



From the Canon Chancellor: A Return to Love

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day. It doesn't happen very often and it may seem a little incongruous. How can a day that's associated with penitence, fasting and self-examination sit alongside a day festooned with Hallmark cards, red roses and heart-shaped chocolates?

But, on closer reflection, Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day, do have something in common: Love! Not the cheesy, sentimental love that can typify some Valentine's Day cards but the deep, sacrificial, unconditional love of Christ.



Each year, I go on a guided silent retreat in Lent. It's a non-negotiable. A re-wiring of the brain, like re-booting a computer to get rid of the gremlins that reduce functioning. On one such retreat, my understanding of Lent was transformed when the retreat guide told me that the starting point of Lent is LOVE.

Lent is the time when we consciously turn away from the things that have deflected or distracted us from our first love. The love of God. Just as in ordinary relationships, it's easy to fall into a rut, to become so used to being in each other's company that we lose the quality of being fully present to each other, the relationship is just taken for granted, so too in our relationship with God.

A few years ago, my husband and I decided that for Lent, we would gift each other, first thing in the morning, before breakfast, with a five-minute divine gaze of grace. We set the timer on one of our phones and for five minutes, we simply looked at each other's faces, across the breakfast table. I mean, really looked. The first morning, we did this, my husband squirmed. Five minutes seemed like

eternity. In contrast, I cried. I realised I hadn't given my husband that quality of attention in years.

Half the time, in the morning, I was so busy clearing emails that I'd not actually registered he'd kissed me goodbye and gone to work.

The five-minute divine gaze of grace each morning became a highlight, a touchstone. It didn't simply transform those five minutes each day, it transformed the quality of my attention for the rest of the day and it softened my heart and strengthened my marriage.

And if you live on your own, it's still possible to do this exercise. Either gaze at a photograph of a beloved or look in the mirror at yourself. We can't love another until we know and accept that we ourselves are truly loved. Beloved.

I think what God really desires from each of us is a divine gaze of grace. For us to stop what we busy ourselves with. To stop our deceptions, our excuses and simply to spend time in Love's presence. Sometimes we can spend so long on business and busyness that we forget to spend time with the One for whom we're doing all this work.

Lent, then, is the time for our annual heart check. Just as we can calcify and clog up our physical hearts through poor diet and lack of exercise, so too we can harden our spiritual hearts. How might you use Lent to return to first love?

I want to close with a reflection by Jan Richardson, *Rend your Heart, A Blessing for Ash Wednesday*, which explains a little more fully about spiritual open heart surgery!

To receive this blessing,
all you have to do
is let your heart break.
Let it crack open.
Let it fall apart
so that you can see
its secret chambers,
the hidden spaces
where you have hesitated
to go.

Your entire life,
is here, inscribed whole
upon your heart's walls.
every path taken
or left behind,
every face you turned toward

or turned away,
every word spoken in love
or in rage,
every line of your life
you would prefer to leave
in shadow,
every story that shimmers
with treasures known
and those you have yet
to find.

It could take you days
to wander these rooms.
Forty, at least.

And so let this be
a season for wandering
for trusting the breaking
for tracing the tear
that will return you

to the One who waits
who watches
who works within
the rending
to make your heart
whole.

Deborah Parsons, Canon Chancellor

*There are many courses and events to help us to make the most of Lent,
beginning on.....*

Ash Wednesday: 14th February

8.15am Morning Prayer at St Petrock's

8.35am Said Eucharist at St Petrock's

1.15pm Said Eucharist at St Petrock's

5pm Evening Prayer in the Lady Chapel

5.30pm Solemn Eucharist in the Nave sung by St Peter's Singers.

The Imposition of Ashes will be included at all the Eucharist services on this day.



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. 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 every Wednesday from 31st January to 13th March.

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? 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."

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

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

Celebrating a Church for Everyone: 24th February 10.30am-1pm

St Thomas Church Hall, Church Road Exeter EX4 1AP

For further enquiries and to help to anticipate numbers please contact the Revd Prebendary David Nixon (rev.dave@virgin.net) or the Revd David Runcorn (davidruncorn@mac.com).

Accompaniment in Prayer

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith ...” (from Hebrews 12.1-2)

“Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.” – 1 Thessalonians 5.11

It is good to remind ourselves of the pattern of Jesus and his encouragement on the way, and of the crowd cheering us on. It is also very helpful to have one person alongside us. Various known as a **Spiritual Director**, Guide, or the beautiful term Anam Cara or Soul Friend, they are not expected to be directive and will not finish the race for us. But they will share the journey and help us notice where God is active in our relationship of prayer and in our daily lives.

The Diocesan website has a helpful introduction: “They provide a confidential listening ear, as well as prayer, encouragement and guidance in the life-long journey of spiritual maturity. They offer a safe space to explore questions and difficulties and offer companionship during a period of discernment or change.”

The Diocese is very clear that having a spiritual director is FOR EVERYONE. Anyone can ask through the Spiritual Direction Referral Service. A soul friend could be lay or ordained, male or female, near at hand or requiring a journey, of your own or a different tradition. I heartily recommend finding one. It may take time to discern the right person for you, but worth the effort. According to St Brigid, “anyone without a soul friend is like a body without a head!”

<https://exeter.anglican.org/ministry/spiritual-growth/finding-spiritual-guide>
Email Demelza (of the 10am community) at spiritualdirectionexeter@gmail.com

Maybe exploring the possibility of a spiritual director could be part of a Lenten devotion. Alternatively, or in addition, Lent is a good season to set aside all that hinders us on the journey by making our **Sacramental Confession**.

Confession is differentiated from spiritual direction but some directors may offer it. In the Cathedral there will be an opportunity in Holy Week – keep an eye on the Weekly Sheet for information. Or contact the confidential Pastoral.Care@exeter-cathedral.org.uk to request it.

God bless you as you persevere on your journey.

Clare Bryden

[Explore Prayer on the Cathedral website – https://bit.ly/exploreprayer2022](https://bit.ly/exploreprayer2022)

**In Conversation with ... meets on Sunday 11th February at 6.30 pm
in the Nave, Exeter Cathedral
(refreshments served from 6pm)**



Our speaker is Olabisi Obamakin who will be “In Conversation with” the Revd Canon Professor Morwenna Ludlow.

Olabisi Obamakin is a New Testament scholar and Postdoctoral Research Associate currently working in the Common Awards Team at Durham University. She is working on a 3-year project entitled 'Diversifying the Common Awards Curriculum', funded by the Church of England.



In her PhD research, Olabisi reflects on her own hybrid British-Nigerian heritage. This is interwoven with analysis from novels written by women of similar backgrounds. Using these voices Olabisi asks how they might challenge common ways of reading gospel stories: Do they suggest that a “normal” or “obvious” reading is only normal or obvious

to those in a particular place and time? In what ways might British-Nigerian voices resonate powerfully with the stories of women from first century Palestine?”

Join us for a fascinating conversation...

Take on something new for Lent

We’re often pre-occupied with what to give up for Lent. It’s also a good time to take on something new or to renew an existing commitment. You may wish to explore the existing Cathedral Prayer Groups described below. Or how about attending one of the regular Cathedral services that you don’t usually attend? It’s a good way to discover the breadth and variety of worship in the Cathedral and to meet new people in the Cathedral Community. For details of regular services and the music lists, see the Weekly Sheet and the Cathedral website.

Lection Divina Group

Lectio Divina is an ancient method of [praying with the scriptures](#). It meets on Wednesdays at 8pm on Zoom, led in turn by Clare Bryden, Helen Friend and Carys Puleston. The session lasts 40 minutes, and includes slow reading from the Psalms, a time for silent pondering, opportunity for everyone in turn to share their responses, prayer for each other and a period of discussion. Anyone is welcome to join and to share or not as they feel comfortable.

Zoom Meeting ID 940 4683 2921 Passcode: lectio

Contemplative Prayer Group

Our Contemplative Prayer Group meets from 12 noon to 1pm on the First Tuesday of every month. It will incorporate a time of extended silence, an opportunity for reflection on the practice and an opportunity for extempore prayer. We welcome any who would like to join us in this prayer fellowship. If you would like more information, please contact the Canon Chancellor, [Revd. Canon Deborah Parsons](#) or the Cathedral Deacon, [Revd. Phil Wales](#).

Prayers for Healing

The Prayers for Healing group meets in the Cathedral every Monday at 12:30pm. In the context of a short service, this group spends time in prayer for those in need of healing, whether of illness, uncertainty, unemployment, relationships or lack of peace. Coming together regularly in this way encourages the group members in their prayer, and friendships are further deepened over refreshments afterwards.

If you are in need of prayer for healing, there are boards in the Cathedral where you can leave a message. The group prays through all these messages each week, as well as the Cathedral intercession lists and the work of the Cathedral and the wider community.

Exeter Cathedral Julian Group

A Julian Group, hosted by Nicola Cowling, meets regularly on the second Monday of the month at 7.30 pm. The format consists of a brief catch up, a lead in to the silence, followed by 40 minutes of silence. The session closes with a short prayer and/or The Grace and the group leaves in silence. The lead-in might be a Bible extract, Psalm, extract from a book, a poem, a picture or even a piece of music. More information about Julian meetings is available at [The Julian Meetings – Christian Meditation and Contemplative Prayer](#). If you would like to join this group please contact [Deborah Parsons](#) for more information.

From The Company of Tapisers

Lent is a time for reflection, penitence, teaching and fasting – and these observances are exhibited in the unbleached linen vestments and altar frontals that we use during this period. In many churches and cathedrals crosses are covered by linen veils called the ‘Lenten Array’.

The vestments that are used at Exeter Cathedral are embellished with the symbols of Christ’s Passion, embroidered in red: Crown of Thorns, Cross and Nails. These aim to help worshippers concentrate on the message of Lent, rather than be distracted by the rich, colourful brocades and silks worn at other times of the Church year. The Lenten Array is not a colour in itself, but rather a way of removing colour.

It is interesting that the 40-day period of Lent is named after an old English word meaning ‘lengthen’ – because days start to get longer at this time of the year.

Diana Symes, Chairman of the Company of Tapisers

News from the Cathedral Flower Arrangers

Well, here we go – a New Year but with the same challenges, frustrations and unsettling communications with all the balls in the air! This is inevitable with two or three projects happening at the same time, in the same building.

This end of contract time is very hard for all concerned, but the new Cloister is progressing well and on time, so we may get straight sooner than we think. Two of us have been “spring cleaning” our boxes and mechanics prior to having to move out of the flower room to a temporary unknown space when Phase 2 begins after Easter. Note for all – we are throwing away sad and broken flowers and foliage which have all been well used this last 18 months

In the meantime, there will be loads of planning, various meetings and our AGM. Work on next year’s rota (from Easter 2024) continues with the huge handicap of not knowing when different areas of the Cathedral will be available or alternatives need to be used. Fortunately, the majority of our ladies have let us have their availability so we shall do our best with the rota. We also have to plan for Maundy Thursday, the Altar of Repose, Good Friday, and the Easter Garden, depending on their locations, which we don’t know at the moment.

Mars arrives this week – sounds spectacular! We shall arrange silks for the last time on Friday 2nd Feb, before Lent. According to tradition, during Lent we have empty containers on the pillars and the only place there are flowers is the Chapel

that holds the Host (Reserved Sacrament), currently St Gabriels's Chapel, though this may change as the building work progresses.

Rumour has it that the Quire could be in operation for Easter, and, if that is the case, we shall go all out for Easter weekend with fresh flowers in as many places as possible. Should you wish to sponsor a lily or two please give a donation to the Finance Office or to any of our arrangers in person. Easter arranging always costs us more, so we would be very grateful for any financial help.

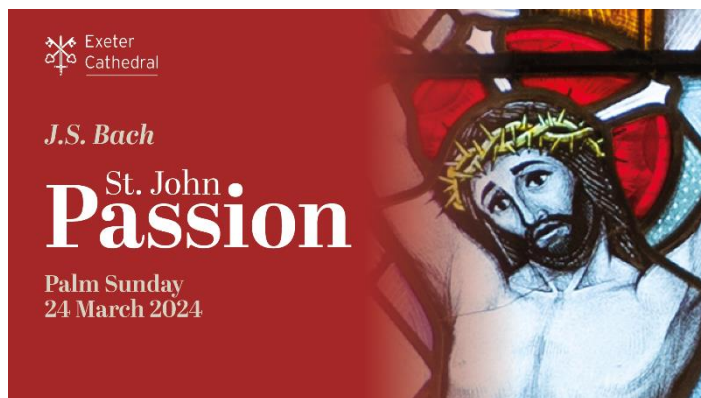
Then back to silks is the current plan!

Flick Evans, Chair, Exeter Cathedral Flower Arrangers

Holy Week and Easter

Full details of the programme for Holy Week and Easter will be on the Cathedral website, and in the Weekly Sheet as soon as possible. They will also feature in the March edition of *Cathedral News*.

What we know so far is not to be missed!



On Palm Sunday, 21st March, there will be a performance of Bach's *St John Passion* sung by the Cathedral Choir with the Baroque specialist orchestra Charivari Agréable. The Evangelist will be a former choral scholar and lay vicar of the

Cathedral, Edward Woodhouse, and Tim Mirfin will sing the role of Christ.

We will be led in our Holy Week exploration by the Revd Canon Angela Tilby, Canon Emeritus of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. She will be well known to many from her contributions to *Thought for Today* on the Today programme on BBC Radio 4, and from her weekly column in the *Church Times*. Canon Tilby will be with us from Palm Sunday to Good Friday.

The music at Compline in Holy Week will include Thomas Tallis's *Lamentations*.



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

Laying of the Devon marble to form the wonderful Jubilee Pavement is progressing, with the steps into the Quire aisles replaced and screen doors back in position. We are now into the intricate last stages of this work, including installation of the nine 'rondels' which are the most decorative areas of the design.

The Cloister Gallery is progressing well with the final stones on top of the parapet, known as coping stones, due to be placed in February. The next step is to complete the roof which will be finished in zinc.

**Amy Haynes Marketing & Communications Executive
& Kit Reynolds Project Manager**

The March edition of *Cathedral News*

We hope to publish the next edition of the *News* on Sunday 3rd March 2024. The deadline for material is **Monday 26th February 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.

Congratulations!

Many congratulations to Tim Parsons on his appointment as Director of Music at Wells Cathedral. It will be lovely to have Tim and Cressida back in the south west. Tim was formerly Assistant Director of Music here until his move to St Edmundsbury in 2021.

Books for Lent

There is a very good selection of books for Lent on the Church House Bookshop website. Two titles caught the eye of the editorial team: *The Infernal Word: Notes from a Rebel Angel* by Nicholas Papadopoulos and *A Truth Universally Acknowledged: 40 Days with Jane Austen* by Rachel Mann.

What's on in February

Mars: War & Peace by Luke Jerram

Thursday 1 February – Wednesday 28 February

Experience artist Luke Jerram's famous installation, Mars: War and Peace in the stunning nave of

Exeter Cathedral, with sound composition by BAFTA award-winning composer, Dan Jones.

Book now at bit.ly/mars-exeter.

Family-friendly Activity: Which values would you take to Mars?

Thursday 1 February – Wednesday 28 February

Inspired by Luke Jerram's Mars: War & Peace, choose a value from the provided worksheet and place them in your own mini box that you can take home.

Find out more at bit.ly/mars-values.

Family-friendly Activity: Make Your Own Rocket

Every weekend from Saturday 3 until Sunday 25 February

Inspired by Luke Jerram's Mars: War & Peace on display inside Exeter Cathedral's magnificent nave, create and colour in your own paper rocket that can fly.

Find out more at bit.ly/make-a-rocket.

Lent Series 2024 – Female Theologians: St Macrina by Revd. Canon Prof. Morwenna Ludlow

Tuesday 6 February at 6:30pm

Join Revd. Canon Prof. Morwenna Ludlow on Tuesday 6 February, 2024 at 6.30-8.00pm for a Lent talk on the topic of St Macrina.

Book now at bit.ly/st-macrina.

In Conversation With... Olabisi Obamakin

Sunday 11 February at 6:30pm

Join Olabisi Obamakin, a New Testament scholar who reflects on her own hybrid British-Nigerian heritage, for an In Conversation With... at Exeter Cathedral.

Book now at bit.ly/olabisi-obamakin-exeter.

Make Your Own Planet Half-Term Workshop

Monday 12 – Friday 16 February, 11am-12pm

Inspired by Luke Jerram's art installation, Mars: War and Peace, this is an

opportunity for children, using a range of craft materials, to create their very own hanging planet, based on real or imagined worlds.

Book now at bit.ly/planet-make.

Art of the Book: 1000 Years of Bookbinding

Tuesday 13 February 2024, 2pm-3:30pm in the Exeter Cathedral Library

Take a closer look at some of Exeter Cathedral's most beautiful bindings in the our first Art of the Book seminar.

THIS EVENT IS NOW SOLD OUT.

Lent Series 2024 – Female Theologians: Hildegard of Bingen by Canon Sue Wallace

Thursday 15 February at 2:30pm

Join Canon Sue Wallace for a Lent talk on the topic of Hildegard of Bingen on Thursday 15 February 2024.

Book now at bit.ly/lent-sue-wallace.

Lent Series 2024 – Female Theologians: St Perpetua by Revd. Canon Prof. Morwenna Ludlow

Tuesday 20 February at 6:30pm

Join Revd. Canon Prof. Morwenna Ludlow for a Lent talk on the topic of St Perpetua on Tuesday 20 February 2024.

Book now at bit.ly/st-perpetua.

Library & Archives In Focus: Mythology of Mars

Thursday 22 February, drop in between 11am and 1pm

Discover literary, scientific and botanical references to the Roman god of Mars from the collections of the Cathedral Library.

Find out more at bit.ly/mars-in-focus.

Under Mars: Silent Disco

Friday 23 February, 7:30pm-10pm

Under Mars: Silent Disco at Exeter Cathedral. Dance under artist Luke Jerram's Mars: War and Peace installation.

Book now at bit.ly/mars-silent-disco.

Candlelight Concert with the Exeter Cathedral Choir

Saturday 24 February, 7pm-9pm

Join Exeter's renowned Cathedral Choir for an immersive candlelit performance under the awe-inspiring spectacle of Luke Jerram's Mars: War and Peace.

Book now at bit.ly/candlelight-concert-mars.

Anna Chaplains

At the last meeting of Christianity Deanery Synod, we heard from Lesley Phillips-Cannon about the Anna Chaplaincy. The Synod Standing Committee invited Annie Jefferies, the Devon co-ordinator, to describe what they do, and to tell people how to find out more about their work:

*Annie writes.....*Anna Chaplains and Anna Friends spiritually support older people wherever they may live; in their own homes or in residential/nursing home care. There are many care homes in Exeter who are not receiving regular interventions from a Chaplain or Pastoral Care worker. This may be in the form of befriending an individual and listening to their story, offering simple prayers, reading from The Bible, and, in some cases, offering Holy Communion.

Volunteers can offer whatever time they have available, this may vary from a few hours a month to a day each week. Training is available and is **free** to each individual.

Please pray and consider whether God is calling YOU to be part of the Anna Chaplain Ministry for the city of Exeter.

If you feel this is for you, please contact Annie at annie.jefferies@btinternet.com for more information.

RIP: Kate de Brett and Wilf Reynolds

We were very sorry to hear that Kate de Brett and Wilf Reynolds had died. both of whom were well known to many in the Cathedral Community.

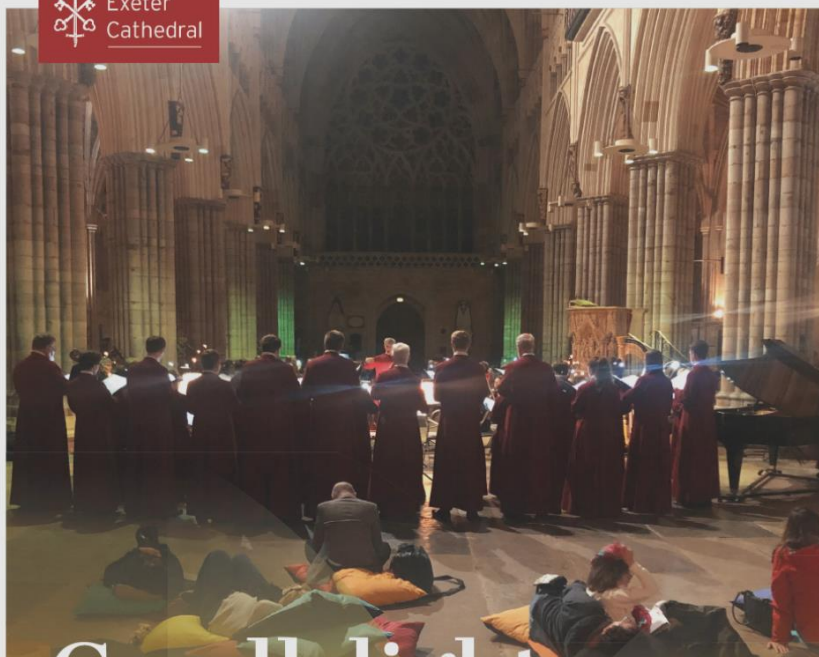
Kate was a Tapiser. She was also a member of the Cathedral Mothers Union Group, and helped with Mothering Sunday flowers and all their activities. She also contributed to Cloister Club in its early days.

Wilf was one of the team of Servers (Serving Clerks) for many years and was always keen to make their work better known, and to encourage new recruits.

We send our love and deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Kate and Wilf, and to the Tapisers and Servers on the loss of much loved and much valued colleagues.

Cathedral Community Committee 13th February 2024

The report on the January meeting of the CCC was in the delayed January edition of *Cathedral News* which can be found on the Cathedral website. The next meeting will be on 13th February. Please send any suggestions for the agenda to Ann Barwood, Clerk to the Cathedral Community amb@exeter-cathedral.org.uk



Candlelight Concert

Saturday 24 February, 7pm-9pm

Join Exeter's renowned Cathedral Choir for an immersive, atmospheric candlelit performance under the awe-inspiring spectacle of Luke Jerram's Mars: War and Peace. Reflecting on themes of war and peace, this unique concert will include music by Elgar, Stanford and many others.



Tickets are £20 for adults and
£5 for under 18s.

Available from 01392 285983

(Monday to Friday)

or online at

bit.ly/candlelight-concert-mars.

LUKE
JERRAM

mars WAR & PEACE

P.S.to the Grand Nave Dinner!



At the last Grand Nave Dinner pre Covid I successfully bid for lunch with Ben Bradshaw MP at the House of Commons, preceded by watching Prime Minister's Questions. Hooray! I thought, as a big fan of PMQs I've always wanted to witness it in person. Could MPs really be as insult hurling as it would seem - answer YES!

Lockdown put this adventure on hold and then, out of the blue, Ben's office contacted me to arrange making my auction lot happen. The first date we agreed turned out to be the one fixed for Ben's, Sir Ben's, investiture but after another re-arrangement the 24th January arrived and, thoroughly security checked, I met Ben in the Central Lobby and followed the Speaker's procession into the House where I had a perfect view. First of all it was much noisier than when viewing on TV or listening to Today in Parliament. Timings were immaculate and the printed questions forged ahead. Speaker Hoyle kept a tight reign on proceedings and gave short shrift to barrackers - on both sides....".....*Order, I **will** hear the Leader of the Opposition!*" All too soon it was over and we made our way (via a look at the Chapel, a Pugin masterpiece) to the Strangers Dining room and a table overlooking the river.

A delightful lunch followed, accompanied by a generous supply of champagne and a plentiful flow of conversation. Ben is a member of the Ecclesiastical Committee of the House and during my long service on General Synod there was much to-ing and fro-ing between the two institutions - much to ponder then!

So, a day of highlights, a 'Red Letter day' indeed. Memorable was being able to see inside the chapel, St Mary Undercroft, since this is not open to the public. The chapel is a Royal Peculiar, ie does not come under the jurisdiction of a bishop, but is under the Monarch's control. It is used by members of both houses for weddings and christenings. A plus too was the welcome from the various stewards and guides who all seemed proud to be part of making the place function well. And just when it couldn't get any better we bumped into Baroness Floella Benjamin who, on learning I was from Exeter, identified a mutual friend and gave me instructions to pass on a big hug!

Anne Foreman