



Exeter
Cathedral

Cathedral News

June 2022 – No. 720

From the Dean



It's coming home...

Pentecost: often referred to as the birthday of the Church, because of those high jinks that took place in Jerusalem, when the Spirit of God descended on a motley crowd, and united them into a mighty army for the Lord. Thus the Church was born. Our birthday present this year is the reintroduction of the chalice at the cathedral for all our eucharists.

We have avoided sharing the common cup for over two years, for fear of spreading infection, but offering communion in two kinds, bread and wine, is normative for the Church of England, so the Chapter have decided that it is now time to re-offer the chalice. Article 30 (of the 39 Articles of Religion) tells us: "The Cup of the Lord is not to be denied to the Lay-people: for both the parts of the Lord's Sacrament, by Christ's ordinance and commandment, ought to be ministered to all Christian men alike."

I know many will be delighted by this decision, but please remember that whether you choose to receive the chalice is up to you. Unlike most of my clergy colleagues here, I am going to act cautiously for a while longer, not least because at one cathedral, where they reintroduced the chalice on Easter Day, the Dean, the Precentor and the Bishop all caught Covid within a fortnight. Though the Dean there is keen to point out that this may well be coincidence. But I am content that receiving just the consecrated bread is full communion - persuaded by the doctrine of concomitance as it is known. This states that because Christ is indivisible, no one part of Christ's substance can be divided. Hence, Christ's body cannot be separated from his blood - which means that Christ's full presence is in both bread and wine equally.



Two practices are not open to us. It is not permitted in the Church of England to have individual cups - only the common cup, the shared chalice, is allowed. And intinction, dipping the wafer into the chalice, whether by the priest or the person receiving Holy Communion, is also heavily discouraged, not least because this increases the risk of cross-infection, and of course tiny fragments could affect people with allergies to gluten etc.

My title 'It's coming home' normally refers of course to the World Cup - you may remember Tim Parsons' recording of the tune on the cathedral organ during the 2018 World Cup, though sadly it didn't help deliver the goods. I chose 'It's coming home' because it reminds me of an image presented to us by Father George Guiver, who led our week of prayer last September. At the end of the Eucharistic Prayer, the priest elevates the consecrated bread and wine. Father George says this is just like the team captain waving the football cup in the air: all is accomplished. For in every Eucharist we celebrate Christ's victory: the victory of life over death, of hope over despair, of faith over doubt. And we are nourished to go out into the world and live and work as children of the Kingdom of God. We pray that this will be true for each of us this Pentecost, and every time we gather at the Lord's table.

The July edition of *Cathedral News*

We hope to publish the next edition of the News on Sunday 3rd July 2022. The deadline for material is **Monday 27th June 2022**. Please send any contributions to hmm53@tiscali.co.uk or to any member of the editorial team; Heather Morgan, Rosemary Bethell, Jenny Ellis and Sheila Atkinson.

From the Dean: National Lottery Heritage Fund

We are of course delighted that our application has been successful, and we have been awarded £4.3 Million. An exciting programme of activities and building works now awaits. To ensure you know exactly what the project involves, we have arranged two information sessions for our congregations, when we will share with you what work is planned and how you can be involved; and answer any questions.

The two sessions will happen on:

Wednesday 8 June, 6pm

Sunday 12 June, 11.15am

There is no need to book - please just turn up.

From the Chairman of The Company of Tapisers

As the nation watches footage of the 1953 Coronation, during the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, I wonder how many will look closely at Queen Elizabeth's coronation gown?

The magnificent gown was the creation of Sir Norman Hartnell – but with close scrutiny from The Queen herself. Her Majesty wanted every country in the Commonwealth at the time to be represented in the design. Intricately embroidered these emblems were stitched: a Tudor Rose for England, a Thistle for Scotland, a Leek for Wales, a Shamrock for Ireland, a fern for New Zealand, Wattle for Australia, a Maple leaf for Canada, Lotus flowers for India and Ceylon, and Wheat, Cotton and Jute for Pakistan. One symbol was included without the Queen's knowledge : a single four-leaf clover!



The weight of all this embroidery was considerable, so the gown needed a substantial lining to support it: this was made from one layer of taffeta and three layers of horsehair! Not only did the Queen have to wear a heavy crown, she had a heavy gown as well!



The special spectacle cases made to commemorate The Queen's Platinum jubilee are now on sale at £15 in the Cathedral Shop.

Here are photos of the spectacle case The Company of Tapisers sent to Her Majesty, The Queen, in recognition of her unique Jubilee.

Diana Symes, Chairman of the Company of Tapisers

News from the Cathedral Flower Arrangers

Just when you think our workroom is as bad as it can be, along comes yet another problem! No lighting! There is water seeping into the electrics through work on the roof above, so they have had to be isolated. Owen, from the Stonemasons, kindly found us a modern lamp, which the stonemasons use, attached to scaffolding, so we can see. We also have a leak in our sink so life is as you would expect in our ancient but beautiful building. Thank goodness for the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Our latest arrangements have to stay in place for two and a half weeks, so they are all carnations in various shades. This could have been a problem, but you can reflect on the talent of our arrangers as you view the nine different placements in the cathedral.

These need to be there until we arrange for the Jubilee early in the Bank Holiday week. We are pushing the boat out and buying some foliage (which we don't normally do) to use with flowers that are a little more expensive than usual, in order to celebrate the wonderful occasion of Her Majesty's Platinum Anniversary, and Pentecost. There must be a minority of people who remember another monarch in their own lifetime, and we hope you will appreciate our tributes. We look forward to the Devon County Service in the Cathedral, which should be memorable.

Flick Evans, Temporary Chair of ECFA

Cleaners required

The Cathedral is looking to recruit cleaning staff to join our dedicated team. Please spread the word widely, if you or anyone you know might be interested please get in touch with the Custos, Luke Stevenson, either by email custos@exeter-cathedral.org.uk or by leaving your contact details with the Cathedral Office at No.1 The Cloisters

Interment of Ann Barter's Ashes

Ann's ashes will be interred in Cathedral Green on Friday 10th June at 1pm. Friends of Ann are most welcome to attend this short service.

Prayer which is natural, which is infinite, which is yes

In May, I wrote about the pilgrimage, prayer on the way. For some prayer comes more naturally through the senses than through sitting in silence. So this month, we're staying outside and considering ways of praying amidst nature.

Although humans often act as though we are separate from nature, and try to control it as little gods, we are part of it and intimately bound up in it. The whole creation is fearfully and wonderfully made, and is intricately connected. God's glory is to be found in expected and unexpected places, in natural processes and relationships as well as fleeting blossom.

We don't have to know the names of things. Prayer is not about collecting species, or appreciating only rarities, but about allowing ourselves to notice and be captivated, standing and staring or crouching down to peer into a flower, and closely observing and wondering. In the *Color Purple*, Alice Walker wrote: "I think it pisses God off if you walk by the color purple in a field somewhere and don't notice it. People think pleasing God is all God cares about. But any fool living in the world can see it always trying to please us back."

Simply going for a walk is a path into prayer. Sometimes you might be more deliberate, and practice an awareness walk. I have a couple of leaflets of walks aimed at helping you to pay attention to your surroundings and how you move through them. Others suggest a *Lectio of Nature*, in which we can 'read' nature to become aware of God's presence.

The Quiet Garden Movement nurtures access to outdoor space for prayer and reflection, flowing from Jesus' example and invitation to 'Come away... and rest a while' (Mark 6.31).

Those unable to get out might still be able to bring nature in – house plants, a view of the sky, birdsong through an open window, the exotic of the Green Planet and the (sadly becoming less) commonplace on Springwatch on the television.

Duns Scotus wrote of *haecceitas* and Gerard Manley Hopkins of *inscape*, the true nature, essence, or particular 'thisness' of a thing. Can we come close to seeing and scenting a spray of the lily of the valley as God might see it? Hearing the chatter of a treeful of sparrows as God might hear them? At this time of year, consider the shine on the petals of a buttercup, or the spindrift of cow parsley and hawthorn framing a footpath, or even ants farming aphids in the garden. Do you truly know the skin on the back of your hand? It's astonishing.

Clare Bryden

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

Awareness walks – <https://bit.ly/awarenesswalks>

Quiet Garden Movement – <https://quietgarden.org/>

Thank you

I would like to express my deepest thanks to the entire Cathedral Community for their support, comfort and prayers after the sudden death of my Mother, Sharon, on Easter Monday. This Cathedral meant so very much to her and although she never spoke very openly about her faith, she always regarded this magnificent building as her spiritual home. I would also like to thank my wonderful partner Laurence John, my dear friend Luke Stevenson and Fr. Julian Ould, for all the love, guidance and care they particularly have given to me and my family at this time.

This Community will always hold a special place in my heart, and I will never be able to thank you all enough for the support you have given to me over the past few weeks. Please do continue to hold my family and my Mother in your prayers.

Morgan Philpott

Threads through Creation: An Exhibition by Jacqui Parkinson **8th June – 24th July**

Threads through Creation is a spectacular sequence of twelve huge textile panels. It is an exuberant retelling of the creation story in the book of Genesis, a retelling which many visitors will find both moving and breath-taking, with a wonderful variety of colours, shapes, patterns-and of course, lots of creatures.

Thy Kingdom Come (TKC)

This world-wide prayer initiative will light up the world with prayer from Ascension Day, 26th May to Pentecost, 5th June. You can join in in several ways:

- Find and pray the “prayer bombs” around the Cathedral
- Visit the *Thy Kingdom Come* quiet space in St John the Baptist Chapel in the south transept
- Join in to an online time of prayer, by taking part in 24/7 prayer. Contact Canon Cate Edmonds, cate.edmonds@exeter-cathedral.org.uk, or you can sign up at <https://pray.24-7prayer.com/signup/451a2f>

There are more practical details at <https://exeter.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/24-10-Prayer-Room-2022.pdf>

Company of Servers Annual Festival, 7th May

On Saturday 7th May, the Company of Servers Annual Festival 2022 took place. There were two parts to the day: the Festival Eucharist at 12pm in the Cathedral, and the Solemn Evensong and Benediction at 3:15pm at St Michael and All Angels, Mount Dinham. It was a truly wonderful event all round, and an enjoyable time was had by all.



For the Eucharist, the Ministers were: the Rt Revd Martin Shaw, Chaplain at Exeter Cathedral School and Assistant Bishop, as President; the Ven. David Gunn-Johnson, Priest Vicar and Chaplain of Exeter Company of Servers, as Deacon; the Revd. Preb. John Good, Rector of Exeter Society of Catholic Priests, as Subdeacon; and the Very Revd Johnathan Greener, Dean of Exeter, as Preacher.

The new members of the Serving Company were admitted by The Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark and former Chaplain General to the Company. It was a real delight and privilege to see so many new Servers welcomed into the Company, and very moving to see the candidates take the oath. The oath was followed by the solemn and beautiful Company prayer, which asked for God's help in enabling those admitted to serve 'reverently, attentively and devoutly, in body, mind and heart'.

The singing, reading, liturgy and other prayers were similarly all beautiful. Many members of the congregation also mentioned afterwards what a fine sermon the Dean gave, in which he commented on how the theatre of servers' work is the 'lifeblood of our faith'. Many said too how lovely it was that his points about the importance of music in worship included a reference to 'You'll Never Walk Alone'.

Those admitted were, in surname alphabetical order: for Exeter, Mariam Badavi, Anne Eyre, William Mirza, Elizabeth Noon, Barney Puleston, Carys Puleston, and Lucas Taylor; and for St Mary Churston Ferrers, Henry Bowles. Thanks to also to Deputy Lay Vicar Rachel Bennett, who was Cantor; Director of Music Timothy Noon, who was Organist; Malcolm Pomeroy, who read the lesson; and Chrissa Turner, who read the Intercessions.



Evensong was equally exquisite, with The Ven. David Gunn-Johnson, as Officiant, presiding masterfully. The music was also magnificent, and a tribute to the virtuosity of St Michael's choir, Organist Matthew Clark, and Director of Music Natasha Goldsworth.

Thanks also to Wilfred Reynolds and William Mirza for reading.



No fewer than five chapters were in attendance on the day. These were, in alphabetical order: Blackburn and Liverpool; Exeter; Norwich; Southwark and London; and York. It was such a joy to welcome all those who had come from other parts of the country, and their support and kind comments about the services and community are much appreciated. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who took part and made the event such a success.

William Mirza

Thanksgiving Service for Lucian Nethsingha: 25th June at 3pm

There will be a Service of Evensong to celebrate the life of Lucian Nethsingha in the Cathedral at 3pm on Saturday 25th June.

Lucian was Organist and Master of the Choristers from 1973-1999. He died in February 2021 and his funeral was in Cambridge during lockdown restrictions. This service will give his many friends and former colleagues in Devon an opportunity to give thanks for his life and work, particularly here in Exeter.

Andrew and Alison are hoping that this will be a happy occasion and a chance for us all to get together. Refreshments will be served in the Cathedral afterwards.

All are welcome.

News of CTaX Events for June

Wednesday 8th June at 6pm in St Stephen's Church

Doom, Dharma and the truth that sets us free: The Inner-Life Demands of Climate Change

Come and hear Alastair McIntosh, honorary professor in College of Social Sciences, University of Glasgow, author and activist.

<https://www.parishofcentralexeter.co.uk/listings/alastair-mcintosh-talk/>

Thursday 9th June at 7pm

Bike Pilgrimage from St Mark's Church, EX4 7HU

Cycling in support of freedom of religion and the persecuted Church worldwide. In aid of Christian ministries, CSW and Release International.

Join us for an evening of worship and prayers to celebrate and thank God. St Mark's Church Exeter are hosting and are inviting all local churches in the area to join with us. We have also invited all the 'bike pilgrims' who are riding various stages of the route, from Kent to Cornwall cross country and back again along the south coast. Local cyclists may want to ride alongside the Pilgrims.

More info: <https://releaseinternational.org/wpcontent/uploads/2022/04/BIKE-TOUR-A5-POSTER-22-09June-Exeter.pdf>

Prayer Around the Cross

Fridays 17th June, 15th July, 19th August, 16th September, 14th October, 18th November, and 9th December at 7pm

At St. Pancras Church, Guildhall Shopping Centre

Prayer around the Cross comes from an Eastern European tradition and forms a regular part of the worship of the ecumenical Taizé Community in France. In the adapted form we use at St Pancras, it consists of readings, prayers, meditations and silence, interspersed with songs and chants from Taizé and elsewhere. All are welcome

Exeter Foodbank

The foodbank is feeding about 200 people per week at present.

Please give generously. The following items are particularly welcome:

Washing Powder, Noodle Snacks, Sponge Puddings, UHT Milk (green not red), Squash, Sugar, Jam and Spreads, Lavatory rolls, Shampoo and Shower Gel.

Collection points at most of the big supermarkets.

You can donate money online, here:

<https://exeter.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>

Cathedral Community Committee (CCC) 10th May

At the meeting on 10th May, the main points were:

- We were very pleased to see that a Prayer for the Week was being displayed in and around the Cathedral. We recommended that it also appears on the website and in the orders of service on Sundays.
- Agreed that a paper should be prepared with detailed proposals to offer a welcome and invitation to people from outside the Cathedral before the 10am Choral Eucharist on Sundays-to complement the excellent work done by the sidesmen when people enter the building.
- The Dean told us that the Revd Julian Ould had agreed to convene the first of what we hope will be regular meetings of the intercessors.
- There was further discussion of the reintroduction of Holy Communion in both kinds for those who wished to receive. A straw poll revealed a majority of one in favour of the status quo. Chapter had not yet discussed the issue in the light of the very recently revised C of E guidance. (They have now, as set out in the Dean's front page article.)
- The arrangements for the forthcoming Christian Aid Coffee Morning and the service and party for the Jubilee were discussed. The Social Events Team would be meeting soon for detailed preparation.
- We need a lay representative on the Exeter Interfaith Forum.
- A request for the toilets in the former Holy Spirit Chapel to be open during Sunday services was made.
- A paper consolidating the work at the Awayday and a draft action plan was tabled for considering at the meeting in July.
- A list of regular Cathedral events which require preparation and participation by the regular worshipping community and volunteers was also tabled e.g. Christingle, Mothering Sunday flowers, breakfast on Easter Morning after the dawn service. Members were asked to add to the list. This will enable us to plan ahead.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 14th June.

Heather Morgan, Chair of CCC

Open Garden: 25th and 26th June

The garden at Halscombe Farm, Ide EX2 9TQ is opening from 2pm-5pm on the 15th and 16th June under the National Gardens Scheme, with half the profits going to the Friends of Exeter Cathedral. Home-made teas will be available.

This is a glorious garden, as those who were fortunate to see it in previous years will testify. Don't miss this opportunity to see it, or to see it again!

Admission £5. Children free.



The Friends of Exeter Cathedral

The Festival of the Friends of the Cathedral will be held on St Peter's Day, 29th June. The day will include:

From 10am Demonstration by the Cathedral Stonemasons

11.00am Solemn Eucharist (sung by the Cathedral Choir)
Departed Friends will be commemorated at this service.

2.00pm Organ Recital:

Kindly arranged by Timothy Noon (Director of Music)

Please sit in the Nave for this recital. No booking required.

3.00pm Annual General Meeting in the Chapter House

An address by the Rt Revd Graham James, former Bishop of Norwich,
Will follow the meeting

5.30pm Festival Evensong and Procession

Christianity Deanery Synod: 12th May

What do you mean by mission and what are you doing about it?

This was the question that occupied almost all of the most recent meeting of Deanery Synod at St Mark's Church. Six people, including Carys Puleston from the Cathedral, were invited to speak for 5 minutes on this subject, after which there was group discussion and questions. Carys couldn't be there, and her contribution was read by Anne Foreman.

The speakers varied considerably in their approach. Some of the phrases about mission that struck me particularly were:

"Our churches need to be places of radical welcome".

"The church of God does not have a mission in this world. The God of mission has a church".

"Mission is equal to being Christ's hands, feet, voice and heart in the world".

"Growth is proportional to change and to quality. To be a missional church is to be a changing church with high standards, not least in worship".

"Meet people where they are, listen before you speak, and don't make assumptions about the questions they are asking."

"It's engaging with the world, not being an insular 'Holy Huddle'. Each of us has been given an extraordinary gift, and mission, at its simplest, is passing that on."

This was an innovative and stimulating evening! **Heather Morgan**