



## From the Dean:



The flowers have now all gone from outside the North Porch. There must have been three or four hundred bunches left as a tribute to our late Queen. In addition to the five Books of Condolence, all full of personal memories and thanks. A tangible sign of how much Queen Elizabeth has touched individual lives here in Devon. That's why so many people have come to the Cathedral during the ten days of public mourning: we have been privileged to fulfil our role as a place where people gather to seek mutual comfort and God's consolation at a time of national sorrow.

A specified time of public mourning may initially feel rather archaic, but what's really helpful is that, now those days have come to an end, we are encouraged and enabled to resume our normal lives. Here at the Cathedral, having packed away our black armbands and mourning rosettes, we know that it is now OK, proper even, to remove the flowers, without causing offence to those who left them. It doesn't mean we forget Elizabeth II, I'm sure none of us will, but we have a new King to whom we owe our allegiance, and we can refocus on the joys and trials of daily life.

I'm really grateful to everyone at the Cathedral - volunteers, congregations, staff and clergy, for all they have done to enable us to remember Her Majesty. I think I can say with some confidence that we did our best for her, which was possible only because so many people pulled together and went beyond the call of duty. The Proclamation of the new King outside the Cathedral was an extraordinary affair, with some 3000 people on the Green; and our Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving was not just a fine act of worship (as we'd normally expect), but the practical arrangements went without a hitch. Those things don't happen without careful planning and lots of hard work - all the more demanding with so little time to prepare. So

heartfelt thanks to you all for doing the Cathedral proud, and for enabling us to be what was needed to serve the people of Devon during these difficult days.

But it's not just Cathedrals of course. Churches across the land have experienced an upsurge in visitors and worshipping congregations during this period. A God-given opportunity to build back after Covid and a real boost to the Church's confidence. Though the question that exercises us all... How to maintain this newly-rediscovered affection? For unless we do, next time the country really needs us, the Church of England will be far less able to respond so readily and positively.

**Jonathan Greener**

## **Some changes at Holy Communion**

### **Masks at Holy Communion**

From 9<sup>th</sup> October, the clergy and chalice ministrants will no longer be wearing masks to distribute Holy Communion. Ministrants will still sanitise their hands.

### **The Peace**

From 9<sup>th</sup> October, the deacon or priest at Holy Communion will resume welcoming the congregation to share the Peace with the words "Let us offer one another a sign of peace." Previously, people have shaken hands with their neighbours, or offered other gestures of fellowship. You are welcome to resume this. Equally, you may feel that you do not wish to shake hands, which is entirely acceptable. Everyone is encouraged to respect each-other's sensitivities around sharing the Peace.

## **From the 8 o'clockers**

Donations from people staying for coffee after the 8 am Communion service on Sundays have mounted up. As a result, the 8 o'clockers are donating £100 for a stone for the Cloister appeal.

In the past we have supported a number of Cathedral causes, including several stones for work around the Cathedral as well as making donations to the Flower arrangers, the Tapisers, the Cloister Club and Education, the Library and Archives, the Wednesday Kitchen, the Lego model and a Note for the Organ appeal.

**Elizabeth Knox**

## HMS Pinafore

Some readers of *Cathedral News* may remember the St David's Players 2019 production of *The Grand Duke*, which featured the Custos and several other members of the Cathedral staff (including a cameo appearance from the Precentor...)

After a covid-enforced break, St David's are back, this time with *HMS Pinafore*. There are many people from the Cathedral involved, but there are starring roles for James Stevenson as Captain Corcoran, Matthew Jeffrey as Ralph Rackstraw, Elizabeth Noon as Buttercup and Pete Francis as Dick Deadeye. Luke Stevenson is the musical director.

It promises to be a highly entertaining evening and is running at the Barnfield Theatre from 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> October. Tickets are being sold by the Northcott Theatre and are available from their website:

<https://exeternorthcott.co.uk/events/hms-pinafore/>



## The Friends of Exeter Cathedral

Many members recently enjoyed two well attended events, the first being a talk by Professor Nicolas Orme, and the second an opportunity to hear Dean Jonathan speak about the forthcoming work in the Cloister and other parts of the Cathedral. The latter included an opportunity to see the new lighting in the Chapter House, used to full effect during the hours of darkness and to admire it's illumination of the ceiling. This work is being funded by the Friends.

We have two events coming up in the coming weeks. Please call our office to enquire about details and availability of places if you would like to attend.

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

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

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

**Pete Privett, Office Manager**

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

The Tapisers felt great sadness and a sense of personal loss at the sudden death of Queen Elizabeth II, together with a sincere admiration and appreciation for her remarkable life. She has, directly or indirectly, touched the lives of us all. Most recently, members of the Tapisers made commemorative spectacle cases to celebrate her 70<sup>th</sup> year as our monarch – and even sent one to Her Majesty.

Queen Elizabeth II's life included travels to countless places in the UK, as well as visiting 117 other countries; covering a staggering distance of well over a million miles! It is no surprise, with her interest in history, the military, education and health care, that she visited Exeter several times:

In 1949, when still a princess, she unveiled the new Princesshay Shopping Precinct building project, gave her name to the Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Hospital, and visited Exeter Cathedral for the first time where she saw the restoration work after the bomb damage of 1942.

As Queen, in 1956, she presented the new University of Exeter with its Royal Charter; in 1977 she came as part of her Silver Jubilee Tour; again in 1979 and 1982 and then, in 1983 she attended the Maundy Service at Exeter Cathedral – this occasion was recorded by the Tapisers at the end of the Rondel Cushions in the Nave. She came again in 1995, in 2002 as part of her Golden Jubilee travels, in 2010 and, finally, in 2012 during her Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

So, it is safe to say she knew Exeter well! It is also safe to say, with the many reminders of her across the City in the names of roads and buildings, we in Exeter will not forget her.

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

## **The November edition of *Cathedral News***

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

## **Installation of the Bishop of Plymouth**

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 the service. All are welcome.

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

When the newsflash came that her Majesty the Queen had died, my heart sank because it would be a massive change for the majority of us who had known no other monarch. I also realised that additional demands would be made urgently of the flower arrangers, starting on the Thursday evening. The Custos confirmed what was wanted by text – the last one arriving at 11pm.

There was always a plan in place, but it didn't allow for ordering flowers for the next morning. So, four of us gathered early on Friday morning to strip the nave flowers that were pink, and had been in for 7 days, replacing them with white silks. What I didn't know was that there would be more than one condolence book. I had dashed to Tesco as it got dark on the Thursday night, phoned my daughter and asked her to cut some foliage from her garden by torchlight! I arrived in the Cathedral to find 5 tables set up. There followed another dash, to M&S this time, for all the white roses they had in order to make up the arrangements for each table. I realised how important the books were as Exonians waited to sign them and appreciate the stillness of the Cathedral to pray or take comfort from being in there. There was no time to read the books but one little message caught my eye "*RIP Queen – you did a good job*" which I think sums up what most, if not all, of us feel!

It has been a hectic few weeks as we are still a number of arrangers down, so the committee have decided not to take part in the Autumn Fair or hold a wreath workshop this year. The Grand Nave Dinner has to be our priority. We did a pedestal for the memorial service for Judith Kauntz along the lines of last year's Grand Nave Dinner and put in twinkly lights for her. I'm sure she would have loved it.

**Flick Evans, Temporary Chair of ECFA**

## **Autumn Fair 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> October**

Do come along to the Autumn Fair in the Cathedral on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> October. Over 50 independent traders will be there to tempt you with food and drink, handcrafted jewellery, clothing, ceramics and much more.

The "home team" will be represented by contributions from our musicians and stonemasons, and the tapisers are hoping to have a selection of goods for sale - from spectacle cases to Christmas decorations, greetings cards to cushions.

Entry to the Cathedral will be free on these days, and all pre-booked tickets can be redeemed for a complimentary glass of mulled wine on arrival. See the Cathedral website to book your ticket.



## Focus Part 2:

### The Reverend Dr Howard Moffat

#### Retired Consultant Physician and Cathedral Eucharistic Minister

*'I am the one who looking at my hand, sees not a shape but all the places where the hand must go, and the spaces between fingers where life, like sand, escapes even as I make a fist.'* From 'The Keeper of Spaces' by Enid Shomer.

It is now the time for me to focus on Howard, the husband of Fiona whose story I told in last month's Cathedral News. You will appreciate, I am certain, that when I came to spending time with him, I had already learned a great deal about him. But now I am concentrating upon his personal view upon his life's journey to Exeter.

Howard's great great grandfather Robert came to Africa from Scotland as a missionary in 1816 and his family have lived in Southern Africa ever since. Robert's daughter Mary married David Livingstone who had been recruited to the mission by her father.

Howard was born in Bulawayo, the second city of Southern Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe, into a family where his father had a mixed livestock and arable farm. His mother was a French teacher. He has two younger sisters and a brother.

Living on a rural farm, Howard had no option but to attend boarding school from the age of 7, which he did not particularly enjoy, and meant that he and his siblings saw comparatively little of their parents – not much more than a total of 3 months a year. *'However my mother wrote to me three times each week, and my father once a week, which greatly helped against homesickness'*. They were a close and happy family and had wonderful school holidays at home, but because of having so little time with their parents there were lots of things they never talked about.

The standard of state education was good and Howard took his Cambridge School Certificate and then Higher School Certificate at Plumtree School, a few miles from the border with Botswana (then Bechuanaland).

*'I had wanted to become a doctor from my early teen years and borrowed books from the local library, having searched for novels written by doctors or about*

*doctors. There was a nearby local 60-80 bed Government District Hospital for Africans and I got to know the District Medical Officer well, and he invited me to accompany him on his ward rounds and watch relatively minor operations. He was a very influential figure in my life.'*

Howard grew up during a time of political upheaval in which there was an increasing and understandable demand from the African population for social integration and political partnership. His father became quite involved in politics in support of the African nationalist cause. He was very optimistic of change during the 1950s when the liberal Prime Minister Garfield Todd was in power.

However Todd's liberal and reformist policies proved too radical for the all-white electorate and he and his government were replaced by Ian Smith's Rhodesian Front party responsible for the infamous UDI (Unilateral Declaration of Independence) in 1965. Racial segregation remained entrenched in most spheres of public life. An exception was the newly established University in Harare which was multiracial.

Having achieved the necessary qualifications, Howard commenced his medical training in Harare (formerly Salisbury) where the Medical School was under the auspices of the University of Birmingham. It was a very small multiracial class which graduated in 1969. Howard undertook his house jobs (internship) at the big government African hospital in Bulawayo, moving on later as a Registrar to the teaching hospital in Harare.

In 1968, Howard had met Fiona and they married the following year immediately after his final exams. Their son John was born in 1971 and daughter Claire in 1973.

*'I wanted to specialise in internal medicine and got a place to do further studies at hospitals in Scotland during which time I passed my exams for the Membership of the Royal College of Physicians (MRCP) in London. I and the family had a very happy though busy 18 months in Scotland. But, of course, the weather was so very, very different ! Coldness, wetness and lack of light during the months of Winter.'*

On the completion of his studies, the family returned home to Zimbabwe, where Howard got a job with the government at a district hospital. The country continued to be dominated by segregation and with increasing racial polarisation and hostility on both sides they decided this was not a country in which to bring up their children. They did not want to leave Africa and Howard was fortunate to get a job in 1976 as Superintendent of a Mission Hospital in Botswana situated in a big village about 45 km from the capital Gaborone.

Although I was trained as a physician, I had no option but to do surgery and obstetrics as well. Before we left Zimbabwe an African colleague taught me how to do Caesarean sections. *'I did a lot of C Sections in the Mission hospital, made easier and safer after an anaesthetic friend taught me how to do epidural blocks, thus obviating the need for general anaesthesia'*.

In 1982, he was invited to take up a Physician post at Princess Marina Hospital, the Government Referral Hospital in Gaborone. *'One of the main health problems was TB, but just as control of the disease was being achieved by new drugs, our hopes were shattered by the advent of AIDS which we watched making its inexorable passage south through East Africa and Zimbabwe, with the first patient with AIDS diagnosed in Botswana coming under my care in late 1985. The scene rapidly shifted as the AIDS epidemic took hold, destroying the immune system, and tragically throughout the country hundreds of young men and women and children died every week as there was no cure. The disease in Africa was almost entirely heterosexual.'*

I wondered how he could switch off at the end of the day, even if only for a few moments of time.

*'It was very depressing and I felt dismayed by our inability to stop the epidemic. There was so much stigma attached to the disease, most people just didn't want to know!'*

Howard and Fiona participated in the life and worship at the Anglican Cathedral in Gaborone. In the late 80s Howard felt called to the priesthood and was accepted as a candidate for ordination by the Diocese. The family moved to Birmingham in 1988, where Howard had a place to train at Queen's Theological College. Because of his interest in the healing ministry of the Church, he did an MPhil in the Department of Theology at Birmingham University, with a dissertation on the Integration of the Healing Ministry and Scientific Medicine in the context of practice in Botswana. Three years later, in 1991, it was back to Botswana, where, in 1992, he was ordained as a self-supporting priest at the Cathedral, later being made a canon.

He resumed his employment as a Consultant Physician at the government hospital, later becoming Superintendent. By virtue of his job he was very involved with the development of the national AIDS programme. This included working closely with the Harvard AIDS Institute. Through this collaboration a state-of-the-art HIV laboratory was built on the hospital grounds, and a comprehensive research programme was initiated, which included training of Botswana nationals. Much ground breaking research was done, and this work continues to this day. Effective multi-drug treatment was first introduced in the developed world in 1996, which immediately began to save lives. It took



another five years for such drugs to become affordable in Botswana with a dramatic fall in the death rate.

In the 1990s the Cathedral responded to the pressing need for end of life care and Howard together with members of the congregation and help from the Rotary Club set up a hospice in the small convent which had recently been vacated by the CSMV Wantage sisters.

Alongside all of the above, somehow he and Fiona managed to participate fully in the life and worship at the cathedral in Gaborone. The church did have an important role in promoting the need for behavioural change in the prevention of infection, but also in providing solace and care to the bereaved. Funerals are extremely important in Botswana, and burials are always attended by hundreds of mourners. The number of funerals every week increased dramatically during this period, which gave churches another opportunity to offer comfort and support.

Howard retired from Medicine in 2010. He and Fiona had planned to live in retirement in Botswana, but their children had other ideas! *'We want you here!* So when their son told them that the house next door to him in Exeter was for sale, they left Botswana.

How does this man, who is deeply involved with the prayer-based healing life at Exeter Cathedral, and much else, refill his energy tank?

*'I enjoy reading widely. I also watch the news and wonderful natural history programmes on TV, as well as those about gardening. I love the glorious music we regularly have at the Cathedral. I get so much from just being in the beautiful building, and the friendliness of the people.'*

When I asked about the best and worst aspects to the Cathedral his reply gave me cause for much thought.

*'This is difficult to answer and while I am very impressed by the number of volunteers, I wish that more of them became inspired to worship there as well.'*

Thank you Howard, I have been on a real journey.

**Rosemary Bethell**

## **Prayer Pilgrimage 2<sup>nd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> October from Exeter to Plymouth**

Bishop James's episcopal ministry will begin with a prayer pilgrimage starting at the Cathedral at 9.50am on 2<sup>nd</sup> October after morning prayer. His walking route to Plymouth will take him to towns, villages and schools, and will include Chudleigh, Ashburton, Buckfastleigh, Totnes, Ermington, Ivybridge, Noss Mayo and Wembury, For full details please see

[www.devonpilgrim.org.uk/event/going-in-prayer](http://www.devonpilgrim.org.uk/event/going-in-prayer)

## Praying the Daily Office and the Psalms

At about this time in 2021, Fr George Guiver and Sr Elizabeth Jane were leading us in a Week of Prayer. One of the emphases of Fr George was on the Church at prayer, and how joining with it – with the daily morning and evening prayer and the Eucharist – lays deep foundations in our lives and is the point from which flows the desire for personal prayer.

The Church's pattern of prayer today is a simplification of the eight-fold monastic daily office of Matins, Lauds, Prime, Terce, Sext, None, Vespers and Compline, associated with Psalm 119 v 164 "Seven times a day I praise you" and v 62 "At midnight I rise to give you thanks".

The word 'office' comes from the Latin *officium*, duty. Prayer is work, not a means to gain anything for ourselves, including a sense of fulfilment. So the Order of Saint Benedict calls the daily office the *Opus Dei*, the Work of God, and a motto is *Ora et labora*, Pray and work.

If you are praying by yourself, it is good to know that many others are praying the same prayers. The Church of England Daily Prayer services are designed so that they can be said by individuals or in a group, and is available on the website or in the Daily Prayer app. There are four services at different times of day: Morning, Midday, Evening and Night Prayer. You can also choose between modern and traditional language.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-daily-prayer>

<https://aimermedia.com/app/dailyprayer/>

Or joining in with more of the cycle of worship and prayer that underpins the life of the Cathedral might provide a helpful and supportive structure.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/faith-worship/service-schedule/>

The monastic office and Daily Prayer are based on the Bible, and especially the psalms. The psalms were the prayer book of Jesus; from the temptations to the cross, he often quoted from them. They express all human emotion, from praise and trust to fury and desolation, and the many ways in which God works in our lives. Nothing can be hidden from God (see Psalm 139) and God can deal with anything the psalmist or any of us might want to vent. So the psalms are a deep well to draw from in our personal relationship with God and our intercession on behalf of others.

For any who would like a simple way in to use the psalms in prayer, Fr George shared a list that could be recited day by day each month. I have excerpted these from Common Worship and produced a (draft) booklet, with the chant used at Sr Elizabeth Jane's community for those who might like to sing them.

<https://graceupongrace.org.uk/a-month-of-psalms/>

**Clare Bryden**

## The Blessing of the Serving Clerks



During the 10am Choral Eucharist on 25<sup>th</sup> September, the Serving Clerks were blessed and we gave thanks for their ministry. Here we see them gathered before the service, when they also marked the last Sunday of Morgan Philpott (4<sup>th</sup> from the right on the front row) as Deputy Head Server.

## Memorial Service for Prebendary Francis Coles

After his retirement from parochial ministry, Prebendary Francis Coles was a regular member of the Cathedral Congregation. In recent months his ill health prevented him from joining us at the Cathedral.

Francis died in August and his funeral service in early September was very much a family gathering with a few close friends at the Crematorium. But there will be a Thanksgiving and Memorial Service on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm in the Quire of the Cathedral

Members of the Cathedral Community are invited to join with the family for this service.

## **Not heard before from the Cathedral South Tower**

It has been a very busy time for the Cathedral Society of Ringers with the passing of Queen Elizabeth II two weeks ago. Of course everything stops with the death of a monarch, but at the same time preparations have to be made for all the national moments that are marked by our bells.

Instantly, our usual routine was abandoned. We made arrangements (as all Cathedrals and churches did) to toll our two tonnes 11<sup>th</sup> bell 'Stafford' at noon on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September once every 15 secs for every year of Her Majesty's life – 96 in all. This was featured on the local TV news and was very solemn.

The following day, in celebration of the Official Proclamation of King Charles III outside the west front, we were given permission by Chapter to ring normally; but the bells had to be lowered and put into a safe position, to fit the never seen before 27 muffles on the 14 bells for the coming week's ringing.

Just as a note, for Remembrance in November, we fit one muffle on each bell so that you hear a round of ringing and then get a repeat of that ringing – but muffled, so that it sounds like an echo. But for the death of a monarch, it is rather different. All bells are fully muffled, so the bells are nearly silent apart from the biggest bell, which only has a single muffle on it – so it appears to be tolling, but you can still hear the rest of the bells being rung, but very quietly!

The bells then fell silent for the week as a mark of respect, but behind the scenes we were getting prepared for the following weekend.

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September, we rang the full ring of 12 fully muffled, with only the largest bell 'Grandisson' (weighing over 3.5 tonnes) being heard across the city – with the rest of the bells being totally muffled. This was for the Service of Thanksgiving and Commemoration in the Cathedral on Sunday afternoon.

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September, the bells changed. We liaised with Chapter, as we have a unique set of 10 bells that are in the minor key of C, using the 11<sup>th</sup> of the ring as the largest bell, and this is what we rang on the day of the funeral. It is a full Minor 10, which sounds very solemn and thought provoking, and it is very different to what is normally heard from our bells. It captured the sadness and reflection in equal measure.

Meeting first thing in the morning, a Quarter Peal was rung prior to the funeral service at Westminster Abbey and lasted for just over an hour. <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1547165> The largest bell 'Stafford' was again tolled for the 10 minutes prior to the funeral service. Following the service at 1pm, as the Queen's coffin left Wellington Arch in the State hearse, a full Peal was rung on the Minor 10, which lasted nearly 4hrs and contained 5039 different combinations of this set of bells.

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1550358>

In honour of Her late Majesty, this is the first Peal on this set of bells (the Minor 10) at the Cathedral.

It was a fitting tribute to the mood of the public, and something that we don't believe has ever been heard from the Cathedral before. The bells were so quiet (even outside the West front), but in the Cloister Garden, they sounded solemn as if the tenor alone was tolling. In fact all the bells were sounding, even if you couldn't hear them from further away. It was said by many that this minor key was rather 'thought provoking', and we very much appreciate your thoughts and comments!

The Cathedral bells call, worship, celebrate, mourn and reflect everything we do – please, spend any time you can appreciating what we have at Exeter.

**Paul Pascoe, Secretary to the Cathedral Ringers**

## **Almost building...**

The summer's been busy inching towards agreeing with a contractor to build the new cloister gallery, and more, as the first phase of our development project. We believe we're almost there, and that within weeks we'll see work begin on this exciting undertaking.

The new gallery will connect up the Cathedral, Chapter House, and Pearson building; a first set of new toilets will greatly enhance our welcome of visitors and worshippers. And, in time, a Treasures Exhibition will make available some of the wonderful resources of our Library and more for visitors to enjoy.

But before we get there, there will be some disruption. The Chapter House and Pearson building will be closed; there will be site access, scaffolding, and hoardings in the cloister garden (though there will still be access to the existing toilets, and some other buildings!); and there will be builders, noise, and inevitable inconvenience.

This may all be a lesson in patience, but we look forward to seeing the new buildings rise from the ground, and celebrating the ways in which this investment in our welcome improves the cathedral for everyone in Devon and beyond.

**Canon Chris Palmer**



## Thank you and farewell to Morgan

This month we sadly say goodbye to Morgan Philpott. Morgan has been involved with the Cathedral for many years, initially as a stalwart of the servers and volunteer virgers, and then latterly as a talented and dedicated member of the virger team.

Much could be written about Morgan and his contribution to the Cathedral; there is his deep knowledge of liturgy; his steadfast encouragement and support of the servers and his colleagues; his kind, gentle and unassuming manner, as well as his seemingly limitless reserves of strength when carrying the Clinton Cross (*seen in this photo taken before the Service of Commemoration and*

*Thanksgiving for Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II)*

All these will be missed, but speaking personally, I shall miss his friendship, kindness, sense of humour, and his subtle raising of an eyebrow when we are working together and something starts to go a little awry. I know everyone at the Cathedral wishes him all the very best as he starts his new life in St David's.

**Luke Stevenson, Custos**

## Cathedral Community Committee (CCC) 13<sup>th</sup> September

The main items were:

- Arrangements for hospitality after the Service of Thanksgiving and Commemoration for Her Late Majesty on the following Sunday
- Agreement to continue welcoming outside the West Front before 10am Choral Eucharist. To be reviewed in October.
- Progress reports on Holy Ground, [Sundays@6.30](#), the JPC Chapel, the projects in the Year of Invitation and Welcome, and the proposed lending library of theological books for the congregations.
- Being informed that Solemn Evensongs had replaced most Solemn Eucharists on weekday saints' days.
- Approving a small group to raise awareness and support for the Development Project among regular worshippers and volunteers.

**Heather Morgan, Chair CCC**

## **2020s Development : Investing in Our Welcome - The Activity Plan**

In the next weeks and months, the immense efforts that made possible the Cathedral's successful bid to the National Heritage Lottery Fund (NHLF), will bear visible fruit when building work starts, as Canon Chris Palmer explains in his article on page 13. But buildings are only part of the story.

The NHLF funds activities which enable more people to engage with our heritage, not least to safeguard its future in the longer term. Their funding priorities focus on connecting people and communities to the heritage of the UK, alongside promoting inclusion, skills development and supporting wellbeing. Long term environmental sustainability is also an important consideration.

At the heart of the Cathedral's application to the NHLF, therefore, was the Activity Plan. This is a hefty and detailed document, the result of many months of consultation, piloting of ideas and hard work. The task now is to put the plan into action and to satisfy the NHLF that we are doing so. It will be important for the wider Cathedral Community to know about the Activity Plan, so that we can support and encourage all involved as it progresses over the next three years and beyond, and be aware of the changes and opportunities it will bring.

So I went to have a chat with Jonny Scott (Heritage Engagement Manager) and Lis Spencer (Community Outreach and Partnership Officer). Jonny has been at the Cathedral for over a year. His team is responsible for community engagement and outreach, learning (including schools, some of the public programmes for adults, and the library & archives) and artifacts and treasures. Lis is a recent appointment, funded by the NHLF, with a particular responsibility for delivering the Activity Plan. Another new appointment is Ella Barber, as Youth Engagement Officer.

The purpose of the Activity Plan is to take the Cathedral into the community it serves, and to engage people with the heritage of the building, collections and stories. In particular, it is to encourage people to know that the Cathedral is for them, whatever their circumstances. The objective is to engage a broader and more diverse range of people with the Cathedral. When using lottery funds, this must be done from the perspective of heritage, as the NHLF do not fund promoting the causes or beliefs of political or faith organisations.

An essential part of preparing the plan was consultation with community groups and city organisations such as St Petrock's, St Sidwell's Centre, YMCA, Exeter College and Exeter University to find out what the wider community would like from their Cathedral. Developing and extending those partnerships has been the starting point for Lis in her work.



There are two key themes in the Activity Plan:

- **Re-Imagining the Cathedral** which will focus on the building, collections and improvements to the visitor experience and interpretation of the building.
- **People and Place** –moving beyond the building into the wider city with targeted activities and projects to encourage diverse audiences to explore their connections to the Cathedral.

This month we will look at some of the projects that will be starting in the short to medium term, and we will return to them in future editions as they progress. In November, we will learn more about the interpretation proposals.

Of the proposed projects, four either have started or will be starting in the next few months:

**Team Gaia** (the name is from the Greek goddess of the earth). Devon Youth Parliament and other partners will work with the Cathedral and Liveable Exeter to co-create a programme of activity associated with Luke Jerram’s Gaia (Earth) installation. Gaia will be in the Cathedral for the whole of February as part of our events programme. It will be open to all and we hope it will attract the same large numbers as his earlier work, the Moon.

**Spaces for Nature** will involve local people, families, specialist scientists, members of the Cathedral congregation and community partners in a 24-hour “BioBlitz” to increase our understanding of the biodiversity of the open spaces around the Cathedral. After the results have been assessed, there will then be activities with local groups such as the Devon Youth Parliament and Liveable Exeter, and work to increase the biodiversity of the area.

**Pathways Project** concerns training and volunteering. It is hoped to recruit more people of all ages and backgrounds to volunteer at the Cathedral, or to benefit from work placements or apprenticeships, and to support those who haven’t had such opportunities before. This programme will partner with Exeter College, local schools and the Exeter 100 Club.

**The Riddler in Residence** project has already started- we had some of the puzzles in the *News* earlier this year, but another four riddlers (poets, writers etc) will be appointed to work with community groups, using the Cathedral and our collections as the starting point for stories and creative writing. This concept arises from the Anglo-Saxon Riddles in the Exeter Book.

I asked Jonny and Lis what the wider Cathedral Community can do to support these initiatives. First of all, be aware and interested; offer encouragement; take opportunities to share our skills and knowledge with the programme as it develops. To that, I would add, please pray for all those who will be delivering or participating in the various activities.

**Heather Morgan**