



## From the Canon Precentor:



This September brings us the joy of welcoming new people to our community, including those who will help lead our worship day-by-day: new choristers, choral scholars, organ scholar, and a new Lay Vicar, and their families and friends.

Alexander Finlayson-Brown joins us as Organ Scholar, having just received his A-level results. He will leave us in July 2023 to take up an Organ Scholarship at King's College, Cambridge. Jack Oades joins us as our new Tenor Lay Vicar. He brings a wealth of musical experience to this place, having previously been Assistant Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin. He grew up in Devon and is returning to his roots both to sing and develop his career as a composer. Choral Scholars Roisin, Ben and Matt join us from the University Chapel Choir, and Scholar Jude comes to us from Manchester where he has been doing postgraduate study. The new adults will be installed at Evensong on 11<sup>th</sup> September, following our Community Lunch.

This month brings a great deal of anxiety also. The impacts of both the Pandemic and war in Ukraine continue to be felt, with sharply rising food and fuel prices, and, since the heatwaves across much of Europe this summer, having a significant impact upon domestic food supply. As I write, the sharply rising cost of domestic fuel threatens to impoverish a very large proportion of this population. Among those affected will be stipendiary clergy, whose domestic energy bills are much higher, and a higher proportion of their disposable income, than most. As I write, it is likely that domestic energy costs in some parsonages will run to £6000 per year in October and £10,000 per year in January, perhaps even more in April. That means that by January, over 40% of a parish priest's disposable income may be spent on domestic energy, against

the backdrop of runaway inflation and a 1% stipend increase in 2022. That situation is not sustainable, and it is not unique to clergy.

Churches themselves, of course, are not linked to the domestic price capping of fuel. Some churches are reporting a ten-fold increase in their energy bills as they leave fixed contracts. Likewise for schools, libraries, care homes and hospitals, the cost of energy threatens to devastate their finances, work and ministries. The new Prime Minister will have to address this crisis immediately. Unless an urgent strategy is put in place, this will be a cataclysmic winter, and those people and places to which we turn for warmth and care will be extraordinarily stretched, probably to breaking point.

What is the hope in this situation? It's a proper question. Of course, hope lies in the new choir year, the continuity of prayer and praise, our core purpose. But what else can we say, especially as we talk in church of light in darkness and new life rising out of death? It can be tempting to look at the Cross and say that Resurrection is preceded by suffering. But I am not sure in this moment that offers much consolation to the people of Ukraine, our farming community, or those people, businesses, and institutions on the brink of collapse.

Really, I think we must hope for an improved political and religious discourse. Bad things, often beyond our control, will always happen at home and abroad. But we can shape how we respond to them. Indeed, the Church belongs at the heart of local and national politics. It's where moral and ethical responses, based upon the dignity of all people, are refined. The Church doesn't have all the answers, but it has many of the tools to help navigate complex decisions. And the Church is improved when it stays close to politics, too.

I'll close with passages from an address given by Pope Benedict XVI in Westminster Hall to the Houses of Parliament on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2010. He sets out a vision for the Church and democracy as vital partners to enable human flourishing. In these difficult times, I find hope in that possibility:

*If the moral principles underpinning the democratic process are themselves determined by nothing more solid than social consensus, then the fragility of the process becomes all too evident - herein lies the real challenge for democracy.*

*The inadequacy of pragmatic, short-term solutions to complex social and ethical problems has been illustrated all too clearly.*

*Where is the ethical foundation for political choices to be found?*

*The Catholic tradition maintains that the objective norms governing right action are accessible to reason, prescinding from the content of revelation.*

*According to this understanding, the role of religion in political debate is not so much to supply these norms, as if they could not be known by non-believers - still less to propose concrete political solutions, which would lie altogether outside the competence of religion - but rather to help purify and shed light upon the application of reason to the discovery of objective moral principles.*

*This 'corrective' role of religion vis-a-vis reason is not always welcomed, though, partly because distorted forms of religion, such as sectarianism and fundamentalism, can be seen to create serious social problems themselves.*

*And in their turn, these distortions of religion arise when insufficient attention is given to the purifying and structuring role of reason within religion. It is a two-way process.*

*Without the corrective supplied by religion, though, reason too can fall prey to distortions, as when it is manipulated by ideology, or applied in a partial way that fails to take full account of the dignity of the human person.*

*Where human lives are concerned, time is always short: yet the world has witnessed the vast resources that governments can draw upon to rescue financial institutions deemed 'too big to fail'. Surely the integral human development of the world's peoples is no less important: Here is an enterprise, worthy of the world's attention, that is truly 'too big to fail'.*

**James Mustard, Canon Precentor**

## **The October edition of *Cathedral News***

We hope to publish the next edition of the News on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2022. The deadline for material is **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 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.

## **Simon Barwood**



There will be a Service of Evensong giving thanks for the life of Simon Barwood in Winchester Cathedral at 5.30pm on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September. Simon, pictured here in his Exeter days, was a member of the Cathedral Choir at Exeter from 1986-1991. In 1997, he was appointed as a lay clerk at Winchester Cathedral, where he later became Media and Communications Officer. He died in July 2020 during lockdown, when numbers attending funerals were limited. We hope that many friends and former colleagues will be at the service to celebrate Simon's life and to share memories of him. All are welcome.

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

It has always been the custom for the Tapisers to have August 'off', as a holiday, so there have been no meetings this month. However, many members are still stitching at home making items for sale at the Autumn Fair, which will be at the beginning of October. We are hoping to have a selection of goods for sale – from spectacle cases to Christmas decorations, greetings cards to cushions.

Do come along to see our stall and have a chat. We look forward to seeing you there.

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

## **Cathedral Community Committee (CCC)**

Following the excellent example of the Tapisers (see above), the CCC also decided to have a break and did not meet in August. The next meeting will be on 13<sup>th</sup> September, when, amongst other things, we will review the welcoming presence outside the West Front before the 10am Choral Eucharist on Sundays that we have piloting during the summer. We will also consider giving renewed impetus to the Year of Invitation and Welcome.

If you have any other items for the agenda, questions, or suggestions that will help to build up the Cathedral Community, please email Ann Barwood on [amb@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:amb@exeter-cathedral.org.uk) or me at [hmm53@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:hmm53@tiscali.co.uk)

**Heather Morgan, Chair CCC**

## **Devon Historic Churches Trust - Ride & Stride Day 10<sup>th</sup> 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**

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

The Cathedral Flower Arrangers have now managed to settle into a routine at last. The rota has had to change, but our ladies have been very co-operative - filling in for Covid, falls, and journeys to troubled countries to see families at last. We have had one week of arrangements with just foliage, which is always a challenge, before returning to flowers, as we have now. So many visitors, locals and pilgrims appreciate having the flowers in the Cathedral, and we really love having conversations with all of them, and receiving their compliments!

Planning for the Grand Nave Dinner continues at speed now, because we have to order months ahead to ensure delivery of trays, floral foam etc. We are grateful for the co-operation of suppliers, and the Cathedral staff in being able to tuck precious items into some sort of storage.

Weddings have been in short supply of late, but rather like the city buses, several have now arrived at once. We suddenly find ourselves planning for seven of them over the next twelve months, which is exciting for us all.

**Flick Evans, Temporary Chair of ECFA**

## **Heritage Open Days: Raising the Roof at Exeter Cathedral**

How does the organ turn air into beautiful music? Meet some of the team who look after and play the mighty Cathedral Organ, and learn about how an organ works.

Considered the most complex invention before the Industrial Revolution, our renowned instrument is no exception. The tour will include a behind-the-scenes visit to the pipes in the Minstrels' Gallery, some demonstrations of different pipes and sounds, and some short performances from Cathedral musicians to put the Organ through its paces.

The tour will then move to the Library and Archives, where records are held of other intriguing inventions and theories dating back hundreds of years – some more successful than others! Book tickets online at <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/heritage-open-days-raising-the-roof-at-exeter-cathedral-organ-and-library-tour/>

## **Thank you**

Our thanks and good wishes go to Julie Taylor who has left the Cathedral following her resignation as Visitors Officer.

## Praying with the Bible – Ignatian meditation

*The word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.* Deuteronomy 30.14 (NRSV)

The Bible has been used for centuries as a fruitful way into prayer. Praying with the imagination and intuition can be helpful if you have spent a lot of time in study, and now want to deepen your encounter with scripture; or perhaps if you struggle a bit with the Bible's content and want a different way in.

The pattern of imaginative Ignatian meditation was developed by St Ignatius of Loyola in the sixteenth century, and many people still use it today. St Ignatius was convinced that God can speak to us through our imaginations as well as our thoughts and memories. It can be used with any story in Scripture, and is particularly suited to books such as Ruth and the Gospels. In your mind's eye, you place yourself in the scene, perhaps an event in Jesus' life, and become a participant interacting with the other characters.

The following is one possible model. Explore Prayer on the Cathedral website has links to more audio and written resources –

<https://bit.ly/exploreprayer2022> – or see Anthony de Mello's book *Sadhana: Christian Exercises in Eastern Form*.

Choose the passage in advance of your prayer time, so you don't waste precious minutes. You might like to choose the Gospel reading for the day, or return several times to a particular story. 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 twice, aloud if you find that helpful, then put the Bible down. In your mind's eye, place yourself in the scene. Take time to imagine it as vividly as possible, its sights, sounds and smells. Compose yourself in the place.

Now imagine your way through the story. Perhaps you are a bystander or one of the characters. Observe how you interact with the other characters, and any thoughts and feelings that arise. Keep yourself open to God's communication and nudging. If distractions set in, gently return to your breathing, then to your place in the story.

At the end of the meditation, return gradually to an awareness of your breathing and your posture. When you are ready, open your eyes, and bring your prayer time to a close with thanksgiving or the Lord's Prayer.

**Clare Bryden**

## Focus Part 1:



**Fiona Moffat-  
Wife, Mother, Grandmother, former  
Librarian, Eucharistic Minister and  
member of the Cathedral Community  
Committee**

*'But let there be spaces in your togetherness,  
and let the winds of the heavens dance  
between you.'* Kahlil Gibran 1833-1931

This is the first time that I have written a Focus about a married couple; it will be in two parts because there are two stories to be told. I'm deeply grateful to Fiona and Howard Moffat for so patiently putting up with me for a considerable amount of time one afternoon in their home.

Howard is the perfect gentleman, so Fiona is in the frame first, just as she was when I interviewed them.

Fiona was born during an air-raid in the Middlesex Hospital, London in 1942. Her grandparents were missionaries in Peru, where her grandfather was a doctor. Sadly, her grandmother died from typhoid, so her grandfather returned to the UK with their children. Fiona's parents were also Christian workers, part-time, involved with young people's services at the Keswick Convention. Her father was an artist. As a 12-year-old in 1922 he developed Type 1 diabetes and was a participant in the research into the use of the only just discovered insulin in the control of Diabetes.....he lost his sight in the 1940's. Her mother was a doctor, and she has an older brother and younger sister.

During the Blitz of 1943, a bomb hit her pram. She was thrown out, the pram pushed outside where it set light to a gate post! They left London for Oxted, then moved near East Grinstead where she attended a Convent School.

*'I liked my time there, but my friend Pauline died of a brain tumour. It was my first encounter with death close up, and made a big impression upon me. My family, and the convent nuns were all very supportive, and I came to believe, as I still do, that death for Christians, although always sad and often tragic for those left behind, is nothing to be afraid of.'*

When she was eleven, some of her parents' friends left the mission field as they had no option but to send their children back to the UK or the USA, often

resulting in several years of separation so the family decided to up-sticks and went to Harare, then Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe, to establish a home so that children could attend local school, and get home to see their parents once or twice a year.

*'So during my secondary education in Harare, we shared our home with 20+ young people, born to missionaries working in Zambia, Angola, Belgian Congo and Mozambique. They were House Parents for Education!*

Leaving school Fiona went to Switzerland and did a gap year at a Bible College before studying French at the University of Lausanne. But she didn't finish her studies because her parents could not afford the fees, so she got a job in the Library at the University in Harare; later on in 1964 she was sent to London by the university to train as a librarian.

*'I was out of the country during UDI, returning at the end of 1967 to the University Library. At Pentecost, I was invited by our local Anglican Church to talk about being a Christian student in London. It was here I met Howard, and three weeks later we were engaged to be married!'*

They got married in 1969, a week after Howard has passed his final examinations, and they moved to Bulawayo.

*'I quickly got a taste of what it was like to be a doctor's wife! Howard had to transport a human leg for dissection from the anatomy department to another hospital in the back of our car on the last day of our honeymoon! He was a House Officer at the big African Hospital, and I got a job as Deputy Librarian in the Public Library. Our son, John was born in 1971, and Claire was born two years later, just before we moved to Scotland for 18 months whilst Howard was studying for his Membership of the Royal College of Physicians. I then became a Mum at home until returning to Zimbabwe where Howard was taking up a government appointment. John, aged 4, started school where all the pupils were white apart from one Indian boy, for whom they had to build a separate toilet! It was a step too far! We also felt ostracised because we had many friends who were black'*

Not wanting to leave Africa they left Zimbabwe and went to Botswana where Howard became superintendent at a Mission Hospital in Mochudi. This was the time when Seretse Khama was President, so the country was a multi-racial haven between Rhodesia and South Africa.

*'We loved it! Although it was very hard work with a wood stove for cooking and a paraffin fridge. When both children started school, I got a consultancy with US AID setting up Nursing School libraries all over Botswana. I learned a great deal!'*



The next six years were spent being very busy with visitors and medical students, and Howard being on night duty alternate nights...they were out in the sticks.....until 1982, Howard got a job as Senior Physician at the hospital in Gaborone. After a year lecturing at the University Department of Library Studies Fiona worked for the British Council as Education Information Officer, running the library, supplying the students as well as hosting visiting Shakespeare groups who performed plays that were being studied by O level students.

*'We, also, had become very involved with the cathedral. We had an outstanding Bishop, Archbishop Kgotso Makhulu and an Australian Dean. Howard was accepted by the Diocese to train for the priesthood, so in 1988 we left so that he could attend the Queen's Theological College (Anglican and Methodist). He studied for a Master of Philosophy in Theology on the Healing Ministry at Birmingham University. I got a job as Librarian at Kingsmead Teacher Training College Library. Our children took their A levels and went to universities in the UK!'*

In 1991, it was back to Botswana for Howard to take up the responsibility as Senior Consultant Physician, and Fiona became Librarian and Archivist for the European Commission, retiring in 2000. Her mother-in-law lived with them for part of each year, and Clare, who was by then a qualified doctor, was back in Botswana too. This was the time when AIDS reared its head at furious levels. Howard diagnosed the first case in Botswana in 1985.

*'We were very busy setting up an AIDS hospice as well as our work at the cathedral, and at home where we often had one or two (once as many as eight) medical students from the UK, Holland and Germany living with us. They helped a lot at the hospital and at home, so we gave them free board and lodging.*

*In 1992, Howard was ordained as a self-supporting priest at the cathedral, and later was made a Canon. He retired from medical practise in 2010. In 2014, our son told us there was a house for sale next door to him in Exeter. Our children wanted us there, as they were both in the UK. So we came! It was a monumental leap, particularly so for Howard. Botswana is so multi-cultural.'*

So here they are sharing their many gifts with us here in Exeter Cathedral. It all began with them being invited to lunch by William and Sylvia Burkinshaw, who worshipped at the Cathedral (they now live away from Exeter), and their fellow guests were Heather and Paul Morgan. Now they are both involved with Pastoral Care, Fiona particularly with bereavement support, and Howard as a Eucharistic Minister.

Of course, they are enjoying seeing their only grandchild, a pupil at Exeter School. Fiona refreshes her energy tank by getting up early and spending time in their garden, being with their family, or going on long walks with Howard. She enjoys doing crosswords, reading the books written by Dorothy Sayers and

P.D. James, visiting RHS gardens and entertaining visitors. She enjoys watching TV drama series, and doing family history research.

*'My most important source is that I have a wonderful supporting husband.'*

The final questions always concern the best and worst aspects to the Cathedral.

*'The best is the liturgy, fellowship and glorious music. The worst is that I wish we had a more diverse congregation.'*

Thank you Fiona, it's been an amazing journey for me to write your story.

**Rosemary Bethell**



## The Friends of Exeter Cathedral

The Friends' Council met recently, for the first time since our June Annual General Meeting, when we elected Dr Rosemary Yallop as our Chairman for the next year. Thanks were expressed to our outgoing Chairman, Chris Paterson, as he retired from the Council having served a maximum term of office.

We have events coming up over the next three months as follows. Please call our office to enquire about details and availability of places if you would like to attend.

*The Unexpected Bishop* by Professor Nicholas Orme - Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm

*From 'Lady Woodcarvers' to Professionals: The Remarkable Pinwill Sisters* - Talk by Dr Helen Wilson - Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 7pm

*New Perspectives on Heritage and Engagement at Exeter Cathedral* -Talk by Emma Laws & Jonny Scott - Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 2pm

Our office is open from Monday to Thursday between 9am and 1pm. 01392 423931.

**Pete Privett, Office Manager**

### **Holy Ground is Back! Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm**

The speaker at Holy Ground on 11<sup>th</sup> September will be the Revd Dr Charlie Bell, Fellow of Girton College, Cambridge and Assistant Curate of St John the Divine Kensington. He will be discussing issues raised in his new book *Queer Holiness: the gift of LBGQTQI people to the Church*.



## *Community Lunch for the New Choir Year*

**Sunday 11 September 12:00pm in the Exeter Cathedral Chapter House**

On behalf of all Cathedral congregations, the Social Events Team is arranging a lunch to welcome the parents of new choristers.

All chorister families, choir and those who worship at the Cathedral are welcome.

Wine and soft drinks will be served in the Chapter House and Garden from 12:00pm, with lunch at approximately 12:45pm in the Cathedral.

The parents of new choristers will be our guests. We ask other chorister parents to bring puddings for the buffet. Cathedral worshippers will be asked to donate £5 each on the day towards the cost of this event.

Please let us know in advance of dietary requirements when booking.

Book your ticket at [bit.ly/Community-Lunch-22](https://bit.ly/Community-Lunch-22)  
or scan the QR code >





## **Creature Comforts**

In Exeter Cathedral organ loft, we are very lucky to have some alcoves which are out of sight from the floor of the building.

Since I moved here in September 2021, two knitted Clangers have taken up residence to keep the organists company in their busy round of services.

I'm quite a fan of the Clangers, and I just thought I'd advertise the fact that we have some remaining free alcoves where Clangers could find a home! If you're keen on knitting or crochet and are interested in a little project to make a Clanger for the organ loft, do please get in touch with me by email at [james.ab@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:james.ab@exeter-cathedral.org.uk)

**James Alexander-Besant, Assistant Director of Music**



## **Consecration of the Bishop of Plymouth**

The Revd Prebendary James Grier will be consecrated as a bishop on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 11am in Westminster Abbey. You are very welcome to attend this service, but you will need to register in advance for an electronic ticket. Please see the Diocesan website for details.

Bishop James will be installed as a Bishop of the Diocese at the Cathedral during Evensong on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October at 3pm. No tickets are required for that service. All are welcome.

## **Lay Canon Judith Kauntze BEM**

There will be a Memorial Evensong for Judith on 19<sup>th</sup> September at 5.30pm, to which all are welcome.