



From the Canon Treasurer

One of the Cathedral's major objectives is to grow more and more diverse audiences and congregations in the coming years. In other words, we have something *great* to offer, but we want far more people to engage with the Cathedral, with its heritage, beauty, events, activities, worship, music, and spirituality.

This is the driver behind our 2020s vision, and includes the National Lottery Heritage Fund project we're currently in the midst of, as well

as other aspects of events and development work. Lots of us have been buzzing with the footfall and enthusiastic engagement of people during half term, who've come to see Gaia; and we'd love to see a similar level of engagement across the whole year and with many aspects of our life.

A reminder of the main aspects of the Heritage Fund and related projects:

- To build a new cloister gallery, connecting the Cathedral, Chapter House, and Pearson building, to improve processional routes and visitor flow
- To provide new lighting, heating, and sound system in the East End of the Cathedral, greatly enhancing the experience of worshippers, visitors, and other audiences
- To provide new toilets, easily accessible from within the cathedral and adjacent to the Chapter House
- To broaden engagement with an activity programme aimed particular at people who've not traditionally engaged with the Cathedral – and working with partners around the city
- To provide a new interpretation scheme and treasures exhibition to display some of our most precious and interesting objects and further broaden engagement with our heritage

And we're off to a flying start with the cloister build taking place at present. I hope you've had a chance to read about this, interact with our social media posts, or join one of the archaeological tours we held recently. This work will be going on until well into 2024.

But from April this year we will be setting off on the next phase of the work, replacing the floor in the Quire up to the step, with a new limecrete base and underfloor heating, and reworking the area around the high altar. The improvement for our worship in the Quire – you'll be able to see and hear and feel more comfortable – will be immense, but before we get there... *This work will be disruptive*. It means that the Quire and part of the south quire aisle will be closed for around 7 months, and that the Cathedral will be a noisy building site during the daytime on weekdays.

But this is also a great opportunity to tell the story of our Cathedral and our vision. We're hoping that the building work and the stories associated with it – the first additions to the Cathedral in generations; wonderful archaeological adventures; reimagining our heritage – will attract people to come and see, to explore, become part of our community. Guides and stewards will have new and exciting stories to tell; our congregations will have an added reason to invite their friends and families to worship, and Evensong in the Nave will have a differently special feeling; everyone at the Cathedral can brag about being here at this historic moment!

We will be living in, worshipping in, welcoming people to a building that is being renewed and growing and developing. I hope that with an outlook of adventure, curiosity, and excitement, we will experience this as a really positive thing. Of course, it's going to be annoying at times, especially as – for a while – we'll have even less space than we do at present. But I know that whenever I talk to people about the development project, they are filled with interest and questions. And they are amazed at just how much we do as a Cathedral in outreach, community engagement, musical education and development, visitor interaction, and beauty in worship.

We've got a good news story to tell – and I'm looking forward to using the coming months and years to tell it even more boldly!

Canon Chris Palmer

The April edition of *Cathedral News*

We hope to publish the next edition of the *News* on Sunday 2nd April 2023. The deadline for material is **Tuesday 28th March 2023**. 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.

Walking and Praying the Labyrinth

The year is turning. Days are getting longer and the weather milder. Spring flowers are already blooming in profusion at Killerton. But there is still the possibility of a cold snap, another Beast from the East. Progression is not smooth. The year turns again.

So in life. So in the life of prayer. There are setbacks. Or rather, there are times that feel like setbacks. But there are never any dead ends. Time always flows forward. Nothing is lost and wasted in life and prayer. This is the difference between a labyrinth and a maze: for all the twists and turns, and the doubling back, just when you thought you might be nearing the centre. In walking a labyrinth there is only one way before you and one wake behind you.

Praying a labyrinth is a journey to the centre. It is akin to walking a winding pilgrim path, taking time to reflect and ponder our interior landscape. Walking slowly, placing our feet deliberately, feeling them touch the ground, helps us to focus our conscious minds and free our deeper minds to meet with God. It can bring new insights into issues we face, patience with obstacles, perseverance with setbacks.

Many follow the route into the centre and then retrace their steps back to where they started. The journeys within and without can offer different perspectives. As TS Eliot wrote in 'Little Gidding', "We shall not cease from exploration / And the end of all our exploring / Will be to arrive where we started / And know the place for the first time."

Alternatively... at St Columba's Bay on Iona, there is often a labyrinth to be found on the turf outlined in stones. On one occasion, when I reached the centre I was facing away from the beach and towards the path back to Iona Abbey and the rest of my life. Rather than retrace my steps, I broke the constraints and stepped forward across the boundaries.

So there is no right way or wrong way to walk. Each person will have a different approach to this prayer and have a different encounter or receive a different gift, and on the next occasion you may find that everything has changed.

There are several labyrinths nearby: at Devon Wildlife Trust on the Quay; on the cliff top at Seaton; at the Sheldon Centre near Doddiscombsleigh. The Cathedral is inviting visitors to wonder and wander on several Saturdays in 2023. The next is on 1st April, from 10am-2pm.

Or you could make your own. You may have a lawn and plenty of stones, or be creative with a lawnmower.



At <https://bit.ly/DrawingLabyrinth> there is a worksheet showing how to draw a classical labyrinth. The act of drawing is also an opportunity for prayer and reflection, then once you have your labyrinth, you can trace it with your finger as you pray.

Clare Bryden

News from the Cathedral Flower Arrangers:

The Earth – Gaia- is still here but the floral arrangements have all gone. The Cathedral was stripped on Shrove Tuesday in order to prepare for Ash Wednesday and the whole Lenten period. The only flowers in there now are the fresh flowers in St Gabriel's Chapel where the Host is kept, and those arrangements continue all year round.

We held our AGM on Monday morning, 20th February, and Canon Morter was able to join us and shared advice and humour with all the ladies there. Sylvia and I have swapped roles so for now I am Chairman and Sylvia is Madam Vice – a role her other half has teased me about for a number of years! The meeting went well, and I was able to give everyone an update on all matters that will be affected by the PROJECT which is now moving forward at a pace. We have been consulted on the draft plan, and we are all on a diet as our new flower room is small. But it will hold all we need on a daily basis and we have been offered a large storage area which, in the spirit of compromise, might help us out.

Meanwhile the Dean is happy with our plans for Easter and the Coronation and he had some good ideas that we hope to incorporate. By the time we get to Easter it will be full steam ahead, and we will have to plan for just a few weeks forward rather than the annual rota we would usually have produced by now. This will all need careful attention to ensure all the ladies get a fair share of arranging.

Flick Evans, Temporary Chair of ECFA

Compline: A contemplative journey through Lent

The ancient close-of-the-day service of Compline, with plainchant and polyphony. Hosted by Margaret Aagesen Hughes (Soprano) and Clare Bryden (Alto).

St Olave's Church, on Exeter Fore Street.

8pm on the five Thursdays of February, 2nd, 9th, (not 16th), 23rd, 30th March.

Free and unticketed, with retiring collection towards the church's upkeep.

We recommend you wrap up warm!



From Renate Helmsley

Dear Cathedral Congregation, Clergy and Friends.

I was moved to tears and joy by receiving an invitation from Buckingham Palace to be given this year's Maundy Money from His Majesty King Charles 3rd at York Minster. I have no idea why I was chosen but feel very honoured and humbled.

I have always considered my volunteer duties as an enormous honour and privilege and deeply regret that extreme old age (nearly 94) and ill health have curtailed my activities. I have enjoyed the friendship of many of you, deepened my faith and simply enjoyed being part of such a beautiful institution which has enriched my life immeasurably.

Thank you all and I hope I will have an opportunity to express my gratitude to all of you.

Yours, Renate

Ed. Many congratulations, Renate. No-one in the Cathedral Community will be at all surprised that your wonderful work here has been recognised in this way. We hope you have a great day in York.

Funeral of Stephen Cook

When Anne last led the intercessions at the 10am Choral Eucharist, we prayed for Stephen. Several people have expressed interest in his story and we are grateful to Anne for this further information.

Stephen Cook's funeral will take place on March 7th, 2.20pm at Barnstaple Crematorium. Stephen, also known as Cookie, was homeless and a familiar figure on the streets of Exeter and well known for creating gifts with painted stones. Everyone attending is invited to bring a painted pebble with them which will be turned into a commemorative piece of art. Stephen's daughter Danni had launched a *Gofundme* fundraiser to help pay for his funeral which has almost reached its target. Danni says a massive thank you to everyone who has donated so far.

Anne Foreman

From The Company of Tapisers

The Company of Tapisers is pleased to announce that a banner for the Company of Servers has been completed and is now ready for use. It will be dedicated at St James' Church, Exeter on 18th March and carried in procession for the first time at the National Festival Service at Southwark Cathedral on 29th April.

The banner's design shows the logo of The Company of Servers: a red cross with the Alpha and Omega and Chi-Rho on a blue background. This is a relatively new organisation within the Anglican Church, having started in 2009. Exeter was one of the first dioceses to be inaugurated within this



organisation, alongside Norwich, Ripon and Leeds. The Company of Servers was formed to help those who are servers to understand worship and liturgy, and teach the meaning of what servers do while supporting their practical and spiritual development.

Here is a photo of Wilfred Reynolds, one of the servers at Exeter Cathedral, who recently attended our meeting to bring the two poles needed to carry the banner in procession.

Diana Symes, Chairman of the Company of Tapisers

Welcome, Robyn

At the end of this month we welcome Robyn Cleveland who takes up the post of Canons' Virger (Deputy Custos). Robyn joins us from Romsey Abbey, having previously worked at Beverley Minster and St Paul's Cathedral. Please do stop and introduce yourself to her when she starts on 20th March.

Luke Stevenson, Custos

Exeter Street Pastors



Exeter Street Pastors started in 2009 and currently have approximately sixty volunteers with over twenty churches represented. They can be found out and about in Exeter City Centre every Friday and Saturday night.

On 5th February I represented the Cathedral at the Commissioning of fourteen new Street Pastors and three Prayer Pastors at the Terrace. I was delighted to attend and find out a little more about the amazing work that the Street Pastors are doing.

The service took place in the Terrace Bar and Nightclub. An unusual place for a service you may think, but it was decided to hold it there as much of the work of the Pastors is supported by the various clubs, and relationships had been built with the staff who also attended. The Archdeacon opened in prayer and an informal service, where the formal commissioning of the Street Pastors and Prayer

Pastors took place (they received their Street Pastor caps) as a conclusion to their training. Several Pastors shared their stories, which highlighted the essential work that is undertaken by them in the hours most of us are asleep.

I have to say that it was a joy to be there, to share in their enthusiasm and to offer encouragement on behalf of the Cathedral community. We must continue to hold their work in our prayers.

If you would like to know more about their work and offer support in any way, use <https://streetpastors.org/locations/exeter/>

Canon Cate Edmonds

Hymnathon to raise money for Turkey/Syria Appeal Saturday 4th March 10am-12 noon

St Luke's Church, Countess Wear are running a 'Hymnathon' to help raise money for the Turkey/Syria earthquake appeal.

Each person will be asked their favourite hymn, which the organist will then play, and everyone can join in with singing. There will also be coffee and cake available to enjoy. Donations can be made to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) at the end of the event. All are welcome to come along.



An Invitation to Visit the Bishop's Palace Garden

The garden of the Bishop's Palace in the centre of Exeter covers three acres and is one of the most ancient in Devon. Bounded by the old Roman bank and city wall to the east, and by the Cathedral to the west, it is a haven of peace in the middle of the city. In Spring, it is a picture with wave after wave of spring flowers; starting with

carpets of snowdrops, crocus, daffodils, narcissi and finally bluebells under the copper beech trees.

The garden is rarely open to the public, but this year Bishop Robert, who says he is privileged to be its custodian, is opening the grounds in aid of Devon Historic Churches Trust, a county-wide charity that offers grants for the repair and upkeep of our churches.

The garden will be open on Sunday 5th and 12th March, and 2nd April 2023, from 2-4pm. The entry is £4 for adults. No charge for children. Please note, children must be accompanied.

Exeter Cathedral School

From 20th to 24th March Exeter Cathedral School will be hosting an Open Week, called 'Discovery Week', for families who wish to find out more about the school. Booking a place on a Discovery Day will offer families the chance to have a school tour and meet the Headmaster.

Parents can book a place via our website here:

<https://www.exetercathedralschool.co.uk/admissions/open-days/>

Candlelight Concert: Cathedral Choir Saturday 4 March 2023 at 7pm in the Quire

Please put this date in your diary now, if you haven't already! The concert will include music by Ēriks Ešēvalds, William Byrd, Thomas Weelkes, Johannes Brahms, and Michael McGlynn.

Tickets: Adults – £20 Under 18s – £5. All seating is unreserved.

Mystical Misericords

Exeter Cathedral has the *best set of misericords in the world!* This is a bit of a bold claim, but they are the second oldest set known, and they are much more intricate, detailed, varied, and interesting than the slightly older set 80 miles east of us. They are internationally significant, incredibly beautiful – and very much in danger. George Gilbert Scott in the 19th century cut the backs off them to such a thinness that they were weakened; and he attached them to overly thin seats that flex, doing further damage. 20th century attempts to keep them attached to their seats have further compounded the problem.

This has been an issue for the Cathedral for some years now. And some of the best minds in woodwork and conservation have puzzled over how to conserve them. And, sadly, to avoid further damage, the back row of the Quire has been out of action for the last two or more years.

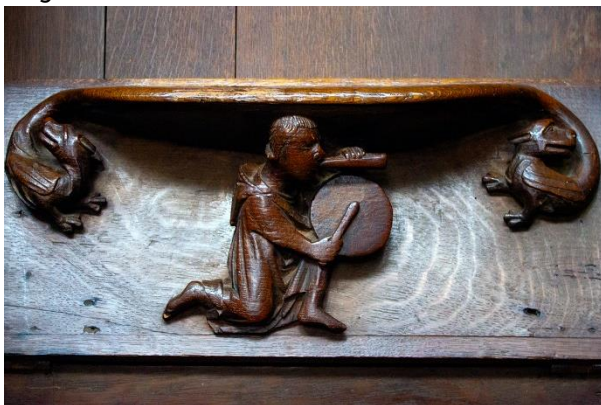
And now we're having another go at seeing how we can love, cherish, and care for them. Towards the end of last year, six conservators met with us and with an expert consultant, to suggest ways to approach this problem. I had the most interesting two days discussing, talking, and learning about them.

This is only the first stage. We hope to invite some of these conservators to prepare more detailed proposals, hopefully moving towards a scheme for formal consultation and application for approval. This process will include the Cathedral's Fabric Commission for England, Historic England, and other bodies.

But in the meantime – do note that you can see them in situ, as seats are tipped back displaying the misericords in full glory. An example below is of a musician playing a pipe and tabor. We aren't letting people touch, tilt, or sit on the seats at present – but looking is good.

Canon Chris Palmer

Photo: Tim Pestrige





**Holy Ground: Sunday 12th March
at 6.30pm**

Hope and Healing Through Lent

**The Rt Revd James Grier,
Bishop of Plymouth**

Our speaker at Holy Ground will be the Rt Revd James Grier, who will share his own experience of Lent and what he's found most helpful.

Through the story of David and Bathsheba, he will invite us to reflect on what we cover up, or plaster over, in our own lives, and how we can find hope and healing through Lent. Do join us. All are welcome.



Lent Talk:

**Tuesday 14th March at 7.30 pm in
the Nave**

***Music and the Inner Life:
Comfort or Disturbance?***

The Rt Revd Martin Shaw

All are welcome.

Holy Week: 2nd-9th April

The Holy Week addresses this year will be given by the Rt Revd Graham James, formerly Bishop of Norwich. He will be speaking at the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday services of Compline all at 7.30pm. Full details of Holy Week services will be published shortly-see Weekly Sheet and website.



Two talks from one of our Canons Theologian, Prof. Morwenna Ludlow:

Women Leaders in Early Christianity.

Wednesday 5th April 2023 at 1pm at Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London.

You can find further information and sign up to attend in person or on-line here:

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/whats-on/women-christianity> The event will also be recorded.

Morwenna writes:

I chose this topic because Saint Paul's letters show women playing leading roles in the earliest Christian communities. Yet, by the fourth century, women's ministry was very limited. Why was this the case? One reason seems to be that in the Roman Empire, women's roles were limited by the expectation that they should operate in the domestic sphere. There were strict social expectations around women's speech, which was expected to remain private to their own household and groups of family and friends.

So long as the church was organised around households or other similar, semi-private gatherings, it was possible for women to have (or share) leadership roles. However, as Christian worship became more public, Christian leaders became more exposed to public gaze. In particular, the delivery of public speeches (homilies and other forms of teaching) became an increasingly important part of a priest's or bishop's role. So, if it was inappropriate for women to speak in public, they could not be priests or bishops.

Nevertheless, some Christian women managed to subvert these conventions. In the earliest days, some may even have been wandering preachers. Later on, women became teachers. Picking up the philosopher's mantle was not as controversial, it seems, as trying to preach. This is probably because ancient society had long recognised a difference between philosophy – exercised in the semi-privacy of the classroom – and rhetoric which belonged out in the law-courts, the theatre and the forum.

My lecture will reveal what we can find out about such women, by focusing on two stories. First, I will look at Thecla, the most important woman saint of early Christianity, but hardly known in the west today. Then I will tell the story of Macrina, philosopher and abbess. She justified her calling by pointing to the 'secret name' she'd been given at birth: Thecla.

These stories are fascinating for their own sake. But often the past offers us a mirror to our own times. Ancient assumptions about when and where it is appropriate for a woman to speak still underlie the scrutiny of women's voices in politics, the church and other areas of public life.

Marriage, Celibacy and Christianity – a short history

Exeter Cathedral – May – watch this space for date and time!

Are Christian ideas about marriage and celibacy changing? Christian churches have not considered the formal blessing or celebration of same-sex marriage until relatively recently. But various other ideas around marriage (e.g. use of specifically Christian marriage liturgy, the age of marriage) have changed dramatically. Until the Reformation in the west, celibacy was agreed to be superior to marriage (a view still held by many Christians). The worst writing on celibacy, it has to be admitted, reveals a prurient disgust in sexual relationships. The best, however, sees celibacy not as denial or repression, but as opening up possibilities, as making more space for a relationship with God. Because celibacy was viewed as a calling, Christian teachers warned that no-one should expect or enforce celibacy. I will reflect on what we might learn from these early teachings. The early church at its best honoured both those called to celibacy and those committed to heterosexual marriage. Can the church today find a way to give thanks for and bless same-sex marriages whilst still honouring those LGBTQIA+ Christians who have chosen to follow their calling to a celibate life?

Morwenna Ludlow, Canon Theologian

Lent Day by Day

Every day during Lent, the Cathedral's social media accounts will feature a short reflection by a member of the Cathedral Community. They will appear on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and are limited to 205 characters, including spaces. This is not as simple as it may sound.

Please do look out for these posts. Many thanks to all contributors and to the Revd Phil Wales who is co-ordinating the programme.

From the Heritage & Engagement Team

Last Friday night saw the first major event from the National Lottery Heritage Fund Activity Plan. Beyond Gaia was an event co-created by young people for young people in collaboration with Four of Swords. The performance was a culmination of a series of workshops with ISCA Academy School, Indian Dance BN, Exeter Ukrainian community and the Pelican Project.

Many thanks to everyone at the Cathedral who supported this event and made it such a success.





Happy Birthday, Diane

Many congratulations to Diane Coombes, who celebrated her 90th birthday on 1st February. After the 10am Choral Eucharist on the preceding Sunday, she was presented with flowers and a card on behalf of the Cathedral Community, and the Cathedral Choir led the congregation in a rousing chorus of “Happy Birthday”. Thank you to Martin Stubbings for the photograph of the occasion.

Diane writes:

May I say a huge thank you to the Community for the most beautiful basket of flowers so skilfully arranged by our own flower arrangers. It looks wonderful and is greatly treasured. Thanks also to the Dean for his kind words and to the musicians for their

exuberant rendition of Happy Birthday. The memory of the occasion will stay with me for as many years as I have left. Thank you all so much. Diane Coombes

More from the Lent Programme

Dust and Glory: Daily Reflections & Weekly Prayer Meetings

This year we encourage you to follow the readings, devotions and prayers in the Church’s Lent booklet *Dust and Glory*. It is available from the Cathedral Shop, direct from the Church of England (www.chpublishing.co.uk/lent) or via a free app that you can download to your smartphone. There will be a short online contemplative service at 7pm on the following Mondays: 27th Feb, 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th March. Please email Phil Wales (phil.wales@exeter-cathedral.org.uk) for further details.

Sunday Book Group

The Archbishop of Canterbury’s Lent Book this year is *Failure: What Jesus Said about Sin, Mistakes and Messing Up* by Bishop Emma Ineson, published by SPCK. Copies available in the Cathedral Shop or it can be purchased online. There will be an in person discussion group after the 10am Eucharist between 11.45-12.45 on Sundays March 12th, 19th and 26th. All welcome. Please let Phil Wales know if you would like to join the study group-email address above.

Cathedral Community Committee 14th February

The main item on the agenda, which occupied almost all our meeting on 14th February, was discussion of a paper from the Cathedral Development Project Group. This group is planning how best to engage the Cathedral Community in the Cathedral Development Project. We were delighted to welcome Canon John Searle, who introduced the paper and the six principles on which it was based. After a lively and fruitful discussion, the Committee agreed that any fund-raising within the Cathedral Community should be for a specific and identifiable part of the project, and that we should be ambitious in our target. The group's proposals were welcomed and they were asked to do more detailed work. There will be more news about this in the next few months.

We are very grateful to Anne Eyre for her continuing work of liaison with link dioceses on behalf of the Cathedral Community, and we expressed appreciation for the newsletter she has sent to their cathedrals. We need to appoint people to represent the Cathedral on CTaX (Christians Together Across Exeter), the Exeter Interfaith Forum, Christian Aid and the World Day of Prayer (formerly the Women's World Day of Prayer). If you are interested in any of these roles, please contact Ann Barwood at the email addresses below. It is not necessary to be on the CCC to undertake this work.

The Social Events Team was congratulated on the success of the Cathedral Community Lunch on 29th January. The Team will meet in March to plan events for the remainder of the year.

When we know of sickness, bereavement, special birthdays or other anniversaries, wherever possible we send flowers and a card from the Cathedral Community. We are very grateful to Pennie Hunt, Diane Coombes and Helen Whitehead who help to make this happen. The funds for this are held in the Cathedral Community Discretionary Fund, and the income is generated by the events run by the Social Events Team. Thanks to the success of recent events, and the generosity of those contributing to them, we were able to approve the transfer £150 to the Discretionary Fund.

We next meet on 14th March. We have already agreed to discuss ways of affirming the work and ministry of worshippers and volunteers, and how best to support the work of the Mothers' Union. Please send any other agenda items, questions etc to Ann Barwood, the Committee Secretary at amb@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

Heather Morgan, Chair CCC

World Day of Prayer: 3rd March

Each year on the first Friday in March a World Day of Prayer Service takes place. A global ecumenical movement. It begins in Samoa in the east, and prayers in native languages travel through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas, finishing in American Samoa some 39 hours later. Over 170 countries take part, uniting Christians from all denominations.

The service is written by a different country each year. This year it is the turn of the women of Taiwan, a country that has been for many years caught in a superpower struggle. The worship service will include Bible readings, hymns, prayers and letters of encouragement for women who face suffering and injustice. These stories of faith focus on issues faced by women and girls around the world, that should encourage us to prayerful action.

The service in Exeter is to take place at The Mint Methodist Church, Exeter on Friday March 3rd - from 10am for refreshments, before the service commences at 10:30am. The service should last about an hour.

Sue Davis



Exeter
Cathedral

Bach

*Six Sonatas & Partitas for Solo Violin and
Six Motets* performed over two concerts

**Rachel Podger
Corvus Consort**



Friday 21 April &
Saturday 22 April
7:30pm

Exeter Cathedral

For more
information
& tickets visit:
bit.ly/feast-of-bach

In support of the
Exeter Cathedral
Music Foundation Trust

