



From the Dean



The early Christian philosopher Justin Martyr once explained to Trypho the Jew, that there would be “two Advents of Christ; one in which He will appear in suffering and without honour or beauty: the second in which He will return in glory to judge all men.”

The first Advent has happened: when Jesus was born of Mary. As prophesied by Isaiah and recalled by Handel, salvation would come through “a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.” But the second Advent is yet to come. So here we are in a season which has for many centuries had a dual significance; we look back 2000 years to that first Christmas, and Christ’s coming in the flesh, but we look forward also, with awe and trepidation, to the end time, when we shall all be summoned to appear before the Judgement Seat of Almighty God.

We have heard often enough the prophecies of the Old Testament, talking about the reign of God, and we have rushed to explain them in terms of the coming of Jesus Christ. But if we listen carefully to the Gospels, we realise that while God’s Kingdom is upon us, it is yet to come in all its fullness. That sounds like a paradox - much of the New Testament is – but how else are we to explain both the sufferings of this present age and the pitiful shortcomings of Christ’s Church? We are, in short, people who live in between times. Our hopes and expectations are rooted in history. But we are still a people on the move, we are still a people looking forward to a glorious new age.

Like people crossing the road, then, the next four weeks invite us to look in both directions - both backwards and forwards. And as we do that with regard to the world and the coming of Christ, we might want to take time to do something similar with our own lives. Reviewing the past year, the ways in which we’ve grown as Christian people and as a Christian community; and looking forward, considering where a re-boot may be required, what tweaks and modifications we are minded or indeed called to make. In my experience, it’s very easy for life to carry us forward, like an escalator, doing what we’ve always done, responding to external demands and pressures, without really ever taking control. But Advent

is a good time to grip the tiller a little more firmly, and re-direct where we are heading: to enable us to live a little more faithfully, hopefully and lovingly in the coming year.

I hope you have a holy Advent and a very happy Christmas.

Jonathan

The January Edition of *Cathedral News*

We hope to publish the next edition of the *News* on Sunday 7th January 2024. The deadline for material is **Tuesday 2nd January 2024**. 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.



Welcome to Alysha

A very warm welcome to Alysha. We asked her to introduce herself to readers of the News.

Hi Everyone!

I'm Alysha, the new HR Generalist and Volunteer Recruiter. I will be looking after all things HR as well as volunteer recruitment. I have only been living in Exeter since August, so please pardon the Belfast accent when we meet! I am so looking forward to meeting everyone and getting to know all about Cathedral life.

Best wishes,

Alysha

Praying our Gratitude

In October and November, I wrote about intercession and petition, teaching us our utter dependence on God. Now, 'tis the season to go deeper into gratitude, at the heart of the Christian life, indeed of all life.

As shown by hundreds of scientific studies, practising gratitude increases happiness, reduces the risk of depression, increases resilience, and improves relationships. Gratitude reminds us of abundance and leads to an attitude of contentment, interdependence, and respect for Creation and Creator.

Our consumer society needs emptiness, creating unmet desires in order to grow. So contentment, recognising abundance instead of scarcity, is radical. Gratitude leads us to realise that contentment comes through gift not a purchase.

Further, gratitude generates a cycle of reciprocity: receiving thanks makes the giver more inclined to give more, and leads to further abundance. Do we thank and encourage our politicians when they make positive changes? Or do we appreciate those who have been campaigning on our behalf, for eg equal rights or a liveable planet, and celebrate victories that help us maintain hope? I hope that I never take for granted the present relative peace in the UK.

Nor must I take my faith and relationship with God for granted, but practise gratitude continually. God desires to lavish us with inexhaustible gifts, and gratitude expands my limited capacity to receive God's generosity. In response let us give thanks at all times and for everything (Eph 5.20).

At the beginning of the day, whenever they gather before anything else is done, the native American Haudenosaunee people offer the Thanksgiving Address to the land, setting gratitude as the highest priority. This slowing down, to receive, sanctify the gift, and increase attentiveness to the giver, also lies behind saying grace before meals and many other rituals.

So during the day, slowing down a little heightens my awareness of God's simple giftings. Then I can give thanks in the moment.

At the end of the day, remembering a few things for which I am grateful might show it in a different light. Noting these down helps me renew my gratitude later. And lastly, looking back over my life shows me how God's grace has been working in ways great and small.

In all, "Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift!" (2 Cor 9.15)

Science of Happiness gratitude practices – <https://ggia.berkeley.edu/>
Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address – <https://bit.ly/thxaddress>

Clare Bryden

From The Company of Tapisers

“If a thing is worth doing, do it well - no matter how long it takes!”

These words remind me of my father and the advice he used to give me, as a young child, when I was impatient to see something finished! These wise words aptly apply to the Tapisers today.

People often express surprise when told how long it takes us to complete each piece of work we make. Remembering that our work is HAND stitched – not machined – many hours are needed to create our needlework.

Tapestry kneelers, when made for the Nave and the Quire, took 300 hours to make each one! A staggering 350 kneelers were made for the Nave and an additional 150 kneelers for the Quire – a total of 500 kneelers which equates to 150,000 hours of stitching. This total doesn't include the time needed for drawing up the designs.

At present, the textile group are involved in making a dalmatic, a tunicle and stole. Part of this project is the creation of a goldwork crown. Look closely at the photograph to see how many individual stitches have been worked – taking over 60 hours so far – each one placed with skill and patience. The final result will be stunning. Hopefully, you will see the finished vestment in use in the Cathedral by Easter next year. Next time you see our work – be it tapestry or embroidery – take a moment to stop and consider the dedication and time commitment that it represents.



Meanwhile, The Company of Tapisers would like to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmastide.

Diana Symes, Chairman of the Company of Tapisers

“Trust in the Process...”

‘Trust in the Process’ is a phrase which anyone who has any experience of discernment for priesthood may know well. Having begun that ‘process’ internally ‘trusting’ it was hard, especially when one is first trying to understand what it is God may be saying to you about a possible calling. There are no terms of reference at the start. The ‘process’ appears to be nebulous. It’s inner conversations during prayer, conversations with family, friends in the congregation, and guidance from your incumbent.

Whilst Canon Deborah and all around me were and are very supportive and listened, what I came to realise was I needed a more tangible framework; a way in which to explore my calling and how it was expressing itself outwardly. Canon Morter came to the rescue with a forwarded email about the ‘Foundations in Christian Ministry’ course provided by the South West Ministry Training Course.

I followed the link in the email and had a look at the website. The course’s aims:

- to deepen your Christian **discipleship**
- to give you a grounded SWMTC **understanding** of the Bible, Christian theology, and spirituality
- to help form your **gifts** for ministry and discern God’s call for your next step
- to provide you with a foundation for **further training**

This appeared to be exactly what I required. I applied, had a Zoom conversation (interview) and was offered a place which I duly accepted with excitement. I have now completed 3 study days and have been blessed in learning and exploring my calling alongside a diverse group of other people in a genuine learning community. The course is providing a space in which to talk about and explore what God is saying to me with other people on similar if not the same journeys. It’s not so much what one learns academically, although this is proving to be enlightening and thoroughly enjoyable, but what one learns about oneself. One of the questions Bishop Robert posed me was “who is the real Jeremy, the Jeremy that God knows and sees?” This course is offering me the chance to explore that idea and see where my faith and spirituality sit within the broader church.

The course is essential for those exploring a lay ministry particularly as a Lay Licensed Minister (Reader) as it forms a foundation course for the 2-year LLM course. I am now in the ‘formal process’ and have an Assistant Diocesan Director of Ordinands who is guiding me through this part of my discernment. However,

the course is still there for me, and a valuable and welcome part of the process. It has helped me 'trust' the process in the sense of feeling a direction of travel.

Whether my journey ultimately leads to ordination only God will know (and I guess those Bishop's advisers who are tasked with determining that call), but my learning journey on the course has brought me closer to God.

Jeremy Rawlings

News from the Cathedral Flower Arrangers

We are now approaching the finale of the year when the Cathedral is mega busy and we are all on show for the many concerts, both daytime and evening, the many extra visitors who pop in whilst at the Christmas Market and for those taking time out in preparations for the holidays.

The flower arrangers have been affected once again by events and have had to arrange for Advent two weeks in advance of the Advent period. We spent hours planning the pillars, purchasing, practising and finally arranging on 17th November. I do hope you will appreciate them as they are there until just before Christmas – five weeks in all. Far longer than normal. The Advent Candle will be there from 1st December and will be mainly fresh materials. We are grateful to Leila for making this for us all.

As at Christmas itself we will be fairly squashed into the Nave, we will have six pillar arrangements plus one at the Golden Gates and several around the smaller chapels, but only if we have arrangers and time on arranging day.

We are offering to help you out over your holiday preparations – by making your traditional Christmas Wreath for the front door. This would need to be ordered by emailing alisondavenport551@yahoo.co.uk who will take your order and make payment arrangements of £30 with you. We are making them before 15th December and they can be delivered locally or collected from the Cathedral. We would so appreciate your help in our fundraising.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the Virgers and Works staff who support us through the year for their smiles and co-operation, and wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and hope for peace for all around the world in the New Year.

Flick Evans, Chair, Exeter Cathedral Flower Arrangers

Strictly.....Come Singing!

A first for me was to attend a Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday 27th, and fascinating it was to be squashed into the Sacristy to hear an update on the Cathedral Building Project. Well, for the 'Cathedral Building Project' read the 'Cathedral History in the Making Project', for that is what this amazing project really is! The new Devon Marble floor is being laid in the Quire, the cloister roof reached, the entrance to the new Treasure Gallery taking shape and exciting as this information was, what really blew me away was learning about Choral Outreach Project!!

I had no idea! Timothy Noon and Andrew Downton have introduced singing to hundreds of school children in Devon. From youngsters already part of a choir, to those for whom singing with others was a new experience. The obvious, skill, enthusiasm and commitment of Tim and Andrew was evident and inspirational and a wonderful example of the Cathedral truly reaching out and serving the community. Please could we hear more about this aspect of their work in a future Cathedral News?

Anne Foreman

Ed. The answer to Anne's question is yes!!

Exeter Nativity

Sunday 17 December at 4pm, doors open at 3:15pm

The Exeter Nativity returns, with a star studded cast taking the parts of all the well-known members of the story and some not so well known. Of course, we have Mary and Joseph, Wise Men, Shepherds, King Herod and Gabriel. But did you ever hear about the gossips of Nazareth and what about the Innkeeper's wife, without whom there would be no stable scene. There are King Herod's handmaids, one feeding him chocolate the other pouring him wine but drinking most of it herself! However, the real stars are Harry and George, the llamas who dress up as very convincing, if slightly diminutive, camels.

This is a re-telling of the Christmas story for children, adults and the young at heart of any age. It is brought to you by the staff of Exeter Cathedral and their friends and generously sponsored by C Tax – Christians Together Across Exeter.

Please book your free ticket to attend at bit.ly/exeter-nativity

Advent Course 2023: "The Bible says....?"

The Revd Professor Christopher Bryan

This four-session course began on Thursday 23rd November, and continued on 30th November, with further sessions on 7th and 14th December from 10.30-11.45am in the Sacristy. To book a place on the course or for more information, please contact Chris on cbryan@sewanee.edu

What's On in December

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

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

Candlelight Tours

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

THESE EVENTS ARE SOLD OUT

Souls of Our Shoes

Saturday 25 November – Sunday 10 December, during Cathedral opening hours

Part of Mothers' Union's Rise Up Against Domestic Abuse campaign. An exhibition to raise awareness around domestic abuse.

Find out more at bit.ly/souls-of-our-shoes.

Lux Muralis: Crown and Coronation

Tuesday 9-Saturday 13 January

A new immersive sound and light show, bringing to life the spectacle of the Crown Jewels and Coronations created by Historic Royal Palaces in partnership with artistic collaboration, Luxmuralis.

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.

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

Book your ticket and: bit.ly/crown-exeter

Lord Mayor's Christmas Carol Service

Monday 4 December at 2pm

The Lord Mayor of Exeter and Dean & Chapter of Exeter Cathedral will once again be holding a Christmas Carol Service in Exeter Cathedral.

Find out more at bit.ly/carol-service-ec.

Exeter School Charity Christmas Concert

Tuesday 5 December at 7:30pm

Exeter School's annual Charity Christmas Concert, this year in aid of WaterAid. The musicians of Exeter School will provide a joyful start to the festive period with a concert of seasonal music and readings.

Book now at bit.ly/Exeter-School-Charity-Concert.

Christmas with the Cathedral Choir

Wednesday 6, Friday 8 & Monday 11 December at 7pm

Exeter Cathedral's renowned choir returns for the most popular Christmas carol concerts of the year, a highlight of the festive season.

Book now at bit.ly/christmas-ec-choir or call 01392 285978.

Library & Archives In Focus: Christmas in the Corners

Thursday 7 December, 11am-1pm

Our final In Focus of the year is a celebration of Christmas. Come along to discover the Christmas story in some of the smallest pictures in the Library!

Find out more at bit.ly/christmas-corners.

The Mediaeval Baebes: The Procession Christmas Concert

Saturday 9 December 7:30pm

With uplifting vocals and a torch lit procession, The Mediaeval Baebes will wind their way towards Exeter Cathedral, on Saturday 9 December.

Book now at bit.ly/mediaevel-baebes-exeter.

Handel's Messiah with Exeter Cathedral Choir

Sunday 10 December at 2:30pm

The Exeter Cathedral Choir will be teaming up with early-music specialists Devon Baroque for a seasonal performance of Handel's Messiah.

Book now at bit.ly/ec-messiah.

Exeter Philharmonic Choir – Carols in the Cathedral

Tuesday 12 and Wednesday 13 December at 7:30pm

Exeter Philharmonic Choir is delighted once again to celebrate the festive season with two nights of Carols in Exeter Cathedral.

Book now at bit.ly/epc-cathedral-carols.

La La Choirs Christmas Concert

Friday 15 December at 7.30pm

THIS EVENTS HAS SOLD OUT.

Exeter Chamber Choir: Christmas by Candlelight

Saturday 16 December at 7:30pm

THIS EVENT HAS SOLD OUT.

Cloister Club Christmas

Sunday 17 December 10am-5pm

Join our Christmas special Cloister Club. Children will enjoy a whole day of fun, engaging activities!

Find out more at bit.ly/cloister-club-christmas.

Family Friendly Christmas Workshop: Make Your Own Celestial Map

Monday 18 – Friday 22 December, 11am-12pm

A fun, family friendly Christmas workshop for the holidays! Come to Exeter Cathedral to create your own celestial map.

Book now at bit.ly/EC-Christmas-Workshop.

Lunchtime Carols

Tuesday 19 and Thursday 21 December at 1pm

Enjoy a joyful sing-along of popular Christmas Carols with seasonal readings.

Find out more at bit.ly/lunchtime-carols.

Hospiscare Light Up a Life Service

Wednesday 20 December at 6:45pm

Everyone is invited to gather together at the Light Up a Life service, to honour the lives of loved ones with readings, poetry, music and the lighting of candles.

Find out more at bit.ly/hospiscare-christmas-2023.

Viennese Christmas Spectacular

Friday 22 December at 7:30pm

Always a winning concert, with a combination of pieces that the London Concertante's audience loves, this concert celebrates the magic of Christmas and brings people together for a sensational evening of wonderful music.

Book now at bit.ly/viennese-christmas-2023.

Full details of all events are on the Cathedral website. If you have difficulty booking tickets online to any events, please either call in person at the Cathedral Office or email events@exeter-cathedral.org.uk.

'There is no room at the Inn': Advent Reflections

The Melanesian Mission UK is sharing an Advent reflection video each Sunday from now until Christmas. The videos feature the Community of the Sisters of the Church in the Solomon Islands, and they will share reflections around the theme: 'There is no room at the Inn' and what that means for us today, making room for God in our lives during the business of this season.

[Click here](#) to watch the first video. For more information on the Community of the Sisters of the Church, [click here](#).

Christmas Services

Saturday 23rd December

12 noon Crib Service

6pm Grandisson Carol Service (book free tickets at bit.ly/grandisson-2023)

Christmas Eve

6pm Grandisson Carol Service (book free tickets at bit.ly/grandisson-2023.)

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10am Choral Eucharist

11.45am Choral Mattins

4pm Choral Evensong including carols from the Minstrels' Gallery



An Opportunity to Wonder and Wander and Walk the Labyrinth in 2024.....

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.

Our labyrinth will be available for people to pray with on Saturday 6th January 2024, Saturday 23rd March, Saturday 4th May, Saturday 22nd June, Saturday 31st August and Saturday 28th September and 26th October from 1100 a.m. -3.00 p.m.

Do join us!

Canon Deborah Parsons

In Conversation with The Revd Canon Professor Richard A. Burridge



Sunday 14th January at 6.30pm

Doors open from 6.00 p.m.
Refreshments available

The evening closes with a short service of compline.
All are welcome.

Proving the gospels ARE about Jesus - the adventures of a biblical scholar.

Richard will engage in conversation with Revd. Canon Dr. Chris Palmer about his work as a scholar of the Gospels. Talking through his own biography, he will explore his work on understanding the Gospels as 'biography', shedding light on our understanding of Jesus.'

The Revd Canon Professor Richard A. Burridge is an internationally recognised biblical scholar, ethicist, theologian and social commentator. He was Dean of King's College London from 1993 to 2019. Now a Research Fellow in the Department of Theology at the University of Manchester, and a Visiting Professor at Virginia Theological Seminary, USA, he devotes his time to research and writing, as well as his public ministry lecturing and undertaking theological training for clergy and lay people.

In addition to his academic work his best-selling Four Gospels, One Jesus? has made biblical scholarship accessible to a wider audience. His academic scholarship and his contribution to the life of the world-wide church was recognised when he was awarded the 2013 Ratzinger Prize by Pope Francis, the first non-Roman Catholic to receive this prestigious prize.

Richard is particularly passionate about the way Mark was written to be heard, rather than read, and his translation from that perspective helps the gospel leap from the page into our imagination."

An Epiphany-Lent Study Group on the Gospel according to St Mark

The Revd Canon Professor Richard A. Burridge

What? The Seven Week Course will look at Mark's account of Jesus' ministry of teaching and healing, the origins of the conflict with the religious leaders of his day, Mark's discussion of Jesus' identity and mission, as well as prepare us for Holy Week through Mark's narrative of the Passion and Crucifixion. Insights from the gospel's possible original audience and context will provide clues for how we can read it today, as well as benefit from Mark's wisdom under the suffering of the early church for our concerns two thousand years later. This Epiphany-Lent group will provide an opportunity to "go deeper" in three directions: Deeper **into** the text itself and its original meaning; deeper **back** to its origins, background and historical setting (as much as we can discover that today); and, thirdly, deeper **forward** to its meaning and significance for us today.

When? from 2.30 - 4.30pm Wednesday 31st January, February 7th, February 14th, February 21st, February 28th, March 6th & March 13th

Where? In person in the Richard Eyre Room, Exeter Cathedral (entrance via West Wing of the Cathedral) or remotely via Zoom (using a laptop, tablet or smartphone; no extra software needed).

Who? See page 12 for Richard's biography.

For more information or to book a place, please contact the Revd Canon Professor Richard Burridge at: richard.burridge@manchester.ac.uk

Sylvia Bush

Just as we were going to press with this edition, we were very sorry indeed to hear of the death of Sylvia Bush, a much loved member of the Cathedral Community. Until very recently, Sylvia was Chairman of the Flower Arrangers. She will be greatly missed. To Geoff and all the family, and to Sylvia's many friends, especially her fellow flower arrangers we send our love and our prayers. We will publish a longer tribute next month.

Lent Series 2024 - Female Theologians

All in the Sacristy (Entrance via The West Wing)

Tuesday 6th February, 2024 6.30-8.00pm

St Macrina by Revd. Canon Prof. Morwenna Ludlow

Thursday 15th February, 2024 2.30-4.00pm:

Hildegard of Bingen by Canon Sue Wallace

Tuesday 20th February, 2024 6.30-8.00pm:

St Perpetua by Revd Canon Prof. Morwenna Ludlow

Monday 11th March, 2024 2.30-4.00pm: Teresa of Avila by Revd Sue Astbury

Reflections on Hymnody with Jeremy Rawlings

Sundays 18th and 25th Feb, March 3rd, 10th and 17th

11.45-1.00pm in the Richard Eyre Room

Many of us will have sung hundreds of hymns in our lives and will no doubt have favourites but how often have you stopped to think about the words, the music, the circumstances of its creation, or considered how the text of the hymn sits within our liturgy?

Hymns or faith songs are an important part of our worship, particularly in a choral tradition, and provide a valuable opportunity to engage with our faith and spirituality at a very personal level.

These sessions are designed to provide a closer look at five hymns with a seasonal feel. We will not just be looking at 'traditional' Lenten hymns but others which fit within the theme.

We will use the music and the words to reflect on our understanding of our relationship with Christ. It will be an opportunity not only to reflect on the season of Lent but also to deepen our own prayer practice in a journey of the heart.

If you would like more information, please do contact Jeremy Rawlings at jeremyrawlings3@gmail.com

Cathedral Community Committee 10th October 2023

We are delighted to welcome three new elected members-Sue Bell, Peter Emmanuel and Dave Lovering-Roddiss. We also hope to co-opt two more new recruits.

Our advert for people to help to organise parties and social events produced an excellent response-five people came forward and we will arrange a meeting very soon.

The *Come and See Breakfast* was well attended and we hope these will become a regular event.

The new Cathedral Constitution & Statutes are now in force and this will require the production of new Cathedral Community Rolls, of which more next year.

We are very grateful to Elizabeth Knox and her team for preparing the oranges for Christingle.

We decided to give ourselves a month off in December. The next meeting will be on 9th January. Please send any suggestions for the agenda to Ann Barwood, Clerk to the Cathedral Community at amb@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

Heather Morgan, Chair CCC

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

This month our Riddler in Residence, Aly Stoneman, went out to run a creative writing session with students at Exeter College. The students wrote about their encounters with nature, and then flipped the story to tell it from the viewpoint of the animal. This produced some hilarious poems, and helped them to look at things from a different point of view.

Aly has also been working with Amy and Theo in the marketing team, to put together the Green Words Poetry Anthology and map, curated from the poems submitted online and through creative writing workshops. The call out asked for poems featuring the Cathedral and the green spaces around it, and we were really pleased to receive so many poems, including some from members of Chapter and our volunteers. The map and the poems were showcased at a sold out event in the Lady Chapel. It was a really special night, as both experienced and first time poets read their work, and had the opportunity to meet each other at the end of the event as we chatted over tea and cake. The evening featured a poem called *Down By the River*, created as part of the Wandering Words workshops Aly ran at St Petrock's centre for people experiencing homelessness. This is a short extract from their poem:

*If in your heart
you feel happy, there is hope.
It is not a great distance
from being in the street
to living in a house.
It is just a couple of steps
along the river.*

The five members of the Cathedral Youth Panel met again, and gave us valuable insights into our new interpretation scheme, and what would be of interest to young people as we develop the new Treasures Gallery. We are very grateful for their input and look forward to working more closely with them on future projects.

Ella Barber (Youth Engagement Officer) and Lis Spencer went out to give a presentation to students at Oakwood Specialist College about the volunteering and job roles available at the Cathedral. We are now in conversation with Oakwood about how we can support their students to access some work or volunteering experience with us.

Capital Works

We published the tender for the Treasures Exhibition that will be located on the first floor of the Pearson building above the new shop. One of the most

significant parts of this tender is the glass display cases that will house some of our most significant treasures including the Exeter Book and our Foundation Charter. They'll weigh 2.5 tons, the weight of a Rhinoceros. These cases will be carefully tested in situ over a period of months to ensure the environmental conditions are suitable before the treasures are placed in them displayed on mounts with the environmental conditions finely controlled and monitored.



The Cloister Gallery is close to reaching its full height with the oak roof joists craned into position on 22 – 23 November. Fortunately the weather was on our side. We're very grateful to the school and diocese for their assistance providing access for the crane, especially as it was alongside the wonderful Christmas Market which is in full swing. It's important everyone takes extra special care around the contractor's compound, and follows the instructions of the people responsible for marshalling vehicles to ensure the safety of everyone, especially pedestrians.

By the time you read this, the next milestone we expect to have achieved is the laying of the first Devon marble to form the intricately designed Jubilee Pavement together with the improvements around the High Altar. The

Jubilee Pavement together with the improvements around the High Altar. The



stone for the pavement is being carefully transported from Medusa Stone Masonry, Somerton, Somerset. It has been manufactured to make best use of this rare material, and carefully numbered so that using the design drawings it can be laid starting at the west end of the quire, below the Pulpitum by the Organ. We aim to provide a good viewing point to visitors of this work as it's completed by

French & Sons working with our principal contractor R M Builders.

We hope you're as excited by us in anticipation of this great work of art by our architect Camilla Finley supported by the team at Medusa Stone Masonry including Nick Laurence, together with Chris Sampson our Clerk of Works. We look forward to opening the Quire in the New Year, in good time for Easter.

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