



From the Canon Steward:

My previous Rectory was blessed with an enormous horse chestnut tree (*Aesculus carnea briottii*) at the bottom of the front garden. In fact it rather dominated the garden. It was a rather spectacular shape, and during spring and early summer it was covered with the most amazing cone shaped clusters of red flowers. I would often stand on the doorstep, from which I had the best view, and just gaze at this beautiful tree in wonder. Its shape was perfect, the flower cones all seemed to arrange themselves in a

decorative order as if carefully placed, and it stood majestically through the wind and rain of spring. Later of course, the flowers turned into something else, the red cones gave way to clusters of bright green prickly spheres, which on turning rather brown fell from the tree and burst open releasing shiny brown conkers. These glowing balls of course attracted the local children, who loved to scabble around under the tree and find as many as they could. I don't think in all the years we lived there that in any year did the children manage to pick them all up.

Each year it was tempting too, to collect a bowl full as a decoration. Sadly after a few weeks in a warm home they wrinkled and lost their shine and beauty. Taken out of their natural habitat did nothing for them and just accelerated their rotting, which in fact was the natural course of things so that new life could eventually spring forth.

The children didn't just look at them, as I did, but played games of conkers. This game is believed to have originated in the Isle of Wight in 1848, where snail shells then cobnuts were used, but the durability of the horse chestnut soon replaced these weaker shells. Conkers has become a well-known sport, even developing into a World Championship in 1965. The weaker conkers being knocked out, and the strongest declared the winner and no doubt receiving a reward.

This simple game though is a symbol of many events in life, the weak falling away to be overcome by the stronger. We see this in the current conflicts around our world, as we have all through history. The weak suffer and often are broken.

Jesus said, "blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the world". If Jesus were to add just one more beatitude, perhaps it would be this: Blessed are the weak, for they shall have God's strength. Though the exact words are not found in Scripture, they communicate a biblical emphasis, that those who are weak can experience the strength of God. It is sometimes hard to hold on to that thought when we see such distressing images of children and elderly people, the weak and meek, on both sides of the recent, distressing conflicts in such dire circumstances.

So much of the beatitudes are applicable in the current conflicts but two verses really speak to me, "blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy". When looking at the terrible images we have seen over the past weeks, we cry out for mercy, that those who have the ability to be merciful are filled with God's mercy. We then pray earnestly, "blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." May those working for peace be successful, so that the weak, the broken, may be able, unlike the broken conker, rise once more into a new and peaceful life. The fallen conkers left in peace would develop naturally and grow into another beautiful tree. We pray for peace in these conflicts, that all may flourish and rise to a new and fruitful life.

*Pray not for Arab or Jew, Palestinian or Israeli.
Pray rather for ourselves
that we might not divide them in our prayers,
but keep them both together in our hearts.*

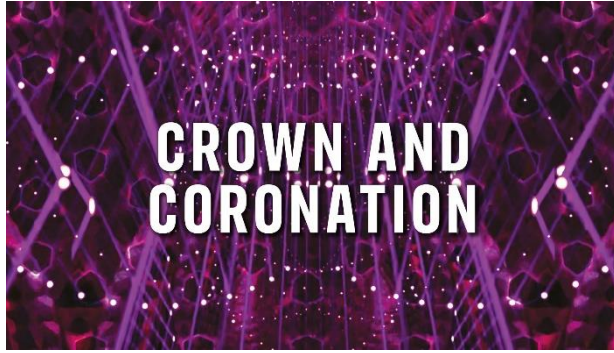
Canon Cate Edmonds

We need your help

Thanks to the hard work of Anne Eyre and James Hayward, we recently recruited a large number of people willing to help at parties and social events. We now need a small group to meet three or four times a year to plan and to organise the programme of such events.

If this is something you think you could help with, members of the Cathedral Community Committee would love to hear from you. We will be available during coffee on Sunday 5th November, and we hope to be inundated with enquiries and offers of assistance.

If this request reaches you after that date, please contact Ann Barwood amb@exeter.cathedral.org.uk or Heather Morgan hmm53@tiscali.co.uk



Crown and Coronation

A new immersive sound and light show, bringing to life the spectacle of the Crown Jewels and Coronations.

Taking place at Exeter Cathedral from Tuesday 9th until Saturday 13th January 2024.

Following its launch at the Tower of London, Exeter Cathedral will be the first tour venue to host this spectacular new sound and light show, which is inspired by the Crown Jewels and their role in the Coronation ceremony. Created by Historic Royal Palaces, in partnership with artistic collaboration, Luxmuralis, *Crown and Coronation* will take visitors on a journey through the history, significance and shared experience of coronations, with carefully curated artworks and bespoke musical compositions. The installation will encourage visitors to experience and explore the artwork at their own pace and to engage with the unique architectural setting of Exeter Cathedral.

Led by artist Peter Walker and composer David Harper, Luxmuralis has shown a number of spectacular sound and light shows at Exeter Cathedral in recent years, including *Space*, *Life* and the *Renaissance*.

The December Edition of *Cathedral News*

We hope to publish the next edition of the *News* on Sunday 3rd December 2023. The deadline for material is **Tuesday 28th November 2023**. Please send any contributions to hmm53@tiscali.co.uk or to any member of the editorial team; Heather Morgan, Rosemary Bethell, and Jenny Ellis.

Kneelers

Those who wish to kneel during services will be pleased to know that after a request from the Cathedral Community Committee, a small number of kneelers are available on request -just ask one of the sidesmen. The kneelers are stored behind the Welcome Desk at the West End. Thank you to the virgers and the sidesmen for making this possible.

Christingle: Saturday 25th November

The Christingle Service will be at 4pm on 25th November. All welcome.

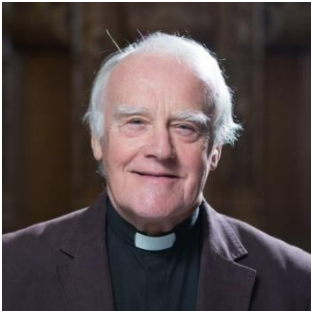


In Conversation with ... James Gregory and the Revd Canon Professor Morwenna Ludlow, Canon Theologian

Sunday 12 November at 6:30pm

The doors open from 6.00 p.m. with refreshments. The evening closes with a short service of Compline.

James has been the senior pastor at Crediton Congregational Church for the last ten years, having previously served congregations in the North-East of Scotland. He is currently studying part-time at Exeter University, writing a PhD thesis about Worship and the Priesting of Creation. James hopes that this work will revolutionise the Church's understanding of what we are doing when we worship. We join in with Christ's adoration of his Father in the Spirit and bring our relationship with all that is around us into our offering of worship in Christ. Do join us in an open-minded and generous setting. All are welcome.



Thank you Trevor

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Chapter and the whole Cathedral Community, to express our thanks publicly to Trevor Jones for all he has contributed to the life of the Cathedral during his time as a Chapter Canon.

Formerly Archdeacon of Hertford, Trevor joined the Chapter in 2018, and since then, we have been able to draw on his considerable archidiaconal experience, not least in taking a lead on Safeguarding and in guiding us through our SCIE Audit, and in guiding our thinking and decisions about the parishes for which the Cathedral Chapter are patron. Trevor's wide-ranging pastoral and priestly experience have enabled him to bring light and wisdom to so many of our discussions, and we have also benefited from his ministry and preaching in our cathedral worship.

Sadly Trevor has retired with the appointment of the new Chapter, and we shall miss him greatly. But I know that he and Sue will come and see us at the cathedral, and I hope he'll continue to offer the occasional sermon and continue to preside at our worship from time to time.

Jonathan Greener

Petition through contemplation

There are two basic blunders that we can make in praying for ourselves: to be too demanding; and the opposite.

What must God make of much prayer, whether it's petition or even intercession for others? Sometimes we're like a small child continually pestering a parent at the supermarket: Pleeeeeze can I have sweets? Or to keep up with peers: My friends already have phones. I want one! Janis Joplin neatly skewered this type of prayer with "Oh Lord, won't you buy me a Mercedes Benz?"

No wonder that God's answers are often along the lines of: No, sweets will give you a temporary high, but then you will crash and feel bad, and they will make you gain weight, rot your teeth, addict you to sugar, and give you diabetes. Or: Not yet. You aren't old enough to use a phone responsibly. Why don't you and your friends go and play outside?

Besides, a continual one-way stream of 'do this, do that, I want, I want, I want' is no basis for a loving relationship.

On the other hand, not to ask for anything at all is a denial of God's desire to lavish us with indescribable gifts. Why do we not ask for ourselves? Maybe we see ourselves as not worthy, or that our task is always to pray for others.

But petition teaches us our utter dependence on God. To paraphrase Thomas Merton, writing in *Thoughts in Solitude*: the life of prayer is founded on the prayer of petition, always aware of our poverty and of our needs before God. We depend directly on God for everything material and spiritual, so we have to ask for everything. Petition is never a mere formality, a concession to human custom, as if we did not need God in everything.

In contemplative prayer, we are waiting on God, paying attention, not speaking but listening to God, discovering more of God's compassionate and generous nature, and learning what is God's gracious will so we can orient ourselves to it.

Our relationship with God deepens whenever we commit ourselves and any situation to God. As we enter more fully into the heart and purpose of God, we realise that God wills to work through our faltering prayers, building up our faith, trust and hope. Then we learn to give thanks whatever happens (see 1 Thess 5.16-18), and our limited capacity to receive God's inexhaustible generosity expands ever more and more.

Merton again: We will come to know God by knowing that our prayer is always answered. Gratitude is therefore the heart of the Christian life. More to follow.

Clare Bryden



Giving to the Cathedral

One of the fun things in life is giving a present to someone you love, and seeing their joy and gratitude in receiving it. It's good to bring pleasure to other people and to celebrate relationships. In the same way, God takes joy in giving good things to us. And God hopes that we will take joy in giving back. It's often quoted,

but still very true, 'God loves a cheerful giver.'

During October we have asked our congregations to consider how you can be a cheerful giver – what giving will bring joy to your heart, and celebrate the goodness you have experienced from God. Everyone who was at worship on 8th and 15th Oct will have received a pack of information – and those who didn't make those days will, hopefully, have this soon.

The message in those packs differs slightly, depending on how you are giving at present:

- If you already give to the Cathedral via the *Parish Giving Scheme*, we are very grateful. We hope you'll take the chance to consider how much you give to the Cathedral, but there's little you need to do.
- If you are already giving to the Cathedral regularly straight to the Cathedral's bank account, thank you to you also. We are inviting you to consider whether you might change to use the *Parish Giving Scheme*, (The Parish Giving Scheme exeter-cathedral.org.uk) which helps you and us in many ways, particularly by cutting down admin and allowing for an annual inflationary increase
- If you are currently giving to the Cathedral via the collection plate or collection boxes, we are inviting you to join our regular giving scheme, so that you and we can budget for regular giving.

A huge thank you for the part you play in the Cathedral, and your response to this appeal. I'm looking forward to being able to celebrate the difference it has made to the support we receive from the Cathedral Community towards the costs of mission and worship.

Canon Chris Palmer, Canon Treasurer

News from the Cathedral Flower Arrangers

A big thank you to all the people who bought our arrangements at the Autumn Fair. Our ladies brought in some already made, and others were made on site, and all sold well. Pamela, the Dean's wife, played the piano beautifully and we gave her an arrangement for adding so much to the whole atmosphere. We actually made enough money to cover a fortnight's arranging with fresh flowers (when we are able to have them again!)

One of our arrangers loves doing a formal arrangement for the Trafalgar Day service, and she does it every year. It is always commented on and admired by



our congregation, as well as the Naval people who attend the special service, so the congregation will have been able to enjoy it too.

Following on from that will be Remembrance, and this year we are arranging poppies throughout the Cathedral, well in time for services and concerts to remember the fallen, so much is lost in wars, but humanity never seems to learn.

ECFA have been doing our "bit" for outreach. We held a Saturday morning demo, free and open to all, and had a dozen interested people there of all ages. Two ladies made different pedestals, and although we did not have an immediate rush to join our group, a number of the students there were more than keen to find out more. We now have two students from Bicton College coming

in for work experience when we arrange. Their enthusiasm is infectious, and we hope they are benefitting from their time with us. Silk flowers are something that would appear later in their course, but they are actually having to learn now as we are staying with silks until Christmas at least. The Quire will remain out of use until after Christmas.

There should be an ad in Cathedral Life this week for members of the congregation to order a traditional Christmas door wreath from ECFA for £30. Please contact alisondavenport551@yahoo.co.uk to order one. Limited number available.

Flick Evans, Chair, Exeter Cathedral Flower Arrangers

Writing the Next Chapter: The 2020s Development Appeal Project Update

Capital Works

We've reached a minor, but important, milestone as we started work in October on the 'Changing Places Facility'. Changing Places is a British consortium and campaign to improve accessible toilet facilities. The Cathedral through hard work by Jill Taylor and others were awarded a grant from the Department for Levelling Up (DLUP) through Exeter City Council. This facility includes a WC, shower, hoist and everything necessary to support any of the 1/4 million people in the UK who need a Changing Places Toilet to enable them to get out and about.



There are currently three changing places facilities registered in and around Exeter at Ikea, Moto M5 services and the Princesshay shopping centre, so we'll be in good company and it'll certainly help cement our status as No 1 attraction in Exeter, as rated by popular review websites such as Tripadvisor. The Changing Places Facility will open as part of the second phase of work in the east end in 2025, although it'll be completed and sealed well before then to ensure we qualify for the DLUP funding.

Pictured left is a similar facility at Bath Abbey

WCs are a focus at the moment, with work on the new Cloister Gallery going well. We've now formed the concrete slab that will become the

floor of the five out of the thirteen new WCs planned. (See picture right). This new WC block will be next to the Chapter House and reached through an original door constructed by Pearson that has been blocked off for some time.

The corridor through the door that leads to the new facilities will have a wonderful skylight above a corridor, providing a view up to the recently conserved Chapter House elevation above.





Finally we're about to achieve a key milestone as the buttresses of the new Cloister are 'capped off'. The tops of the beautiful window arches and now the buttresses demonstrate the scale of the design. During November the parapet will appear. The timber roof frame is now scheduled to start towards the end of November. Work will continue on the roof and parapet until late January

when the 'birdcage' scaffold that is used to provide access will be 'struck' i.e. removed, so that we can admire the new structure in all its glory.

As ever we really appreciate everyone's understanding and flexibility, working to accommodate these major works, and in particular the change in timescales to the new Quire floor that has now been addressed. It really will be worth it. We're on the cusp of delivering some substantial elements, with the return of the Quire briefly, early in the New Year, and the shell of our new cloister gallery formed.

Activity Plan

October has been a busy month for creative writing as we held: two sessions of poetry in the Bishop's Palace Garden; a drop-in session in the Cathedral for National Poetry Day; invited international poet Miriam Cano into our library; created prints for a new Green Words poetry map and said an official goodbye to Riddler in Residence James Wilkes at an evening of Poetry from the Cathedral.

Whilst it was sad to see James leave, overall, this was a joyful evening where we shared recordings of the poems written by Exeter residents, students from Exeter College and some of our own volunteers. You can find the poems on our website if you'd like to listen.

We were lucky enough to have Lily Neal of The Topsham Bookshop to read extracts from the Exeter Book, bringing the Old English words vividly to life. Our current Riddler Aly Stoneman also shared some of the work in progress that has been created during her residency. Her call out for Green Words poetry has attracted over 40 submissions and she'll be sharing some of those poems and her own work-in-progress at an event on Wednesday 29th November. Aly has continued to work with people who are supported by St Petrock's centre, and as

well as telling their stories during the sessions, they came for a tour of the Cathedral to gain inspiration.

We have a commitment to bring new visitors into the Cathedral, to talk about the Capital works and to engage young people with heritage. To this end, Camila Finlay and Nick Durnam gave talks and a tour to construction students from Exeter College. By sharing news about the project, the job roles available and the intricacies of creating Cosmatesque mosaic floors, we hope to inspire the students to think about opportunities within heritage buildings when planning about their future careers. We also hosted students from Bicton College for a Health & Safety at work and project talk and tour with Clerk of Works, Chris Sampson and Project Manager, Kit Reynolds.

Lis Spencer, Community Outreach and Partnerships Officer
Amy Haynes, Marketing & Communications Executive
& Kit Reynolds, Project Manager

Cathedral Community Committee 10th October 2023

The main items of business were:

- **Planned Giving Renewal.** Canon Chris Palmer gave a progress report. There was discussion about how best to encourage people to transfer to Parish Giving. There were a number of suggestions from lay members of other ways by which giving might be increased e.g. plates for donations after weekday services, having Gift Aid envelopes available especially for larger services, making it easier to give by card machine during or after services, having QR codes in orders of service.
- **Social Events.** We have many potential helpers but we need a small group to organise and plan events. Agreed to invite anyone interested to talk to the CCC on All Saints Sunday at coffee. An opportunity to find out more about what's involved and have a chat.
- **Safeguarding.** Prebendary Nick Shutt is now the Chapter Safeguarding lead. There will be an inspection next year. Safeguarding will again feature on every CCC agenda and we need to revive the system of Safeguarding Champions-a suggestion of the CCC that was adopted by Chapter.

The next meeting of the CCC will be on 14th November after Evensong. Any questions or suggestions for the agenda are welcome. Please contact amb@exeter.cathedral.org.uk **Heather Morgan, Chair CCC**

Cathedral Confirmation 19th November at 4pm

Please pray for those to be confirmed in the Cathedral by the Bishop of Plymouth on 19th November

Cathedral Tour Guides

Whilst in the Cathedral on a weekday you may have encountered a group of tourists listening to a guide explaining one of the many points of interest around the building. Visitors find these tours especially helpful, and they feature strongly in the feedback supporting our current rating on Tripadvisor. It is clear that, for many, their tour guide is the single most influential person they meet when it comes to their appreciation and enjoyment of the Cathedral.

There have at times been as many as ten different tours on offer this year. Visitors often pick the free 'floor' tour but, for the curious, there is also a series of themed tours covering special interests from history, such as the Reformation, to architecture or the roof and bells. All can be browsed and booked through the Cathedral website.

Twenty-three volunteers and staff have been involved in supporting this year's programme of roof tours alone. Most receive a week of training to instil the subject knowledge, hone the skills needed to entertain and educate a diverse audience and ensure everyone's safety on the tour.

Guide volunteers come from all sorts of backgrounds and include both worshipping and non-worshipping members of the community. Individuals can select the type of tour they train for and for those with a more introvert personality there is the option to train as the backstop who is needed on some tours for safety and security reasons.

Susan Gunn-Johnson is one of the Cathedral's most seasoned and experienced guides who leads a wide variety of tours and I talked with her about what she does and why. Her answers to the following question convey a clear impression of the pleasure she gets from volunteering:

What is the best/most rewarding thing about being a guide?

- A chance to share things that are special about a building that I love with people who are interested to learn more.
- The experience is about sharing information which is accurate, but also in an entertaining form – it is the building rather than the guide which is important – we simply point to what the building itself expresses and how it has come to be as we see it. We are the custodians of a special place for a brief time – it has been here for centuries and we hope will continue to mean a great deal to people for centuries to come.
- The special moments are when people say 'I had never noticed'; 'it has made it come alive to look at things I would have passed by'; 'that has been a really enjoyable experience and has made me notice and think about a lot'.

- I view it as an important role because for many people – apart from the greeting at the welcome desk, the one person with whom they have contact is the guide – we are very much ‘ambassadors’ for the cathedral and every encounter and interaction matters.

Anyone thinking of volunteering to become a tour guide or backstop should keep an eye on the vacancies section of the website or contact volunteers@exeter-cathedral.org.uk with an expression of interest.

David Owen

Update from Deanery Synod

On Wednesday 18th October, we attended the latest Christianity Deanery Synod (Exeter), representing the Cathedral community. The largest item to cover was the election of a new standing committee for Synod’s new term. Having served for many years, David Smith (St Thomas) stood down from his role as Lay Chair, and Tim Hamilton (St Leonard’s) was elected as his successor.

We then welcomed presentations from a range of chaplains across the Diocese about how they each work with different groups and remits in our community. We heard from Anna Chaplains working with the church’s communities of older people, the city centre chaplains supporting shops and business owners, and the work of police, prison, and school chaplains. It was fascinating to hear from the chaplains, the challenges they all face, and what they each get personally from their roles. We were asked to keep all the chaplains in our prayers to support them in their ministry.

Finally, we received reports from the Diocesan Synod and the Vacancy in See Committee. Diocesan Synod has been preparing for the Come and See Weekend on 10th -12th November, and their most recent meeting on 14th October discussed various matters including working towards net zero, eco church, and the latest developments on Living in Love and Faith. Bishop Jackie has also challenged the Diocese to increase the number of confirmation candidates it puts forward through 2024. The Vacancy in See Committee has now finalised and submitted its Statement of Needs, so we heard from Anne Foreman about the next stages of the appointment process. We were also informed that Saturday 2nd December has been designated a Diocesan day of prayer for the Vacancy in See.

Our next Deanery Synod meeting is pencilled for early spring 2024. If you want to raise or discuss anything further, please get in touch with one of us, Jake Hibberd, Caitlin Lovic and Heather Morgan, during coffee after services, or via Ann Barwood, Clerk to the Cathedral Community amb@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

Jake Hibberd



Focus: Professor Penny Endersby, Canon Scientist

'What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk with God.'

The Book of Amos, Chapter 6 verse 8

It certainly was a privilege to spend an hour with Penny in my home. Before meeting up, she had sent me, via email, answers to the many questions I would otherwise have asked of her in person; she had done this on a long train journey back to Exeter following a professional engagement.

One of my late husband's favourite sayings was *'If you want to get anything done, ask someone who is already busy!'*

Penny was born in London; her father was an Acoustic Engineer for British Gas, and her mother was a Classicist. She loved going to her Primary School, and from there she went on to Haberdashers School in Elstree where *'I received a wonderful education; but I had some unhappy experiences with bullying in my earlier years at the school.'* However, in spite of these mixed experiences, she passed her exams and was awarded a place to study Natural Sciences at Newham College, Cambridge.

As a child she had little experience of attending church, her mother being a lapsed Anglican and her father a lapsed Orthodox Jew. However, in her teens she began to show an interest, when she attended the local church's youth group.

Matters accelerated when she went up to Cambridge. Alastair, her now husband, was already there; she had met him whilst on a student placement with British Gas, who were her sponsors. She began to sing with the choirs of Pembroke then Corpus Christi College Chapels.

'I made the decision to be baptised in the United Reformed Church, where my friends worshipped, and attended their Christian Union meetings. But I think my natural inclination has always been more towards the liturgy and sacramental nature of the Church of England. That has become my lifelong home!'

Penny and Alastair married after her graduation, and they have two children; Miriam now is twenty-four and is an aspiring opera singer, and Martin, two years younger, works in the Civil Service, though their main interests are in the Fine Arts.

Following on from her graduation, the economy was in recession so there were few jobs available; she became a researcher for British Gas, later taking redundancy when they re-located; she was appointed as a researcher for the Royal Armaments Research & Development Establishment, where she stayed for the next twenty-five years; based first in Orpington, then in Salisbury while the organisation eventually became Dstl, the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory.

I hadn't a clue concerning just what being a researcher with this organisation entailed! So I asked, and learned that it meant research which would lead to the development of materials and techniques that could improve the protective outer 'skins' for armoured tanks etc.

The nature of her role changed over the years to include managing teams, eventually leading all the cyber and information systems for the MOD, The Ministry of Defence. She also became a chartered physicist and took on the role of Visiting Professor sponsored by the Royal Academy of Engineering at Southampton University.

'We lived in Kent, and then Salisbury; because of my job, Alastair became a house-husband, which entirely enabled me to do this work, looking after our small children until they were old enough to go to school. He, then, returned to teaching. I could not have done that which I have done without his constant support.'

In 2018, Penny left the MOD for the Met Office where she was appointed the Chief Executive Officer...*'the first woman to hold the role since Admiral Fitzroy began its journey in 1854!'*

During the fifteen years in Salisbury, the family worshipped at the local church and at the cathedral; this involved them being active in roles from cleaning the church to being the PCC Treasurer! When they arrived in Exeter, they realised that Penny's professional role meant that they would have to limit other commitments, and so it was *'A delight to find the St. Peter's Singers. A great blessing to me! All my life I've sung with small choirs with high standards, which required a solid weekly commitment. The St. Peter's Singers work on an intermittent basis, so missing one service does not mean letting anyone down. It's almost too good to be true! My musical interests are classical only. I'm a competent singer, but an incompetent pianist!'*

I had wondered how on earth with all her professional commitments she could find *'refreshment'*? It seems to be through differing pathways. She reads all kinds of fiction, from light teenage novels for complete relaxation to educational books concerning artificial intelligence, politics and management theory. There are side avenues like books on nature, travel, wild places and poetry (which she sometimes memorises). Walking, hiking, gardening and music are the other

pleasures she and Alastair share. They now try to restrict their carbon footprint by holidaying in the UK or other places reached by train or ferry. During Covid they walked on all the 365 square miles of Dartmoor National Park.

When it came to answering the question concerning the best and worst aspects to the Cathedral, her comments were.....*We are very lucky because we have a large congregation in a cultural centre; being able to experience excellence in many things, from music to preaching to flower arranging. But we can live in a bubble experience, which is so very different from the many rural and urban parishes that are around us. Socially it is hard to form links. We, Alastair and I still get asked if we are new after being here for many years! And, I admit that we are just as guilty of doing this! There is so little mixing between the various congregations who worship at differing times in the day or the week.'*

This is food for thought, for certain.

What does her role as Canon Scientist mean in real terms?

'It certainly has not been specified for me, so I think I have the freedom to work it out for myself. One of the things I can do is to act as an interpreter of scientific information to the congregations, where it is relevant to Christian choices and doctrine. More specifically, it is to advise the Cathedral and extend that to the Diocese concerning how they should approach their own sustainability and net zero responsibilities. I have spoken at Cathedral events about the impact of climate change. I worry about the dilution of trust in expert sources, and people being taken in by misinformation, which takes me back to some of my previous work in countering information warfare!

Now I'm moving away from such very serious matters, to discovering Penny's musical choices. *Bach's Komm Jesu Komm Motet* is top of her list; and the hymn is John Mason's hymn which was written sometime between 1645-94.....*'How can I sing that majesty'* to the tune *Coe Fen* by Kenneth Naylor. I was intrigued by the tune's title. Naylor lived in The Fens of East Anglia.

I will certainly join with her in her choice of hymn..... so spiritually uplifting.

Thank you, Penny.

Rosemary Bethell

Ride and Stride Day 9th September

At the last count, the Cathedral Community had raised just over £600 by our sponsorship of Ride and Stride Day in aid of the Devon Historic Churches Trust. This amount will be shared equally between the DHCT and the Cathedral.

Thank you very much to all who gave so generously, and to those who walked and cycled in aid of this cause.

Fiona Moffat

What's On in November

Light of Hope Star

Thursday 14 September – Saturday 6 January, during Cathedral opening times

See sculptor Peter Walker's stunning steel and neon star installation in the awe-inspiring nave of Exeter Cathedral. Included with standard Cathedral admission fee.

Find out more at bit.ly/light-of-hope-star

Candlelight Tours

Wednesday 18 October – Saturday 2 December at 6:30pm

Experience Exeter Cathedral after hours, when the doors are shut and candles flicker in the night.

Book your ticket at bit.ly/candlelight-tours or call 01392 285978.

Festival Of Remembrance with the Royal British Legion

Friday 3 November at 7:30pm

Join Devon Royal British Legion at Exeter Cathedral for the Festival Of Remembrance.

Book your ticket at bit.ly/festival-of-remembrance

Exeter Philharmonic Choir: Music Of The Baroque

Saturday 4 November at 7:30pm

Exeter Philharmonic Choir's 2023/24 season opens with an evening of glorious Baroque music at

Exeter Cathedral. Book your ticket bit.ly/music-of-the-Baroque or call 07989 161117.

The Music of Abba by Candlelight

Friday 10 November at 7:30pm

An incredible night of ABBA anthems, performed by the UK's leading ABBA tribute act, *ABBA Reunion*.

Find out more at bit.ly/abba-candlelight

Come and See Continental Breakfast

Saturday 11 November 9am – 10:50am

As part of the Diocesan Come and See Initiative, the Dean and Chapter of Exeter Cathedral invite you to "Come and See" the Cathedral, its mission, building and people, at a continental breakfast on 11 November.

Find out more at bit.ly/come-and-see-breakfast

In Conversation with... James Gregory

Sunday 12 November at 6:30pm

Join us for November's "In Conversation with..." This month's guest speaker is James Gregory, who is currently studying part-time at Exeter University, writing a PhD thesis about Worship and the Priesting of Creation.

Find out more at bit.ly/in-conversation-nov

Exeter Cathedral Christmas Market

Friday 17 November – Sunday 17 December 2023

You'll discover something for everyone, with over a hundred twinkling festive chalets, local gifts and produce, bars, global street food and free entry into Exeter Cathedral.

Find out more at bit.ly/ExeterCathedral-ChristmasMarket

Devon Philharmonic Orchestra

Saturday 18 November 2023 at 7:30pm

Join Devon Philharmonic Orchestra at Exeter Cathedral for their Autumn concert.

Find out more at bit.ly/devon-philharmonic-orchestra-2023

Book Presentation: Mamerto Gueritz – A Country Catholic by David Gunn-Johnson

Sunday 19 November at 11:45am

Exeter Cathedral Priest Vicar, The Ven. David Gunn-Johnson, has written the story of a rural clergyman from East Devon. The book will be presented in the Cathedral

Find out more at bit.ly/mamerto-gueritz-book

Missing Pieces: Recycling the Libraries of the Past

Thursday 23 November at 7pm

Our 2023 Annual Library Lecture will discover stories behind the manuscript fragments held at Exeter Cathedral Library. Book your ticket at bit.ly/Library-Lecture-2023 or call 01392 285978

Be A Chorister For A Day

Saturday 25 November 2023

Be a Chorister for a Day is a free Chorister open day for children currently in Years 2 – 5 who enjoy singing. It is a great chance for young people to be encouraged and coached by professional musicians in an inspirational setting.

Book your place at bit.ly/BACFAD

The Red Shoes Film at Exeter Cathedral

Tuesday 28 November, doors open at 7.15pm but intro & screening begins at 8pm*

Exeter Phoenix are bringing the big screen to Exeter Cathedral. Experience the festive season with an immersive screening of 'The Red Shoes' (1948).

Book your ticket at bit.ly/red-shoes-film

Teachers Rock®: Celebrating our journey to Abbey Road

Thursday 30 November & Friday 1 December, event starts at 8pm but doors open at 7:15pm

Join Teachers Rock® this Christmas as they return to the magnificent Exeter Cathedral to celebrate their journey. Book now at bit.ly/teachers-rock-journey

News from CTaX (Churches Together Across Exeter)

Saturday 11th November 2.30pm-5pm

**The Archbishop in Conversation: Bereavement, Grief, and Finding Hope
Exeter University Alumni Auditorium**

Join the Archbishop of Canterbury for an afternoon of reflective conversation about bereavement, grief and finding hope.

Justin Welby will draw on his own experiences of bereavement as he talks to others who have suffered loss. The afternoon will include the chance to meet representatives from local bereavement support charities in our marketplace. There will also be the opportunity to remember loved ones with a candlelit walk and time of reflection accompanied by the University of Exeter Chapel Choir. Refreshments provided. Book here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-archbishop-in-conversation-tickets-680867070737>

The CTaX AGM will be on 29th November at 7pm by Zoom.

From The Company of Tapisers

We would like to express our thanks to everyone who supported us at the Autumn Fair in October. It was a pleasant, friendly and purposeful occasion for all who took part. So many people came to talk to us – many sharing anecdotes about their own stitching successes and dramas(!) – and many admiring the items we had made for sale. By the end of the Fair our table of sale items was virtually empty – a great result! Now we must resume our stitching ...

Very many thanks to you all,

Diana Symes, Chairman of the Company of Tapisers

Elections to the Cathedral Community Committee (CCC) From the Dean

Like the Number 12 bus, you don't have one election at the Cathedral without another hot on its tail. So, dear friends, we will soon need you to nominate people to be on the Cathedral Community - where we have five vacancies to fill, plus two or three possible co-options to ensure we are representative of the whole Cathedral Community.

The Committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month after Evensong, normally in person for just an hour or so. The job of the committee is to build up Christian community at the Cathedral, to advise the Chapter on matters affecting the life of the Cathedral and its community, and to be consulted by Chapter on a wide variety of subjects. It is also a channel of communication between Chapter, the clergy team and the wider Cathedral Community. The more active members we have, the more this Committee will achieve, and the better we shall be at welcome and mission, as well as socialising and getting to know each other better. We've all sorts of good ideas, but need more pairs of hands to help implement them.

Does this sound like something you might be interested in? Or do you know someone at the Cathedral who would bring their gifts to this role? If so, we will be sending out nomination forms from 27th October. We will need

1. A photo
2. A statement of up to 150 words about what the candidate will bring to the party
3. A proposer and seconder - to sign the attached form

To stand for election you need to be on the Cathedral Community Roll. Don't let that put you off. It's easy to complete the enrolment form. There are forms on the Community Table in the South Transept, and they are available from Ann Barwood in the Cathedral Office.

Closing date is 13th November.

If there are sufficient candidates, and the recent Deanery Synod election leads us to hope there might be, we shall circulate voting papers. We hope that the election will be completed by 6th December.

What are you waiting for? Get your nominations prepared ASAP. This is a really good way to have your say and make a difference.

Jonathan Greener

Cathedral Stewards and Guides

The stewards and guides have had a busy summer in the Cathedral.

There are more than 40 volunteer stewards, with an information desk in the south transept containing a collection of reference books.

Stewards attend weekly or fortnightly in two shifts from 10am to 4pm daily, except Sunday. Stewards form an important bridge between the public and the Cathedral. They answer questions, help visitors if needed and provide an informal security presence in the cathedral. Some common questions asked are about the huge organ pipes or whether there is anyone famous buried in the Cathedral and, more recently, questions have been about the building works in the quire and the cloisters. Some of the stewards are also Cathedral Guides though several have also signed up to the next Guides course that is being scheduled to start at the end of November. Two further guides courses are being planned for April and September next year...please contact the Visitors Office for more information.

Cathedral Guides provide the public with tours of the Cathedral several times a day and they also provide tours for pre-booked groups. Specialist tours have been developed including "Stones and Bones" which is a fascination amalgam of history and archaeology in the Cathedral precinct. Other tours include the Reformation, Kings and Queens, The Romanesque Cathedral and the Bishop's Palace Garden. There are also tours taking visitors up into the roof, into the ringing chamber and to the top of the north tower. All these tours form an important source of revenue for the Cathedral and are an integral part of our Visitor Offer.

So, next time you are in, why not pop along to the Stewards' Desk and have a chat?

Rachel Lupton and Anne Gordon

Come and Pray: Prayer and Worship Gathering Saturday 2nd December 11am-4pm

Bishop Jackie is inviting people across Devon to take part in a Diocesan Day of Prayer, *Come and Pray*, on Saturday 2nd December.

This will feature different forms of prayer, prayer stations for all ages, acts of worship led by Bishop Jackie and Bishop James, and music from the Christian singer-songwriter Andy Flanagan and the Exe Valley Community Choir. It will end with carols in the Christmas Market.

You can stay for all or part of it and the main worship will be livestreamed.