



From the Canon Steward:



It is difficult to believe that it is almost three years since I was installed as a Residentiary Canon (non-resident) in the Cathedral. So much has happened since then. Soon after my installation, we launched into Advent and Christmas. Then in the New Year 2020, I disappeared to support the successful England Test cricket team in South Africa. On returning we found the country in panic over something called Covid! Then crash bang, we entered that awful period of the first lockdown. Never had any of us experienced the closure of our beloved Cathedral.

Suddenly I found myself taking services not in the Nave but from my bedroom! From then on, we had a period of distancing, hands face and space, for month after month. How was I to develop my new role as Canon Steward? Even the name had changed from St Peter's Canon to Canon Steward during this time.

Over the last nearly three years the role has taken shape, partly due to the reorganisation of roles within Chapter, Chris Palmer becoming Canon Treasurer, and the installation of Deborah Parsons as Canon Chancellor; all historic titles with fairly well-defined roles. So where does that leave the Canon Steward? I am tempted to say, I pick up what is left, but that is not really the case. The name in itself does not explain the role. I am however, in exclusive company. There are only, to our knowledge, two other Canon Stewards in England, at Westminster Abbey and at St Paul's.

So, what are my main roles? I am responsible for Mission and Outreach for the Cathedral; this is a very important role not undertaken by me alone. I have been developing new initiatives as well as encouraging and supporting others in new ways of engaging with the Diocese and beyond. We are, as you know, the "Mother Church" of the Diocese. The Cathedral doesn't just belong to those of

us who work and worship here, but to everyone across Devon and we truly want to share it.

Patronage is another of my roles. The Chapter of the Cathedral Church of St Peter is Patron of thirty-six benefices across the Diocese and as such we have the right of presentation to the Bishop of new incumbents. Prior to the presentation, there are consultations with parishes and an interview process. It is extremely rewarding and enjoyable to be able to join in the licensing and celebrations of newly appointed incumbents.

My other major role is to be the Chapter member responsible for Heritage and Education, which includes the Archives, and the Library and Education currently situated in the West Wing. My background is in Education, but the Archives and Library have been a steep but fascinating learning curve, with still much more for me to learn. We are in very exciting times, with the launch of our National Heritage Lottery Fund Activity Plan which will develop access to our treasures, and engage the Cathedral with a more diverse audience. There are many creative projects being developed, and I am looking forward to supporting them.

Coming from a very different background, I have found understanding the workings of the Cathedral at times challenging. The Dean refers to there being in reality three cathedrals: one for worship, one for heritage and one for commerce. I like to think that we have a trinity of activities, all of which have to be kept in balance, and that has taken me a while fully to comprehend. With the assistance of some great colleagues, my journey has not been that difficult.

We are entering a new phase in the long history of our Cathedral. There will be challenges but it is exciting. I am thrilled to be part of this amazing Cathedral and its community, and grateful to serve in my many and varied roles and with the grace of God I will continue for a few more years to come.

Cate Edmonds, Canon Steward

The September edition of *Cathedral News*

We hope to publish the next edition of the News on Sunday 28th August 2022. The deadline for material is **Monday 22nd August 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.

We're always pleased to hear of significant birthdays, anniversaries, and achievements, in addition to news from all areas of life in the Cathedral Community.

Exeter Cathedral Ringers

On Sunday 3rd July, past and present members of the Exeter Cathedral Ringers Society achieved a first for ringing in the county.

A peal of 5040 Bristol S Maximus was achieved in the ringing room at the Cathedral in 3 hours and 8 mins by Andrew Digby, David Maynard, Tom Hinks, Oliver Bates, Matthew Hilling and Oliver Coldrick.

With each ringer ringing two hand-bells throughout in this method it becomes the most complex method yet rung in the county by Devon Ringers on hand-bells.

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1527142>

Paul Pascoe, Secretary Cathedral Bellringers

Calling all Intercessors!

You are warmly invited to a meeting on Sunday 4th September after the 10.00am Eucharist with Revd Prebendary Julian Ould at 11.30am. Julian has kindly taken on the role of the Intercessors' link with the Dean and Chapter to encourage mutual support, feedback and the sharing of ideas and resources.

Julian is finding us a space at the Cathedral to meet and so do please bring your coffee and your ideas - thank you to those of you who responded to my initial query about the purpose of such a gathering. The ideas were plenty and varied! In terms of planning the rest of your day, then the aim is to finish by 12.15pm.

Anne Foreman

Lay Canon Judith Kauntze, BEM

Judith, known I'm sure to many of you, was a pillar of this Cathedral, who I am really sad to inform you died on 14th July in the RD&E, after a short illness. She has played a huge part in our fundraising efforts here at the Cathedral, and has been the driving force behind our Grand Nave Dinners. I think it is also true to say that without Judith's input, our new development project would not be happening. We are arranging a thanksgiving service here at the Cathedral on 19 September at 5.30pm, to which all are welcome. Judith will be missed by so many people, and our condolences go to her two sons, Mark and James. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

As the Grand Nave Dinner on 14 October is a fundraising event, Jill Taylor is now picking up the administration, and if you or your friends might be interested in attending this, please contact Jill for details: jill.taylor@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

Jonathan Greener

From the Chairman of The Company of Tapisers:

Have you noticed the heraldic devices painted on the back of each Quire stall? The Dean's stall has a stag with a cross between its antlers, from the story of St Eusebius; in the centre of the Precentor's shield is a fleur-de-lys; the Chancellor's device has four crosses and the Treasurer's stall displays four rather strange cat-like faces.

These images inspired us for the designs of the four new book cushions we have made - these symbols have long been recorded in the Archives – see photo left below.

Book cushions have been used in churches for hundreds of years – acting as a protective rest for the Book of Common Prayer or Service Book. Our tapestry cushions follow this long tradition – see photo right below.

They should be in situ by the beginning of September.



Diana Symes, Chairman of the Company of Tapisers

Congratulations!

Many congratulations to Andrew Nethsingha, a former head chorister of the Cathedral, on his appointment as Organist and Master of the Choristers at Westminster Abbey. He will take up his new post in January 2023.

Praying with the Bible – *Lectio Divina*

Lectio Divina, or divine reading, is an ancient and tried-and-tested form of praying with Scripture. Its origins lie in the third to fourth centuries, and it was popularised from the sixth century by the monastic communities that lived under the Rule of St Benedict.

Regular Bible reading and study gives us breadth of knowledge. *Lectio* helps us also absorb Scripture at depth: we listen to the text of the Bible with the "ear of the heart", with the aim of nourishing and deepening our relationship with God. Though simple, it needs practice, as the slow ritual reading is very different from our modern habit of skimming text. As Fr Christopher Jamison wrote in his book *Finding Sanctuary*: "the text is seen as a gift to be received, not a problem to be dissected..... let the text come to you."

Lectio involves the four simple steps of slow reading of a piece of scripture, meditation on the passage, prayer about what arises, and a time of silent adoration.

Choose the passage in advance of your prayer time, so you don't waste precious minutes. Spend a few minutes settling down and let your breathing become gentler. Pray that your heart may be opened and receptive to the gift God knows you need today.

- Read the passage very slowly, aloud if you find that helpful. When a particular verse, phrase or word strikes you, put the Bible down.
- Repeat the phrase or word in your heart, gently rather than mechanically. The meditative repetition is to allow you to savour the phrase at an intuitive level. A longer phrase may shorten to a single word.
- In time you will become aware that the words have evoked a particular feeling or attitude. Now is the time to move to praying your response. Express this to God very simply: thank God for the gift of the words, express longings they have stirred, ask God questions, or remain in loving silence in God's presence.
- Your prayer may move to a simple state of attention and attraction towards God as a compass needle points north.

If distractions set in, you can either return to your repetition to refocus your attention, or resume your reading, expecting to be touched again by another phrase. At the end of your prayer, bring the *Lectio Divina* to a close with thanksgiving or the Lord's Prayer.

A form of *Lectio Divina* can also be used in a group setting, where it is about listening to the experience of each member and reflecting on your own journey in that light. Every Wednesday at 8pm a group meets on Zoom, and you are welcome to join us at <https://bit.ly/ZoomLectio>, Meeting ID: 940 4683 2921, Password: lectio.

Clare Bryden

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

Some further resources – <https://graceupongrace.org.uk/resources-to-download/>



Congratulations!

We send our love and congratulations to Diane Coombes who received the Diocese of Exeter St Boniface Award at a service in the Cathedral on 23rd July.

The award is given to people who have given service above and beyond to their church, community or church school. Diane's record of service to the Cathedral and to the church more widely, especially in Dawlish, is exceptional. She continues to serve the Cathedral as a steward and intercessor, to name but two roles.

Even more important is her presence among the worshipping community day by day, and her care and prayerful support for so many people in the Cathedral Community and beyond.

Here we see Diane with Bishop Robert after the service, wearing her St Boniface medal. On the right of the photo, we also have a glimpse of Professor Grace Davie, who is well known to many at the Cathedral. Grace and Diane were among a total of sixteen people to receive their awards.

News from the Cathedral Flower Arrangers

Oh dear – more woes! July has proved a rather trying month! The Friday of the Devon County Show was an arranging day. All were in early, and we felt that it was not unusual for the flowers to be held up in traffic, so we had a leisurely coffee looking out for the Culm Florist van. No sign of it by 11.00, so I called them to see why it might be late. “No flowers ordered for today” – cripes!!! So out came the reliable white silks because purchasing fresh flowers in Exeter would have taken all the flowers in M&S and Tesco together, and would have looked rather a muddle. So, it was fresh foliage and silk flowers for 2 weeks, and we saved nearly £300! Hiccups happen!

Two weeks later, and for various reasons, there were only 4 of the 9 of us in at 9.00 am. Jill was arranging on the lead pillar so she got on with clearing and emptying the pillars while I busied myself with the Lady Chapel; I had to be out by 11 for a service. Suddenly there was a shout - one of our ladies had fallen and cracked her head, and there was blood everywhere! Cathy kindly took her to the NHS Drop-in Centre, and that left just 3 to do 9 placements. I finished quickly and over the next hour others appeared, so we were relieved of having to arrange all the pillars between two of us! Thanks to the great team we are, all was well. In the end, we left a tidy and organised Cathedral and flower room rather later than usual. Hiccups happen!

The very sad news that Judith Kauntze had died after a short illness was a shock, as flowers are a large part of her major plan for the Grand Nave Dinner. I had met with her less than 4 weeks before to discuss what we were planning. “I want as much as you can manage of last time’s fabulous flowers, as they made the evening”. She had taken on board that we have fewer experienced arrangers, but was very happy with what I felt we might manage. It will be with her voice ringing in our ears that we will be arranging for most of the week before the event, and make another Grand Nave Dinner extra special in her name.

Flick Evans, Temporary Chair of ECFA

Thank you

Our thanks and good wishes go to Lisa Gordon, who has left her post as Head of Education at the end of July for her new role of Activity and Events Manager at Newcourt Community Centre.

Lisa has worked at the Cathedral since 2017 and enchanted both children and adults by her imaginative and creative ideas and projects. We will miss her very much and send her every good wish for the future.

Getting to know the Cathedral Community Better:

Zoom Morning Prayer

Two years ago patterns of daily worship, which had evolved over generations, were thrown into disarray by the spread of a tiny virus. Church services were suspended, clergy and parishioners were isolated and new ways had to be found in which to conduct the Daily Office, pastoral care and conversation.

One innovative response was to deliver the Church of England's *Common Worship Morning Prayer* service via the internet using Zoom's then novel video meeting app.

Though not achieving the full experience of Morning Prayer in the Cathedral, the Zoom substitute proved to be a lifeline for several parishioners who valued being able to maintain the rhythm of regular worship and interact with others while isolated.

Moreover, it became clear that there are situations in which on-line worship excels viz:

- Remoteness - Parishioners can maintain an active worship cycle online in spite of reduced services at parish level,
- Mobility – Interactive daily worship may not be denied by infirmity, illness or injury.
- Cost - Parishioners avoid the effects of inflation and cut-backs in public transport that compete for their income and time.

So as Cathedral life resumes its pre-pandemic pace and form, Morning Prayer continues online via Zoom, and presented by lay leadership on a rota organised by Carys Puleston.

Regular attendees comment on finding pleasure in how the daily lectionary tends to flow more smoothly through the scriptures, unlike readings at the principal church services which appear to 'hop about'. They also enjoy immersion in the Psalms. Leaders commented on finding themselves challenged by, and growing through, the discernment required in preparing prayers of intercession.

All are welcome, to join us from wherever you are, in gathering between 0855 and 0900 Mon-Fri. The service usually runs for 20 to 25 minutes.

From the Zoom app, enter Meeting ID 99638985011 and Passcode 1F0puR (note this is case and character sensitive) and please address any questions or concerns to a member of clergy or Carys Puleston.



This is how the congregation appear to each other, and by sharing the screen, the text of the service is visible to all.

David Owen



Puppy Leave

Maggie Morris, one of our stewards and guide, and also a member of the Cathedral Community Committee, has taken “puppy leave” – a first, as far as we know for the Cathedral Community.

The puppy in question is Luca, aged 11 weeks at the time of this photograph.

Summer Music Series

Please see the Cathedral website for details of the Summer Music Series including performances by artists including The Pilgrims’ Chorus, Catherine Dienes-Williams, Farnham Youth Choir, William Whitehead, and the Cathedral’s own James Alexander-Besant, Michael Graham and Matthew Jeffrey.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/>

Devon Historic Churches Trust - Ride and Stride Day 10th September

This Trust provides much needed support to our rich heritage of Devon churches in these uncertain economic times. Ride and Stride is their annual fundraising focus with some churches welcoming visitors on that day with tea and cakes. It is an opportunity to discover churches often hidden in our city and the surrounding countryside.

We, at the Cathedral, both Chapter and Community Committee, support this cause wholeheartedly, and encourage you to take part either by visiting local churches or sponsoring others. A portion of what we give comes back to the Cathedral too. In spite of the overshadowing of covid last year, the Cathedral gave generously – please do the same this year.

I will be gratefully collecting your sponsorship monies throughout August and will be available in person after the 10.00am Eucharist on Sundays.

Fiona Moffat

Welcome

The Revd Prebendary Deborah Parsons was installed as Canon Chancellor during Evensong on 3rd July. She is pictured on the right here, toasting the occasion with Canon Cate Edmonds.



Christians Together Across Exeter (CTaX) News for August

Commencing Friday 29th July: Free breakfasts for children at Heavitree United Reformed Church, EX1 2QJ

During the school summer holidays Heavitree United Reformed Church will be offering FREE breakfasts for children every Friday. This will run alongside our usual @Re:fresh coffee, tea and light snacks (by donation) and our community larder (FREE food to take away first and last Friday's of each month) Please pop in and check out what's on offer -we look forward to seeing you.

Prayer Around the Cross

Fridays 19th August, 16th September, 14th October, 18th November, and 9th December

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, hosted at St Pancras, it consists of readings, prayers, meditations and silence, interspersed with songs and chants from Taizé and elsewhere.

All are welcome.

Cathedral Community Committee (CCC) 12th July

At the meeting on 14th June, the main points were:

- During the summer we would trial welcoming people outside the west door before the 10am Choral Eucharist. This is to encourage those who seem uncertain about crossing the threshold, and invite them to the service. It also gives an opportunity to inform those who wish just to visit the Cathedral why that isn't possible until later in the morning, when they will be very welcome. We hope that this new role will complement the work of the sidesmen on duty inside the Cathedral.
- The person on duty outside, will also take the lead in looking out for new people at coffee after the service, especially those who appear to be on their own.
- The first meeting of intercessors will be on 4th September.
- We agreed who will champion the different areas of work in the action plan.
- We raised the issue of the Holy Dusters, who have still not been recalled to duty following the interruption of the pandemic. This will be on the agenda for the new Volunteer Manager.
- The work of SET and how best to shape its work during the forthcoming extensive work on the Cathedral. We stressed how important it will be

to maintain and build the fellowship and life of the Cathedral Community during this period, the need to plan regular events and to consider venues and available facilities. **We hope to have a lunch to welcome the new choristers and their families on 11th September. Please look out for further information in the Weekly Sheet.**

- The Dean reminded us of the farewell to Bishop Nick on 24th July, We were delighted to hear of the appointment of the Revd Prebendary James Grier, who will succeed Bishop Nick as Bishop of Plymouth.
- We agreed to have August off, and the next CCC meeting will be on 13th September.

Heather Morgan, Chair of CCC

The 2020s Development Appeal

On 15th July, the Cathedral launched the 2020s Development Appeal to raise the remaining £3.8 million for the development project. Of the £10 million needed, a grant of £4.3 million has been awarded by the National Lottery, and £1.9 million has been donated or received from other trusts and foundations.

Sir Laurie Magnus, chair of Historic England, and Taryn Nixon, Trustee of the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Chair of the England, London & South Committee, were present for the launch and the ceremonial cutting of the turf to mark the official start of the work on the Cloister Gallery. Sir Laurie also formally cut the ribbon to make the official opening of the renovated Chapter House. He described the Cathedral as “one of the glories of England’s rich ecclesiastical heritage”. Taryn Nixon said that she was proud to be here for the occasion, and praised the “brilliant” project team for their already “exceptional and far-reaching achievement”.

Sir Laurie, Ms Nixon and the Dean completed an exceptional piece of synchronised digging when cutting the turf, which they seemed to enjoy! For more information about the appeal and how to donate, see Cathedral website.

