

# **Cathedral News**

July 2023 – No. 733



#### Cathedral 2020s Development Appeal: The Sound System

For as long as some of us can remember, "I couldn't hear what you were saying" has been a constant refrain in the Cathedral. Hearing the word of the Lord has indeed been difficult for many of us, to the intense frustration of clergy and congregations. Hence

the unanimous decision of the Cathedral Community Committee that the sound system should be the focus for our fundraising efforts. The only competition came from new toilets, which was a rather less attractive proposition.

The detailed planning for the appeal was delegated to a small group listed below, chaired at first by the late and much loved, Canon Dr John Searle, who was the inspiration for getting us started, and who was determined that the work should continue.

It's very good to have received the green light for fundraising within the Cathedral Community to begin. We've set ourselves a target of £100,000



towards the total cost of the system, which we hope to raise within two years; this is ambitious but, we believe, achievable. Many of our readers will have heard Canon Chris Palmer's sermon on 25<sup>th</sup> June at the Choral Eucharist. There are flyers available in the Cathedral with information about how to make donations and details on the Cathedral website. We hope for a generous response and to see many people wearing the special donor

badge, a token of our thanks.

There will also be regular fundraising events, and we hope very much that individuals and groups within the Cathedral Community will have ideas for raising funds. Working together for a shared purpose will also give us all the



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opportunity to share an enjoyable time and have some fun, at least that it is our hope.

So please embrace this opportunity to contribute to the mission of the Cathedral, and to its development for this and for future generations of worshippers, pilgrims and visitors. And please start thinking about an event, sale, sponsored activity, or similar that you could initiate. It doesn't have to be on a large scale, every contribution will be welcome and gratefully received.

Please do get in touch either with one of us, or with Jill Taylor, Director of Development, <u>jill.taylor@exeter-cathedral.org.uk</u> with ideas, offers of help or requests for advice about organising an event.

#### Chris Hampton, James Hayward, Andrew Mimmack, Heather Morgan Sound System Appeal Planning Group

### The August edition of Cathedral News

We hope to publish the next edition of the *News* on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2023. The deadline for material is **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023.** Please send any contributions to <u>hmm53@tiscali.co.uk</u> or to any member of the editorial team; Heather Morgan, Rosemary Bethell, and Jenny Ellis.

## **Bon Voyage!**

After the end of term, the Cathedral Choir will embark on their first tour for several years. We hope they have a great time. They won't be too far away and would value your support. They will be singing as follows:

12 July 7.30pm St David's Cathedral, Pembrokeshire Wales

13 July 8.00pm St Iberius Church, Wexford, Ireland

15 July 7.30pm St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

16 July 11.00am and 3.30pm services at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin

Farewell and thank you to choristers Ben, Roisin and Thomas, and to Mike Dobson (alto lay vicar) who are leaving the Cathedral Choir at the end of term, for their wonderful contribution to worship in the Cathedral. Mike joined the Cathedral Choir in 1976 and we are very grateful to him for his magnificent service to the Cathedral-not least for so many memorable performances of Orlando Gibbons' *This is the record of John*.

Alexander Finlayson-Brown our organ scholar, whose superb playing we have been privileged to hear this year, is also leaving us to be Organ Scholar at King's College, Cambridge. We wish them all the very best for the future.

Thank you to all our Cathedral musicians at the end of another busy choir year in which their singing and playing has lifted our hearts to heaven, and special thanks to Timothy Noon, Director of Music, for his inspiring leadership.

## News from the Cathedral Flower Arrangers

Life for the Flower Arrangers continues to be interesting. We are into the summer swing of arranging every other week and spending the "in-between" week trying to keep our heads above water. We used pink silk flowers and fresh foliage everywhere for the first part of the month in order to recoup some of the costs of the Coronation special arranging. We then went on to have fresh white in our regular placements. This was all supplemented by wedding flowers for 3 weddings in 8 days. All the brides were happy to have silk whites with fresh foliage. Two couples were happy to share the costs on consecutive dates. Each had extras they wanted so for one couple there was a rainbow of flowers under the altar, and for the second, pink flowers added to all the Nave arrangements for 24 hours – so back to white only for the  $2^{nd}$  July.

In all this we have had to wear blue safety helmets when going beyond the screen to the flower room which was hot, uncomfortable and difficult as you approached with buckets of heavy stuff. Thankfully the ladies managed to keep their sense of humour, but we forgot to take a team photo before we all finished. John Allan got hold of a blue helmet in order to view the on-going works in the Quire but declined to join us arranging!!!

The past spell of very hot weather has brought big watering problems as the building has become unusually hot inside. Indeed, Sylvia and I left 4 pretty chairbacks on the modern chairs for the Friday wedding, but overnight they managed to slide onto the floor. Luckily, they were easily reconnected early on the Friday and moved to a cooler part of the Nave. They survived the service! I am very grateful for all the work Sylvia has put in to liaising with all the brides.

We are extremely grateful too, to the Virgers who have been doing all they can to ensure life is as easy as possible for us within the constraints of the project works, and keeping their sense of humour as well.

#### Flick Evans, Chair, Exeter Cathedral Flower Arrangers

## From the Virgers

As many of you will know we sadly said farewell to Robyn Cleveland, our Canons' Virger in the middle of June. Robyn had only recently joined us, but decided to move onto pastures new. We wish her all the best and every happiness in the future.

I am pleased to say that the Dean & Chapter have appointed James Stevenson to replace Robyn. James is well known to many of you in the congregation and has already taken up his duties.

#### Luke Stevenson, Custos

# From The Company of Tapisers

As there is little to report this month about the work of the Tapisers, I thought you might be interested to hear about my recent trip to Iona. Off the west coast of Scotland, Iona is a place of pilgrimage: St Columba (an Irish monk 521 – 597 AD) is credited with introducing Christianity to Scotland from there.

My visit to Iona in June was memorable – with azure skies above a glistening turquoise sea! The Abbey church is run by the Iona Community, founded in 1938 by the Reverend George MacLeod, who believe that 'Faith is grounded in action'. It is an international, ecumenical Christian movement that works for justice, peace, worship and community.

Whenever I visit places of worship I look for signs of needlework, but I found none! There are no silk banners, no tapestry kneelers, no colourful vestments, no altar frontals – and the high altar of carved stone remains proudly unadorned. So, no needlework projects (or mending!) for Tapisers here!

The service I attended was led by a group I had not heard of before: Christian Climate Action. Their message was twofold: to praise God for His wonderful creation and to ask forgiveness for the way we are destroying it. Within the ancient walls of the Abbey, it had a profound simplicity and relevance to the problems of today. The service ended with a procession around the cloisters to a haunting plainsong chant.

Iona is referred to as one of the world's 'thin places' – where the spiritual world and this world seem very close together. For me, the sense of history and prayer was tangible – a very special place.

Now, I am home again – with a needle and thread not far away! – it is interesting to consider the differences in worship between the Abbey and our Cathedral. **Diana Symes, Chairman of the Company of Tapisers** 

## Community Hub on the Cathedral Website

There is now a new Community Hub on the Cathedral website:

https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/get-involved/community-hub/

This is an easy-to-find page dedicated to providing quick links, contacts and resources that are frequently used by the Cathedral Community, including the Weekly Sheet, Service Schedule and *Cathedral News*.

There are several ways to reach the Community Hub:

- the new Community Hub button at the very top of the page (or in the pop-up menu on mobile devices)

- in the main menu under 'Get Involved'

- in the Discover More section of the Home Page

# The Vacancy in See Committee

You may have noticed that our weekly service sheet of late has asked for your prayers for the work of the Vacancy in See Committee (ViSC). Some of you may have wondered what exactly **is** the work of this committee, how long does it meet for and why.

The ViSC is a standing committee of the Exeter Diocesan Synod (every diocese in the Church of England has a ViSC) and only meets when the Diocesan Bishop announces their retirement. Its purpose is to discern who God is calling to be our new bishop. So on the day Bishop Robert announced his retirement Exeter's ViSC swung into action.

The ViSC has two tasks, to write a Statement of Needs - a picture of the Diocese, its opportunities and challenges, and to elect six of its members to serve on the Crown Nominations Commission, CNC. The CNC is the national body responsible for nominating a candidate to the Prime Minister and the current convention is that this name is passed to the Sovereign for approval. There are 29 members of the ViSC including the Diocesan representatives on General Synod, the Suffragan Bishops of Crediton and Plymouth, the Chairs of the Diocesan houses of laity and clergy and elected ordained and lay representatives from across Devon. The Bishop's Diocesan Council can nominate up to 4 members and one of these is our MP, Sir Ben Bradshaw, a practising Anglican and member of Parliament's Ecclesiastical Committee. The chair of the committee, Anne Foreman, is elected by the Bishop's Council and the deputy chair, Archdeacon Andrew Beane, was subsequently elected by the members of the committee.

So how long does this take? It is likely to be June 2024 before we know who the new bishop will be. We have held one informal meeting and one formal one attended by the Archbishops' Secretary for Appointments and the Prime Minister's Secretary for Appointments. Four more informal meetings are planned in order for members to consider their tasks, and there will be a series of consultations to listen to the views of people around the county and enable them to contribute to the discernment process. Information on how you can have your say will be appearing in the weekly Roots and Shoots from the Diocesan Communications Department. There will also be a public meeting, 'public' meaning open to any and everyone, on Tuesday 19th September. How to attend this meeting will be widely advertised. All our meetings are underpinned by worship and prayer. The CNC will shortlist nominated candidates in February, 2024 interviews take place in April with an announcement in June and installation of the new bishop in the Cathedral in September 2024. From 1st October 2023 Bishop Jackie will be the acting Diocesan Bishop.

So please do continue to pray for the work of the ViSC, that we listen carefully and make wise decisions. Please remember in your prayers too, Bishop Robert as he prepares for the next stage of his life and ministry, Bishop Jackie as she assumes this additional episcopal ministry and Bishop James as his ministry continues during this time of change. Thank you.

#### **Anne Foreman**

### Diocesan Day of Prayer: Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

As Anne Foreman explains in the previous article, Bishop Jackie will be Acting Diocesan Bishop from 1<sup>st</sup> October until the next bishop is installed at the Cathedral in September 2024.

Bishop Jackie is leading a Diocesan Day of Prayer on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December to mark the beginning of Advent.

She says: "I am calling us together to pray, to worship God and give thanks, and to bring before him the needs of the diocese. We will pray for our parishes and Mission communities, schools, chaplaincies and new worshipping communities; and for the future, including the appointment of a new Diocesan Bishop. Prayer is the first and most important element of our Diocesan Vision; everything we are and do flows from prayer. Advent, the start of the Church's liturgical year, is the ideal time to join in prayer together as a whole Diocese. There will be opportunities to gather together on the day, but also resources to pray in your own home and local community." More details nearer the time.

### Chorister Homes Wanted!

Might you be willing and able to act as a 'guardian' to a Chorister for the academic year 2024-25? Three of our Choristers will be in need of a year-long home-stay arrangement to help them fulfil their choir duties once Exeter Cathedral School's boarding house closes in September 2024. Any arrangement would be entirely a private one between you and the Choristers' families (rather than something organised/sanctioned by the School or Cathedral), but we are trying to help out by putting potentially-interested hosts in touch with the three families.

If you'd like to know more, please be in touch with <u>reception@exetercs.org</u> so that the School can pass your contact details to the parents/guardians.



## St Boniface Way in a Day: Saturday 29 July

You are invited to join a group pilgrimage as it wanders through the <u>St</u> <u>Boniface Way</u> Devon Pilgrim Route. The route is 14.5 miles, and the group will be departing from Crediton Parish Church at 9:30am on Saturday 29 July. Throughout the pilgrimage, there will be an opportunity to stop at beautiful churches along the way. The pilgrimage will conclude at Exeter Cathedral, in time for Evensong. Please bring your own lunch and water bottles. There will be chances to fill your bottles along the way, and some hot drinks will be provided at some of the churches. For more information and to book your place, <u>click here</u>. **To see the full route and to download a flyer**, please click here.

The Eventbrite link to book is https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/st-bonifaceway-in-a-day-tickets-577047995087 The link with full information of the route is http://www.devonpilgrim.org.uk/route/st-boniface/

# Jetzt ist die Zeit!

Now is the time! Or, as the NRSV translates Mark 1.15, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near". That was the motto of this year's edition of Kirchentag, the festival of faith, culture and political discussion organised on alternate years by the Evangelical Church and Catholic Church in Germany.

From 7th-11th June, I and 99,999 or so other people descended on Nuremberg. That was not the only big number. The events programme was 522 pages long! So I was grateful for the app to help me navigate. And I had a strategy. Usually at Greenbelt I look for unfamiliar content, but I decided almost full-immersion in German was sufficiently different, focused on the rich Spirituality theme (prayer, community and pilgrimage) and largely ignored the rest.

It also helped that for an hour each morning everything else stopped for a Bible study. Although here also was a choice between leaders from theologians to child psychologists to Jewish-Muslim-Christian dialogue to President Frank-Walter Steinmeier. (Chancellor Olaf Scholz put in an appearance later, speaking on shaping the future. Kirchentag is a significant event.) Here I was guided by proximity and whether I could get in.

This was the first downside for me: queues and full venues. Inevitable, really. The other was the formality and lack of audience participation. Ironically, the only Q&A I experienced was at "Kosten die Stille", taste the silence, an intro to Centring Prayer that also featured impressive rolls of thunder.

But I realised that Kirchentag for me was less about talks and lectures than about conversations and praying with others. So I observed many of the round of daily prayers, and haunted the Spirituality centre, in the church of St. Klara and the garden behind it, simply watching the sparrows and talking to people. It was good to see so many religious communities there, and to witness the strong desire for teaching and practice in spirituality and prayer.

Some highlights: two wonderful "Walk and Talks", encounters with one or two others, guided by suggested questions relating to faith and community; "Kraft der Bäume" a workshop on the power of trees providing spiritual metaphors through the year; and the giant church of St. Lorenz packed to the colourfullylit vaulting for choral evensong in English.

I also learnt a new word: 'Impuls', which depending on the context is an idea, inspiration, stimulation, or prompt to action or prayer. Jetzt ist die Zeit...

#### **Clare Bryden**

#### What's on in July A Journey from A to B

#### 1-31 July during Cathedral opening hours

An exhibition of 28 art banners created by award-winning artist Mark Ware MFA, featuring imagery influenced by the rich variety of art and craftsmanship contained within Exeter Cathedral. Find out more at bit.ly/journey-a-b

#### Exeter Festival Chorus – Edward Elgar: The Dream of Gerontius

#### Saturday 15 July 2023 7:30pm

Join the Exeter Festival Chorus for their 30th anniversary concert with Musical Director Andrea Brown. Edward Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*, widely regarded as his choral masterpiece, is a large and powerful work. It is a statement of faith and wonder which tells the story of a dying man whose soul is guided by an angel towards heaven, where he is about to witness wonders beyond any human imagination. Book your ticket at bit.ly/efc-elgar

#### **Exeter City of Literature Book Fair**

#### Sunday 16 July at 11am

Exeter City of Literature welcomes a whole host of indie and vintage bookshops from across Exeter & Devon to the Exeter Cathedral apron and steps. Featuring plenty of amazing stalls as well as a range of activities throughout the day, this promises to be a brilliant day out. Find out more at bit.ly/the-book-market

#### BioBlitz

#### Friday 21 July 1pm-5pm & Saturday 22 July 9:30am-4pm

The 'BioBlitz' is a fun activity with an important mission. The aim is to identify as many species around the Cathedral grounds and green spaces as possible creating the chance to explore and hopefully discover something unknown and unusual. There will be lots of family friendly activities including nature walks, wildlife identification, botanical printmaking, nature-themed crafts and much more. Find out more at bit.ly/ec-bioblitz

#### Amadeus Orchestra Friday 21 July at 7:00pm

The renowned Amadeus Orchestra return to Exeter Cathedral with a dazzling programme of Bernstein and Shostakovich. Book your ticket at <u>bit.ly/ec-amadeus</u>

#### **Russell Watson**

#### Saturday 22 July 2023 at 8pm, doors open at 7.15pm.

Multi award-winning tenor Russell Watson will be performing at Exeter Cathedral as part of his Magnificent Buildings concert series, accompanied by renowned Pianist, arranger and writer Mike Moran. Book your ticket at bit.ly/russell-watson-exeter

#### An Opportunity to Wonder, Wander and Walk the Labyrinth Saturday 29 July 10am-2pm

A labyrinth is a journey to the centre, a winding pilgrim path that is walked prayerfully and reflectively. There is no one way to use the labyrinth; each person experiences this pilgrimage in a different way. There are famous mediaeval labyrinths in some continental cathedrals, most notably in the nave at Chartres. Find out more at bit.ly/labyrinth-2023

## Modern Slavery: Hidden in Plain Sight In Our Communties

On the 11<sup>th</sup> June Revd Edwina Fennemore gave an excellent and sobering presentation at Holy Ground about Modern Slavery and the work of the Clewer Initiative.

More than two hundred years after the abolition of slavery there are still an estimated 40.3 million people trapped in modern slavery, with at least 136,000 victims in the UK alone.

The focus for Holy Ground was on one aspect of Modern Slavery: County Lines in which children are groomed from a young age and lured into drug trafficking. The message was clear: All children and young adults from all backgrounds are vulnerable.

How can you help to raise awareness of this?

Be informed. Share information about Modern Slavery with the communities and networks of which you are a part and if you spot signs of Modern Slavery report it.

For more information about The Clewer Initiative read the poster on the Cathedral Community Board or go to The Clewer Initiative website: www.theclewereinitiative.org.

We only need step out onto the Cathedral Green (the Beach, as it is known) or stroll through the streets of Exeter to know that this is a live issue, which affects all of us.

How will you respond?

#### Anne Eyre & Deborah Parsons



## Welcome

Welcome to three new members of the College of Canons who were installed during Evensong on 27<sup>th</sup> June.

**The Venerable Jane Bakker** is the new Archdeacon of Plymouth. She was previously a parish priest in Southampton. Before becoming ordained she worked in accountancy following a career as an air traffic controller in the RAF. There was an inauguration service at Tavistock Parish Church on 13<sup>th</sup> June, led by the Bishop of Exeter and attended by the Bishop of Plymouth, the Bishop of Crediton and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Devon.

She is pictured here with her husband, Greg.



**The Revd Gary Deighton** is the Vicar of Goodrington and Collaton St Mary, and Diocesan Healing and Deliverance Ministry Adviser. Gary's daily swim in the sea during Lent attracted much attention from the media in 2022. Throughout Lent this year he slept in the church porch to highlight the issue of homelessness.



**The Revd Cathy Scoffield** was recently licensed as Priest-in-Charge of Swimbridge, West Buckland, Landkey, and East Buckland in North Devon. Cathy's first job was in the family printing business. In 1999, she moved to Devon with her husband Steve and their two daughters. Steve and Cathy worked for many years at Lee Abbey. She served her curacy at Newport and Bishop's Tawton. A selfsupporting minister, she previously worked as a PA and administrator in the Diocesan Mission and Ministry Team



Devon Faith and Belief Forum Annual Public Meeting 2023

# **Ecology and Spirituality**

"Nature is our teacher. We can learn forgiveness, generosity and equanimity from Nature. Nature is our true nationality, the Planet Earth is our true home, cosmos is our true country and love is our true religion. Ecology is as much about outer conservation as it is about inner transformation. Inner ecology and outer ecology dance together."

# Guest speaker Satish Kumar

- 6.00 7.45 pm
- Thurs 6th July 2023
- The MINT, Fore Street, Exeter, EX4 3AT
- Free admission and refreshments
- Book your tickets <u>here</u> or through the DFBF website

https://devonfaiths.org.uk/



Peace-pilgrim, life-long activist, and former monk, Satish Kumar has been inspiring global change for over 50 years. He undertook a pilgrimage for peace, walking for two years without money from India to America for the cause of nuclear disarmament. Now in his 80s, Satish has devoted his life to campaigning for ecological regeneration and social justice. He is a world-renown author and international speaker, founder of The Resurgence Trust and Editor Emeritus of *Resurgence & Ecologist* – a change-making magazine he edited for over 40 years.

# Discerning the path of prayer

Last month I wrote about how prayer methods or techniques should not be confused with prayer itself, but are nevertheless valuable ways of getting your ego out of the way and lowering your resistance to being overtaken by love. It's a way of making concrete or embodying your desire for God.

Finding a path that helps is a process of discernment, and different approaches help different people at different times. So to start, here are some words from Dom John Chapman: "Pray as you can and do not try to pray as you can't. Take yourself as you find yourself: start from that." God is always waiting for you where you are, not where you think you ought to be.

Pay attention to your intuition and inclination. Are you drawn to a particular method? Does it ring true to you and is it helping? If it really does not fit, move on and find another that does. If it does fit, stay faithful to it and persevere in it.

It won't necessarily feel easy. You may experience some initial resistance, and there may be periods of discouragement or boredom. As the Rule of St Benedict indicates, "we get up and fall down, and get up and fall down…" Like exercise, it might be a struggle to get down to it and keep at it, and it could take a few months to notice a difference, whatever that might be. But there is meaning in the struggle, because it too is transformative.

Thankfully, prayer doesn't just depend on you and your ability. Better to accept your inability and allow God to achieve prayer in you, and eventually you may get a second wind and a renewed desire.

So give it time. Do not be like a spiritual shopper flitting between methods. Thomas Merton wrote in his typically forthright way: If you can never make up your mind what God wills for you, but are always veering from one opinion to another, from one practice to another, from one method to another, it may be an indication that you are trying to get around God's will and do your own with a quiet conscience... So keep still, and let [God] do some work."

Though having written all that... I would still say that it is good occasionally to try other methods, to keep things fresh and gain new perspectives. Or it may be that your current method stops helping. In which case consider pausing. Perhaps after a time you will be drawn to return, or to seek another method.

Again, test and trust your inclination. God is calling to you in the depths of your soul, always waiting for you where you are. And as Thomas Merton also said, "A little sincerity goes a long long way."

# The Two Moors Festival – October 2023

Exploring the theme of "Home" in music, the internationally-renowned Festival takes place over nine days in October – on Dartmoor from Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023, and on Exmoor from Friday 13<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Venues on Dartmoor range from The Corn Exchange, Exeter to The Nicholls Hall, Lydford, from privately owned Great Fulford, Dunsford to St Andrew's Church Ashburton. On Exmoor, venues range from the stately home of Castle Hill near South Molton to St Andrew's Church, Dulverton to St Michael & All Angels Church, Bampton.

Since 2001, the Two Moors Festival (charity number 1095723) has welcomed outstanding international artists and the rising stars of the next generation to perform for large and enthusiastic audiences in venues spread across Dartmoor and Exmoor. It attracts some of the most exciting performers in the world of the calibre only seen in large City venues.

Highlights of the 2023 Festival on Dartmoor include:

- UK premiere of "Alter Ego" David Orlowsky, clarinet and David Bergmüller, lute
  - Vocal supergroup The Swingles take a look back at over almost six decades of vocal artistry
  - "The Jazz Age" at the historic country house of Great Fulford, near Exeter
  - A family concert of *The Story of Babar the Little Elephant*, Poulenc's popular composition for narrator and piano

And on Exmoor:

- World premiere of Deborah Pritchard's new song cycle *Liberty* for soprano, violin and piano
- Recreation of Proust's Salon "Le Concert Retrouve" at stately home, Castle Hill including a garden tour
- Semi-staged production of *Dido and Aeneas* performed by Armonico Consort
- Young Musicians' Competition Winners concert

Further visiting artists include the Maxwell Quartet, sopranos Ruby Hughes and Ailish Tynan, baritone James Newby, pianists Mario Häring, Christopher Glynn and Huw Watkins, violinists Jack Liebeck and Mathilde Milwidsky and the Sitkovetsky Trio, with a talk by author Gavin Plumley looking at the significance of home from his perspective as a cultural historian.

## Holy Ground: 9th July 2023 at 6.30pm

#### Reflections on COP27: An opportunity to think about next steps

**Speaker: Lydia Perris** Social Justice and Creation Care Officer at the Diocese of Exeter



Lydia is passionate about healthy people and environments, and was privileged to attend COP27, the internationally recognised climate conference that happened in November 2022 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

As an official observer, she had the opportunity to network, listen to and learn from delegates around the world on climate science, communication

and action. She will be sharing her reflections on the conference itself and the wider themes it brought up, including the relationship to faith and the role Christian communities have in addressing environmental injustices.

# **Bishop Robert's Retirement**

The Cathedral Community will bid farewell to Bishop Robert after he has presided at the Choral Eucharist on 17<sup>th</sup> September. We are very grateful to him for his ministry to the Cathedral and the Diocese.

We will be making a presentation from the Cathedral Community. Please send a contribution towards a thank you gift for Bishop Robert either to the Finance Department, Cathedral Office, 1 The Cloisters, Exeter EX1 1HS, or donate via BACS. The bank details are –

Dean and Chapter of Exeter, Sort Code: 56-00-49 Account Number: 00708526, using the reference 'Bishop'.

If you send a donation by post, please mark the envelope Bishop's Retirement Gift and make cheques payable to 'The Dean and Chapter of Exeter.'

# Cathedral Community Committee (CCC) 13th June

The main items of business were:

- 1. Initial feedback from the **use of incense** at 10am when the Cathedral celebrated Corpus Christi had been varied, with those who are enthusiastic and those who are less so in roughly equal proportions. All responses are welcome to the CCC and the clergy but we agreed that it would be better to wait until we have had all three of the services with incense before we actively seek reaction. Some helpful suggestions had been made, for instance the request that it is made clear in advance when incense will be used at services.
- 2. The **Sound System Appeal** launch was confirmed for 25<sup>th</sup> June at all services. The flyer was expected to be ready by then and Canon Chris Palmer's sermon at 10am will refer to it and set the context.
- 3. Canon Deborah Parsons gave details of the proposed **new pattern of services in Sundays at 6.30pm** which will include a reboot of Holy Ground as "In Conversation With..." followed by Compline on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, and Service of Wholeness and Healing on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday.
- 4. **SET** has agreed to organise refreshments to be served after Bishop Robert's farewell on 17<sup>th</sup> September.
- 5. **The Planned Giving Group** had met for the first time. A planned giving renewal is planned for later in the autumn. **Heather Morgan**



The Cathedral Choir joined the choir of Wells Cathedral to sing Evensong at Wells on 17<sup>th</sup> June. Many thanks to Canon James Mustard for the photograph.