-citizens-uk-to-sponsor-ukrainian-refugees-to-come-to-devon/>

A fundraising page has also been set-up so people can donate towards the transport costs of refugees travelling to Devon.

Any money raised which is not spent on transport will be donated to the DEC and USPG Ukraine appeals.

<https://exeter.anglican.org/pray-for-ukraine>

Each Sunday until Easter Day there will be a retiring collection at the Cathedral for the Ukraine, please give generously and please continue to pray for this distressing situation.



## Elizabeth Searle

My family and I are so grateful for the hundreds of cards, letters emails and phone calls we have received following Elizabeth's death just after Christmas, many of which came from our friends at the Cathedral. Donations for Hospiscare in her memory have reached over £6000 (which would have greatly pleased her). Elizabeth loved this Cathedral and its people. In busy times and difficult times we were sustained by the love we received especially during her final illness. That love continues to sustain me for which I am deeply grateful. Thank you.

**John**



## **Clerk to the Cathedral Community: Ann Barwood BEM**

Ann Barwood, Canon Librarian Emeritus, has a new role at the Cathedral.

Towards the end of last year, Chapter agreed to a proposal to appoint a Clerk to the Cathedral Community.

This includes

- Being the Cathedral Community Roll Officer
- Administering the annual election for the CCC and the triennial election for Deanery Synod
- Receiving and filtering information sent to PCC Secretaries from Diocesan Office
- Getting *Cathedral News* printed, postal copies distributed and making sure there are enough hard copies available in the Cathedral
- Preparing and printing notices for the Cathedral Community Noticeboard
- Being Secretary of the CCC, provided the Community is willing to elect the Clerk to that office

We are very grateful to Ann for taking on this task on a voluntary basis.

For those who don't know her, Ann has been attached to the Cathedral of over 20 years. She trained as a Social Worker. After a period as a practitioner she moved into senior management and for the last five years of her full time employment, worked in the Department of Health Social Care Group.

She was appointed Canon Librarian in March 2009, however she had been fulfilling the role since January 2003. As Canon Librarian, she was responsible for the management of the Library and Archives. She acted as project manager for the £1.8m West Wing Refurbishment programme which has enabled better care and accessibility to the Cathedral's unique national and international collections.

She received her BEM for Services to the Cathedral in the New Year's Honours List 2013, and she is also Associate Research Fellow, Exeter University.

If you have a query about the Cathedral Community Roll or, in due course, about elections to the Deanery Synod and Cathedral Community Committee, Ann can be contacted at [amb@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:amb@exeter-cathedral.org.uk)

## Shrove Tuesday around the World

Many thanks to the Social Events Team for organising the Shrove Tuesday party. We enjoyed soup from an Estonian recipe, cakes decorated in accordance with Mexican Tradition, and the sight of friends in Venetian masks-not forgetting a lovely rendering of Parsons' Ave Maria by the St Peter's Singers.



## Four Canon Treasurers -Past and Present



From left to right, Canons Mike Williams, Ian Morter, Tom Honey and Chris Palmer after the Choral Eucharist on Ash Wednesday.

Any suggestions for a collective noun for such a distinguished gathering would be gratefully received by the Editorial Team!

## **Hope in the Light of War: Luke 13: 1-9**

*We are very grateful to the Revd Alex Wimberley, Leader of the Corrymeela Group in Ballycastle, Ireland for allowing us to print the sermon he preached at the Choral Eucharist on Corrymeela Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> March.*

I am delighted to be with you today, but rather deflated that the times we are in and the Gospel text we are given do not lend themselves to light-heartedness. I suppose Lent was never meant to be jolly. And yet, coming as I do from the Corrymeela Community, I am eager to bring a message of hope not instead of – but in dialogue with the reality of our broken world.

It strikes me that the story of Corrymeela starts with a war in Europe, with a refugee crisis, and with the growing realisation that our world is not divided naturally into good and bad, us and them, but by a brokenness common to each of us, regardless of which side of a conflict we are on. We all carry a desire – born of fear and insecurity – to separate ourselves from those we deem less godly so that we can pretend to be more like God. But to use good old fashioned Lenten language: this is the sin from which we must repent, a way of life we must turn from so that we can turn back to God and toward one other.

### **The Hope of Community**

Corrymeela began in the mid-60s, but its origins arose from the experiences of one man from Belfast serving as a chaplain in a prison camp outside Dresden in 1945. Ray Davey had discovered during the war a gift for building community from a diverse collection of people. He began to work not just with fellow prisoners but also his guards, and with refugees who were pouring into Dresden from the Eastern front. Building community with Russians and French, with Poles and Ukrainians – Ray learned about our common humanity, about the fears and hopes we all have. But as he watched the RAF and US Air Force carpet bomb Dresden and its refugee population in retaliation for the Blitz; as he saw the blinding light from the tower of fire rising from a burning city, he realised we are all capable of becoming what we say we are against. Ray returned to Belfast after the war and saw through traumatised eyes the divisions of his own society, the injustices that many were experiencing in an increasingly segregated system. With clarity for what was needed, he started a new community from those who had been separated from each other.

The hope of Corrymeela, the hope of an inclusive Christian community is that we can approach each other not as enemies, but as fellow children of God – that we can create a better sense of *us* when we look to repair our own brokenness rather than label others the problem. Corrymeela has worked to hold spaces where we can overcome stereotypes, where encounters can change us, where our differences are something to celebrate rather than something to fear. As human beings, we will always have conflict; but with God's grace, we can transform



discomfort and fear into curiosity. Conflicts can lead to better understanding rather than to harm.

### **Where is Our Hope Today?**

That's the idea. We've never been particularly good at it. And it gets much harder in practice. It gets particularly difficult when someone like Pilate or someone like Putin engages in activities we must oppose. That's what's got me in such a bad mood today. It's this difficult passage from *Luke*, yes. But it's also this god-awful war in Europe. The fact that cities the size of Exeter and Belfast and Dresden are once again being destroyed. This is the largest refugee crisis in Europe since the 40s, and it's only getting worse. We are trying to make sense of the madness. I would want our scripture passage to give us hope.

But. Luke tells us of people who come to Jesus in a traumatised state. The experience they share with him is of a brutal and violent tyrant, Pilate – who has killed innocent people, who has mingled the blood of Galileans with their sacrifices. A horrific image. And troublingly, Jesus does not address the evil of Pilate. He does not condemn the violence these people have seen. Instead, he speaks of his *audience's* need to repent. 'Unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.' It makes me wonder if we were to go to Jesus today to tell him about the plight of innocent Ukrainians at the hands of Putin, whether Jesus would ignore the wrongs of this modern day Pilate and instead exhort *us* to repent, lest we meet the same fate as Kyiv. 'Unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.' ...What do we do with that? Where is the hope we need to combat the acute evil that is at work in our world?

In the context of such brutality and in the face of such evil, our own brokenness starts to show. Once again we crave and create a binary of good guys and bad guys. It is right to condemn this war and to stand in solidarity with the victims on both sides of the conflict. We need to name the crimes that the Russian regime is committing.

But as we have learned in the retaliatory bombing of Dresden, and in the tribal warfare of Northern Ireland, as we continue to see in our patterns of sectarianism, racism, nationalism, colonialism, misogyny and transphobia – the global system we help create is too often about gaining and maintaining the power to protect ourselves. We too would subject others to what we would call justice. Is the sin of Putin's aggression not the logical end to a broken human system that rewards greed and the skills necessary to play a zero-sum game? Is this imperial impulse on display right now not the norm of human history, and the relative peace and geopolitical stability we have enjoyed for a few decades in Europe not the aberration? The work of peace is constant work because the twisted impulse within humans is a selfish one – born of fear and insecurity. Not

to the same degree as Pilate or Putin, but we are all prone to protect our own, to impose our will on others, to demand our preferred version of the truth.

### **In the Light of War**

Make no mistake: a clarity has come these past few weeks in the light of war. There has been an almost apocalyptic unveiling not only of how wrong this invasion is – but how broken we still are. How dependent we have become on cheap and dirty goods despite the moral and ecological costs. How intertwined we have become with oligarchic money. How quick we are to respond to the plight of refugees if they look like us. And also: how interdependent we are on one another – even those to whom we thought we could be indifferent. And also: what strength we find when we are led not by our fears but by our best values. The heroism we unearth when we are willing to make sacrifices to save others. The generosity we garner when we open our borders and homes to those in need. The restraint we show when we resist the impulse to tar the Russian people with the same brush we would use to mark the tyranny of one man.

Amanda Gorman, the American poet, put out a tweet in the wake of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. She reminded us that *'There is no such thing as gentle war. There is no peace that can't be flung aside. Our only enemy is that which would make us enemies to each other.'* It is not hard to see in the light of this war that our world is broken. And to return to imagery from the Gospel, this fig tree of ours has yet to produce the fruit it promised – and one worries that its time is up.

But what keeps hope alive is the same truth that Ray Davey caught glimpse of in that prison camp: the good news that there is for us, with God's grace, a different way to live. A life born not of fear but with the assurance that the God of selfless love is with us, with all of us. That ours is a life not of 'might makes right' or an endless extraction of more and more for the most belligerent – but a life of abundance and peace in community. It is still possible.

But unless we repent, we will perish. We too must turn from systems of self-preservation and self-aggrandisement and recognise our glorious interdependence on each other. A flowering late in our season. We too must find the strength and resilience that comes not in deciding who among us is guilty and who is innocent, but in acknowledging the sin that keeps us from standing in solidarity with the widow, the orphan, the stranger, the most vulnerable in our midst: the sin that would make us enemies to each other.

Repent. And have hope even in the light of war. For this is the time for us to bear good fruit.

In the name of the Creator, and the Christ and the Holy Spirit: one God. Amen.

## **Prayers for the Life of the Cathedral**

*Every day at Morning and Evening Prayer, we pray for a particular area of the life of the Cathedral. The numbers correspond to the days of each month. We hope that many readers will keep the list and use it regularly.*

- 1 + Robert our Bishop and his Suffragan Bishops, + Nick & + Jackie
- 2 Cathedral Safeguarding; Adviser, Charlie Pitman
- 3 The Cathedral School, the Children, Headmaster, Staff & Governors
- 4 The Cathedral Chapter & Dean, Jonathan Greener
- 5 The Virgers; and Custos, Luke Stevenson
- 6 The Finance Team
- 7 The Bellringers
- 8 Our musicians; Director, Timothy Noon; Assistant Director, Organ scholar, Choristers, Adults of the Choir, and choir chaperones.
- 9 Heritage and Learning (Library & Archive, Education); Heritage Engagement Manager, Jonathan Scott
- 10 The Clerk of Works, Chris Sampson, & the stonemasons.
- 11 The Community Committee; Chair, Heather Morgan.
- 12 The Cathedral Administrator, Catherine Escott, and Dean's PA, Tina Robbins
- 13 Health & Safety Officer, Simon Aston
- 14 The Cathedral Council; Chair, Barnabas Hurst-Banister
- 15 The Wednesday Kitchen; volunteers and guests.
- 16 The Cathedral Shop and Catering Van, Ten-Fifty
- 17 Our building & grounds maintenance team, cleaners & holy dusters
- 18 The Cloister Club members, leaders and assistants.
- 19 Entry desk staff, Guides, Stewards, and Duty Chaplains
- 20 The Fabric Advisory Committee; Chair, Geoff Rich
- 21 Residentiary Canons, Canons Theologian, Priest Vicars, and Curate
- 22 Development Office; Director of Development, Jill Taylor
- 23 The College of Canons
- 24 Cathedral Flower arrangers, Tapisers, and Seamstress
- 25 The Prayers for Healing, Lectio Divina, and Contemplative Prayer Groups, and all who enable and participate in occasional study groups.
- 26 Our Cathedral Liturgical resources; Secretary, Tom Salmon; Servers, Intercessors, Readers, and Sidespeople
- 27 The Friends of Exeter Cathedral and the Music Foundation Trust
- 28 The Events Team, Heather Hagen; and Marketing & Communications, Richard Remington
- 29 All who visit the Cathedral, to pray, worship, seek help, or enjoy its beauty and history
- 30 Our Visitors and Volunteers Officer, Julie Taylor, & all Cathedral volunteers

## Holy Week and Easter 2022

### Friday 8 April

1730

Stations of the Cross

### Palm Sunday 10 April

0945

Blessing of Palms and Procession  
*meet at New Cut gate, off Southernhay*

1600

St John Passion, J.S. Bach  
*Ticketed. Please see website.*

### Monday 11 April

1930

Sung Compline with music and address  
The Ven. Nick Shutt - *Archdeacon of Plymouth*

### Tuesday 12 April

1930

Sung Compline with music and address  
The Ven Andrew Beane - *Archdeacon of Exeter*

### Spy Wednesday 13 April

1930

Sung Compline with music and address  
The Ven. Douglas Dettmer - *Archdeacon of Totnes*

### Maundy Thursday 14 April

1030

Chrism Eucharist  
*with blessing of oils and renewal of ministerial vows*

1930

The Eucharist  
*with the washing of feet and stripping of altars*  
The Ven Verena Breed - *Archdeacon of Barnstaple*

### Good Friday 15 April

1000

CTAX (Churches Together Across Exeter) service

1330

The Liturgy of Good Friday

1930

The Right Revd Jackie Searle - *Bishop of Crediton*  
The Crucifixion, *Sir John Stainer*  
*sung by the University of Exeter Chapel Choir*

### Easter Day 17 April

0600

The Easter Vigil with First Eucharist of Easter

0800

Holy Communion (BCP)

1000

Choral Eucharist - *Preacher the Bishop of Exeter*

1145

Choral Matins

1600

Choral Evensong with Procession

1800

Sundays@6