



From the Canon Steward: New Life in Lent



For many people Lent is a time of mixed feelings and this Lent, I am sure, is no exception. We may be struggling with what we have decided to abstain from as our Lenten fast. We may be finding it difficult to fit in the extra study and reflection that we committed to undertake.

Or, of course, we may be enjoying the change and finding that we are stimulated by what we have chosen to do this Lent. At Mothering Sunday, we may be grateful for the rest, since Mothering Sunday is considered as the “day off” from our Lenten commitments.

Mothering Sunday though can be a difficult time for many people. It can be a time of remembering those loved ones who have died or there may be sadness that becoming a mother has never been realized. In our celebrations we must always pay attention to those who may be finding this difficult. This year I will be one of those, having lost my own mother last summer. Mothering Sunday was always a special day for her and last year in fact we celebrated it on the Saturday so that more family could be with her.

Mothering Sunday was always a day when she received many flowers from the family, near and far. Her delight at receiving these flowers was very visible, she particularly enjoyed seeing daffodils open their trumpets. She had a real joy at seeing the beauty of creation as she was a lady who delighted in flowers and trees that she was fortunate to have around her.

Perhaps I have inherited that same delight and that is one of the reasons that I enjoy the Lenten season. During Lent on my regular walks with my dogs I delight in seeing new growth in many different forms. We tend to think of Easter as the time of new life, but I think the development of nature during Lent is amazing. From the dark and this year very sodden ground shoots seem to spring up rapidly. Crocuses, daffodil, and celandines poke first their leaves and then raise their blooms. The blackthorn bursts through the dark branches and early cherry

blossom dances in the wind. I really enjoy these walks marvelling in the wonder of the diversity of creation until I stumble across a discarded drinks can, then an empty water bottle, fast food wrappers, casually abandoned and which will remain amongst the growing bluebell leaves until either I or some other thoughtful person removes them.

It makes me very angry when I see such wanton disregard for creation. But then I pause and think what do I do in my own way to wantonly disregard nature? It's easy to judge others but sometimes we need to stop and think about our own actions. I certainly am not a litter bug but are there other ways that I may well be having a negative effect on the environment.

As I find joy this Lent being in nature, admiring the diversity of plant life around me and as I listen to the range of bird song I am privileged to hear, I must also look at ways that I can protect this amazing gift that we are privileged to enjoy. Sadly, at this time, there are many places around our world where people do not have the peace to enjoy creation as we have, and I pray that peace will come and that once again people and the natural world in those war-torn lands can flourish again.

I may be a little sad this Mothering Sunday but there are so many people so much worse off and sadden in so many different ways; the loss of loved ones, the loss of homes and livelihoods. As we progress through Lent and I continue my walks, I give thanks for the Mothering of the church, all who mother, be they male or female, those in need, and I thank God for the variety and joy of creation. May each daffodil as it lifts its trumpet be our prayer for peace.

Canon Cate

Prayer Book Society Quiet Day Thursday 14th March at Black Hall, Avonwick, TQ10 9ND

The Prayer Book Society will be holding a Quiet Day, starting at 10:30am on the 14th March. The day will be led by Branch Chairman, the Venerable David-Gunn Johnson. Tea and coffee will be served from 10am. Please bring a packed lunch. If you would like to attend, please email: marymarigold@talktalk.net or telephone 01364 721149 by Wednesday 6th March.

The April edition of *Cathedral News*

We hope to publish the next edition of the *News* on Easter Day, Sunday 31st March 2024. The deadline for material is **Monday 25th March 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.



From The Company of Tapisers : Memories of Kate de Brett

The untimely passing of Kate from MND has saddened the lives of all who knew her. Many remember her for the care and compassion she showed to her patients during her long nursing career – both for the NHS and in private Care Homes.

Upon retiring the Cathedral was one of the recipients of her talents and care. She helped with the Cloister Club on many Sunday mornings – her love of children was clear to see.

I first met Kate well over a decade ago when we were both members of The Company of Tapisers. She was an exceptional needlewoman: creative and skilful, with a good eye for colour and textiles, kind and generous with her advice and encouragement. Her stitching and attention to detail were of the highest standard. As a Tapiser she made a significant contribution towards the creation of copes, chasubles and banners. She imaginatively stitched glistening waves onto the hood of the Mayflower Cope; and the last item she worked on was the banner for The Company of Servers – neatly sewing the lettering into place.

As well as her work for the Cathedral, she had a passion for quilting. She produced many original and beautiful quilts – each one a work of art!

Her output of work was remarkable: during Covid she produced some eye-catching jewellery bags for the Tapisers to sell. Each one was made from different materials with great skill and care. She made well over fifty! Whether it was machine stitching or hand stitching her work was meticulous.

There are many adjectives which come to mind when describing Kate: gentle and kind, unassuming, talented, fun, thoughtful, caring and unselfish. She was a true friend and supportive colleague. I feel very privileged to have known her and learnt from her.

RIP Kate.

Diana Symes, Chairman of the Company of Tapisers

Slow Book Group: *Befriending Silence* by Carl McColman

The Slow Book Group is returning after Easter to explore and reflect together on *Befriending Silence* by Carl McColman.

From the book's blurb: "Carl McColman introduces Cistercian spirituality as the hidden jewel of the Church, presenting a surprisingly contemporary path grounded in monastic tradition. McColman draws on his experience as a lay Cistercian to provide insight into the relevance of the tradition to contemporary issues and spiritual practice. He explains how silence, simplicity, stability, stewardship of the earth, contemplation, ongoing conversion, and devotion to Mary combine to offer a rich and unique path to discipleship and intimacy with God."

As before, meetings be via Zoom between 7.30 and 8.30pm. Led by Clare Bryden and Phil Wales, we will divide the book's chapters into six sessions on 11 Apr, 7 May, 13 Jun, 11 Jul, 12 Sep, 10 Oct – that is, mostly on the second Thursdays except in May, with no meeting in August. In our time together we will review what we have read, share our insights, seek answers to questions and, in silence, discern how God's Spirit is calling us to deepen our faith.

We warmly encourage new participants. If you would like to sign up or if you have any questions about whether this group may be for you please email Revd Phil Wales, Cathedral Deacon (phil.wales@exeter-cathedral.org.uk).

Reflections on Hymnody with Jeremy Rawlings March 10th and 17th at 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

News from the Cathedral Flower Arrangers

I begin this month with a quotation from a member of the congregation who kindly wrote to me last week.

“The flower arrangers are SO important – an essential part of the Cathedral year and all the services.”

We are all concerned where our base will be for the next few months. Our concerns would be alleviated if we knew the long-term solution. Once we leave the flower room we will not have ready access to water, and it is likely we will be prepping weddings and memorial services in the North Porch if fresh flowers are needed.

To this end we have been replacing some of our silk foliage, which gets a severe battering. We will return to permanent silks for our regular arranging straight after the Easter festival. We are planning to use new trunk-like boxes for some of the longer foliage to ease moving them around. For now, we have managed to get rid of four older metal pedestals, and actually thrown out, or passed on to our students, a motley collection of plastic bowls and containers we would never use in a month of Sundays. So, we now have to tackle the flowers themselves and be brave at getting rid of those that are really beyond steaming or glueing to use again. We need to ensure that we have enough of them. So, for Lent we have been using the flowerless time to housekeep, and to pray for a satisfactory answer to our problem of homelessness.

As we plan for Easter, you may wish to sponsor a lily or two. If so, please pass the donation to the Finance Office or to any of our arrangers in person. We are always grateful for these gifts to help to cover the additional costs of Easter flowers.

Flick Evans, Chair, Exeter Cathedral Flower Arrangers

Bishop’s Palace Open Garden Days

After last year’s success, the Devon Historic Churches Trust has again been given permission to hold four more open garden days at the Bishop’s Palace in Exeter. These will take place on the 17th and 24th March, and the 14th and 28th April. The gardens will be open from 2.00 to 4.30 and light refreshments will be served.

No booking is necessary and proceeds of the tickets will go towards Devon Historic Churches Fund.

Come along to see a beautiful display of spring flowers with the historic cathedral as a dramatic backdrop.

Fiona Moffat

Celebrating Women

In my view women are always to be celebrated but the month of March is particularly full of dates to mark in diaries.

Friday March 1st starts the ball rolling with the World Day of Prayer, led this year by an ecumenical group of Christian women in Palestine and with the theme... "*Bear with one another in love....*" (Ephesians 4 vv 2) 11.00am at South St Baptist church and 7.00pm at Pinhoe Parish Church are two local services - there will be others I'm sure. Next comes International Women's day on Friday 8th with the theme "*Inspire Inclusion - celebrate diversity and empowerment*". Sunday 10th is Mothering Sunday of course and Monday 11th sees the final Lecture on women theologians, St Teresa of Avila this time, given by the Revd Sue Astbury, 2.30pm in the Sacristy. Tuesday 12th marks the 30th anniversary of the ordination of women priests in the Church of England. Yes, it really was as long ago as 1994 that Bristol Cathedral was the setting for this historic occasion, though it was another 20 years before ordained women could inhabit the bench of bishops.

But wait, on January 25th I went to the 80th Anniversary - yes 80th - of the ordination of Florence Li Tim Oi, the first woman to be ordained as a priest in the Anglican Communion in Hong Kong. For an explanation of the circumstances that made this happen and the work of the foundation, just search online for **The Li Tim Oi Foundation**. Their purpose is to equip women, through educational grants, in every province in the Anglian Communion to follow God's calling, and be trained for ordination and other ministries. 700 women helped to date! This wonderful service in St Martin in the Fields brought together a range of supporters of the Foundation, long time campaigners for the ordained priestly ministry of women and beneficiaries of the educational grants the foundation awards. Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin preached, Bishop Sarah Mullally, Bishop of London gave us her blessing and we heard the names of 21 biblical women* in the Eucharistic Liturgy. The service was recorded and went out on BBC Radio 4 the following Sunday.

So whilst I shall give thanks for the 30 years of priestly ministry of women on 12th March, I shall remember too the life of Li Tim Oi and the fruits of the Foundation.

*In case you're wondering about those names*Sarah, Hagar, Deborah, Chloe, Phoebe, Priscilla, Euodia, Syntyche, Apphia, Ruth, Naomi, Esther, Junia, Trypohena, Tryphosa, Julia, Persis, Claudia, Mary, Mary Magdelena and Elizabeth.*

Anne Foreman



Cloister Club News

The Cloister Club is going from strength to strength. It has been a delight to see a growing number of children and families following the newly refurbished Cloister Club banner as they leave the 10am service for fun, games, and craft.

Under the leadership of Kathryn Timms our Cloister Club co-ordinator and ably assisted by volunteer leaders Alistair Endersby and Katherine LaFrance this happy band are growing in number. We are grateful to the dedication of our leaders, but more volunteers are going to be needed. So, if you feel you could give the occasional Sunday morning, please contact myself or Kathryn.

Parents or carers do not need to remain with children over the age of 5 years, but some choose to join in the activities while other remain in the service. All our leaders are DBS checked and have completed the appropriate Safeguarding training.

Cloister Club is available on Sunday mornings during term time, and child friendly activities are provided at the back of the Cathedral during school holidays. We are hoping to provide additional occasional activities during the holidays, so watch this space. On 10th April 2-3.30pm there will be a fun activity entitled "What Jesus did next", more details to follow.

My thanks to all involved in supporting our Cloister Club and we look forward to more exciting news in the future.

Canon Cate

Town Hall Meeting 30th April

Those who volunteer or worship at the Cathedral are invited to the next Town Hall meeting which will be held in the Sacristy on **Tuesday 30th April at 11am.**

Tea/coffee and lunch will be provided so please rsvp to Alysha, volunteers@exeter-cathedral.org.uk if you would like to attend, letting her know of any dietary requirements.

Also if you have any topics or questions you would like discussed please let her know.

The other Town Hall meetings in 2024 are on 13th August and 19th November.

Labyrinth The landscape of the soul

“In the fast-paced world in which we now live, we need simple, beautiful places like labyrinths that draw us in by their attraction of their pattern to slow ourselves down, still the busy mind and connect us again with our deep resources.” (Di Williams)

The labyrinth will be available again to use as a prayer tool from 11.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m. on 23rd March, the cusp of Holy Week.

In preparation to walk the labyrinth, you may wish to reflect on an adaptation of Psalm 139 and see what calls to you.

Psalm 139, paraphrased and adapted

*Do you know me? Whom, do you know?
Do you know me better than I do?
You search my heart -
The very core of my being lies open to you -
Do you see being born in me the other person I would like to be?*

*You know everything about me;
When I sit and where I stand -
My thoughts before I think them -
Through all my days you love me - give me life and blessings -
Enough to fill my cup until it spills -*

*Incredible - too wonderful to believe!
You will never lose or mislay me -
But with compassion for my stubborn wandering away,
Reach out a gentle hand and draw me back -*

*If I take the wings of the morning and flee to the ends of the earth -
You will be waiting for me -
If I choose myself and go down to the place of the dead -
You will meet me at the gate -
If I try to hide in darkness, the night becomes light around me -
For darkness and light are both alike to you -*

*Though I hardly know you,
Yet I am surrounded and obsessed by you -
You made me whole -
Knit me together in my mother's womb -*

*Gifted me outrageously with:
Life and love; sorrow, joy;
Tears and laughter, pain -*

*You heal me when I am broken -
Gathering up the pieces patiently -
From the darkness of each dying and each night
You persuade me once again to living and to light -*

*I hardly knew your name when you called me -
I hardly know it now and come to you reluctantly -
Mend me - set me free -
Spare me from existence on the edge of reality -
Lead me back to life - loosen hope in me -
Make me remember what you have always wanted me to be -*

With every blessing in all your journeying.

Canon Deborah Parsons

A Friendly Fixture with Truro

It was a great joy to welcome the choir of Truro Cathedral, and to welcome back to Exeter their Director of Music, James Anderson-Besant, when they joined our Cathedral Choir to sing Choral Eucharist and Evensong on 3rd March. The music was wonderful and the lunchtime football was energetic. The Dean was in possession of the referee's whistle. As far as we know, he didn't need to resort to VARI!



**Photo:
Russell
Sach**

Books for Lent

Last month, from among the plethora of books for Lent we mentioned two titles that had caught our eye. We explored further, hence the following brief reviews. You may find these helpful suggestions for the second half of Lent.

***The Infernal Word. Notes from a Rebel Angel* by Nicholas Papadoulos**

This is a slim volume, which, whilst it could be read in one session, benefits from being read more slowly, perhaps two short chapters at a time. The author is currently the Dean of Salisbury. Whilst a parish priest, he delivered a sermon written from the perspective of a “fallen angel” who had rebelled against God and been thrown down from heaven.

He developed this theme whilst a Canon at Canterbury Cathedral and the book we now have is written by the unnamed “fallen angel”, from hell, on the “infernal laptop”. He/she has a very dim view of humankind. The book sets out how the followers of the “Chief” were defeated by “Tug” i.e. God (see page 3 of the Prologue for the explanation of “Tug”) and who happens to be “she”! The story is told through six incidents from the Old Testament, and six from the New Testament, all of which took place on mountains. Another theme is wood, leading, of course to The Cross.

The Epilogue draws everything together in the concept and actuality of Love, love which cannot be crushed or destroyed, and which continues despite human behaviour.

I cannot improve on the quote from the Archbishop of Canterbury on the front cover: “Deceptively simple; profoundly insightful; immensely entertaining”

Jenny Ellis

***A Truth Universally Acknowledged: 40 Days with Jane Austen* by Rachel Mann**

Writing the day after “that shirt” -the one worn by Colin Firth in the BBC adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*-was sold for £25,000, the concept of Lent with Jane Austen seems rather incongruous. Far from it!

Rachel Mann (Archdeacon of Salford and Bolton) is a regular contributor to *Thought for the Day* on BBC Radio 4. She is, therefore, adept at conveying a powerful message succinctly and simply, a gift deployed to great effect in this delightful book.

For each day of Lent, the author has chosen a passage from one of Jane Austen’s six major novels. The commentary enhances our understanding of the text and draws from it thoughts on the human condition and our relationship with God and with each other. For instance, from Jane Austen’s description of Mr Collins,

the hapless clergyman in *Pride and Prejudice*, there follows commentary on his character and the church in Georgian times, and reflections on pride, self-respect, humility, and preoccupation with celebrity and social media.

Each reflection ends with a short and simple prayer. The book is punctuated by extracts from the three lengthy prayers written by Jane Austen herself. I confess that I didn't know about these before, and they are a great discovery.

On the face of it, this book appears undemanding—there are 2-3 pages for each day— but that is far from the case. Rachel Mann's observations are gentle and inviting; but they are also penetrating and bear repeated reading, as is the case with Austen's novels. If you are looking for Lenten austerity, this book is not for you. For a devotee of Jane Austen, far from being a penitential exercise, it is rather indulgent. I suspect it will also be helpful both to those who are new to Jane Austen, and those who want to explore the essence of Christianity, such is the engaging and accessible nature of the commentary.

In the postscript, Rachel Mann writes *“What I hope this Lenten pilgrimage with Jane Austen has revealed, however, is the primacy of love. Love—the outrageous, challenging love of God……At the very least I trust that this Lent has not been grim, but rather an invitation into a place where delight, hope, love and promise meet.”* Thus far in my progress through the book, she appears to be succeeding.

Heather Morgan

The Venerable David Gunn-Johnson

David is retiring as a Priest Vicar on 21st April. On that day he will preside at 8am Holy Communion and preach at 10am Choral Eucharist.

We are sure that many members of the Cathedral Community will wish to take the opportunity of contributing to a leaving gift for David, as we thank him for the immense contribution he has made to the life of the Cathedral throughout his ministry in the diocese, but particularly in the last six years. There are many who have benefited from his pastoral care and wise guidance, especially those groups such as the Serving Clerks for whom he has had particular responsibility. We have all benefited from his forthright and challenging sermons, and from his leading of worship. We look forward to David's continuing presence among us within the Cathedral Community, especially to his appearances with the Cathedral Players.

Please send a donation towards a thank you gift for David either to the Finance Department, Cathedral Office, 1 The Cloisters, Exeter EX1 1HS, or donate via BACS. The bank details are – Dean and Chapter of Exeter, Sort Code: 56-00-49 Account Number: 00708526, using the reference DGJ. If you send a donation by post, please mark the envelope 'David Gunn-Johnson Gift' and make cheques payable to 'The Dean and Chapter of Exeter.'



In Conversation with ... meets on Sunday 10th March at 6.30 pm in the Nave, Exeter Cathedral (refreshments served from 6.00 p.m.)

Our speaker is: Anthony Wilson

Anthony will be reading from and talking about his sixth collection of poetry, *The Wind and the Rain* (Blue Diode Publishing). The book is about loss. Written during the first phase of the Covid pandemic, it narrates the story of losing a loved one to dementia. *The Wind and The Rain* investigates how we live within family and community, and questions the roles we construct both together and alone. Combining personal and environmental grief through the metaphor of rain, Anthony's poems explore the borderline territory between memory and forgetting, illness and health.

Anthony Wilson is a poet, writing tutor and lecturer at the University of Exeter. He is the author of five volumes of poetry and two of memoir, including *Love for Now* (Impress Books, 2012), which details his experience of cancer. He is also the editor of the best-selling anthology *Lifesaving Poems* (Bloodaxe, 2015), based on his blog of the same name. He has performed his work at venues and festivals across the UK, including The Aldeburgh Poetry Festival, The British Library, Wenlock Poetry Festival, Manchester Cathedral, and Ty Newydd Writers' Centre of Wales.

Join us for a fascinating conversation...

Advance Notice: Saturday 4th May

This is the date for the Cathedral abseil.

Please book the date in your diary now.

There will be music and other activities in the Cathedral and on the Green.

Come and join the party. And please be generous in your sponsorship.

More details to follow.

Friendship with God

“I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.” – John 15.15

Most excellent Theophilus (friend of God; Luke 1.3, Acts 1.1), consider your friendship with God. How do you relate to God as you would relate to a friend? What makes a good friendship?

Spending time – If you are good friends with someone, you would want to spend one-on-one time with them. How do you spend time with God?

Honesty and openness – Friendship where honesty and trust have broken down grow cold and distant. Are you honest in your prayer about your struggles and your anger, and equally your joys?

Listening – I wouldn't consider someone who talks at me all the time as a close friend, or vice versa. Are you spending time listening in your life and prayer? And are you as comfortable with a companionable silence walking side by side as with conversation over dinner, say?

Equality – Aelred of Rievaulx, the 12th century Cistercian monk and abbot, took great joy in his friends. In his book *Spiritual Friendship* he wrote: “there is in human affairs neither a superior nor an inferior, a characteristic of true friendship.” (1.57). And later, perhaps drawing on our creation in God's image and our calling to grow into our true selves: “the friendship of [human beings] could be easily translated into a friendship for God [Godself] because of the similarity existing between both.” (3.87).

I like to imagine Andrei Rublev's icon of the Trinity as a depiction of three friends sitting round a table enjoying each other's company. They might be simply sitting in silence, or chewing the cud, or maybe the Father sitting on the left has just told a bad dad joke. But always they are holding the fourth side of the table open for their fourth friend – you – to join them.

For Aelred, the highest kind of friendship is a selfless communion of hearts. He didn't quite write that ‘God is friendship’, but in replacing one instance of ‘love’ with ‘friendship’ in 1 John 4.16, he comes close: “God is love, and those who abide in friendship abide in God, and God abides in them.”

So a final word from Julian of Norwich: “I saw very clearly that our eternal friendship, our home, our life and our being are in God.” (*Revelations* Ch 49).

Clare Bryden

Explore Prayer on the Cathedral website – <https://bit.ly/exploreprayer2022>

The articles about exploring prayer on my website – <https://bit.ly/ClareEP>

What's On in March

Reflection on Hymnody with Jeremy Rawlings

Sundays 3 March, 10 March and 17 March, 11:45am-1pm

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.

Book now at bit.ly/reflection-on-hymnody.

The Gin To My Tonic Festival

Saturday 9 March 12pm-4pm and 6pm-10pm

The Gin To My Tonic are uniting hundreds of different craft spirits under one roof to create what can only be described as one epic celebration!

Find out more at bit.ly/gin-to-my-tonic.

In Conversation With... Anthony Wilson

Sunday 10 March at 6:30pm

The guest speaker for our March In Conversation With... is Anthony Wilson, poet, writing tutor and lecturer.

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

Lent Series 2024 – Female Theologians: The Earthy Mysticism of St Teresa, the Wild Woman of Avila with Revd Dr Sue Astbury

Monday 11 March, 2:30pm-4pm

Join Revd Dr Sue Astbury for a talk on the earthy mysticism of St Teresa of Avila and explore her life in 16th century Spain.

Book now at bit.ly/st-teresa-of-avila.

Library & Archives In Focus: Time

Tuesday 12 March, 11am-1pm

Join us in the Cathedral's magnificent nave and celebrate #BritishScienceWeek with a drop-in display on Time.

Book now at bit.ly/infocus-time.

Exeter School Choral Society Concert

Wednesday 13 March at 7:30pm

Exeter School's annual Choral Society Concert, draws together members from across the broader school community with pupils, parents, staff and guests all involved.

Book now at bit.ly/choral-concert.

Music from the Movies by Candlelight

Friday 15 March at 7:30pm

Get ready to be whisked away on a journey of iconic soundtracks from some of the greatest movies with live orchestra London Concertante.

Book now at bit.ly/four-seasons-candlelight.

Exeter Philharmonic Choir – Verdi Requiem

Saturday 16 March at 7:30pm

A truly memorable performance of Verdi's famous Requiem at Exeter Cathedral with Exeter Philharmonic Choir and Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.

THIS EVENT HAS SOLD OUT.

Exeter Volunteer Fayre

Thursday 21 March, 11am-2:30pm

Discover a wide range of volunteer opportunities that match your interests and make a positive impact in our community at Exeter's Volunteer Fayre.

Find out more at bit.ly/volunteer-fayre.

Devon Youth Orchestras Spring Concert

Friday 22 March at 7:30pm

Once again the exciting sound of some of Devon's most accomplished young orchestral musicians will fill Exeter Cathedral.

Book now at bit.ly/dyo-concert.

An Opportunity to Wonder, Wander and Walk the Labyrinth...

Saturday 23 March, 11am-3pm

A labyrinth is, a journey to the centre, a winding pilgrim path that is walked prayerfully and reflectively.

Find out more at bit.ly/labyrinth-mar24.

Exeter Cathedral Choir: Bach St John Passion

Sunday 24 March, 4pm-6pm

Join the Exeter Cathedral Choir for J S Bach's monumental retelling of the story of the Crucifixion of Jesus.

Book now at bit.ly/stjohn-passion.

Holy Week with Canon Angela Tilby

Sunday 24 March – Friday 29 March

Join Canon Angela Tilby for Holy Week as she traces the path to the cross and resurrection by reflecting on particular psalms at Exeter Cathedral.

Book now at bit.ly/angela-tilby.

Adrian Wilfred 'Wilf' Reynolds : Servant of the Sanctuary

Of course Wilf, as we knew him, was much more than the Server we all remember here in the Cathedral. But it was a large part of his life and we, the Guild of St Gabriel, his fellow Servers, remember him best in that role.



Wilf is in the centre of the backrow, seen here with his fellow servers



Wilf, with considerable experience behind him, joined the Cathedral towards the end of 2012 and quickly became an integral part of the serving team. However, he brought much more than his skill in the Sanctuary to the life of the Guild. His vast experience, as a herdsman, as a policeman, as a bell ringer, and as an enthusiastic cook illuminated many conversations as the Sanctuary was prepared for the Eucharist.

Wilf helped to steer the life of the Guild in several ways, first, perhaps, in his membership of the Committee, and in his role as Deputy Head Server, in which he was invaluable to me in his support, commitment and friendship.

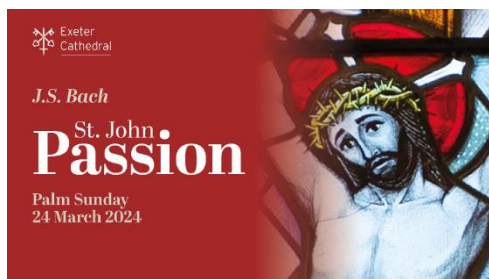
In recent years, beginning with the pandemic, Wilf turned a potential disaster into a resounding triumph. He started a WhatsApp group for the serving clerks which enabled people who had perhaps only seen each other sporadically, even before the pandemic, to begin to see themselves as a cohesive group. The twice weekly zoom meetings, which became known as The Servers Arms, was started by Mariam and Felix. Wilf picked up the reins of this when the pandemic dragged on for longer than expected and has kept it going ever since. The result is that the Cathedral now has a Serving Guild where the members have not only opportunities for fun and fellowship, but also respond to the daily call to prayer online. Until he was unable to do so very recently, Wilf would put up the collect for the day, reminders of any Saints to be remembered, and he established a rota of prayer for each member of the group to be mentioned. In this way Wilf was responsible for the present character of the Serving Team; it has become a family marked by fun, fellowship and prayerfulness.

Wilf was also Chairman of the Exeter Chapter of the Company of Servers, a role he performed with immense pride. He commissioned the Company of Servers banner which is carried in the Cathedral at Diocesan events, and was carried with honour at his funeral.

Wilf leaves a very large space in the serving Guild and we will always miss him. However, our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Judith, to his family, and to all his other friends who grieve his passing.

Rest in peace Wilf and rise in glory.

Caroline Prince, Head Server



Holy Week and Easter

On Palm Sunday, 24th 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 lay vicar of the Cathedral, Edward Woodhouse. Tim Mirfin will sing the role of Christ.

Mon-Weds at 7.30pm in Holy Week there will be Compline, an address by Canon Angela Tilby and a musical interlude. The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday will be at 7.30pm. On Good Friday, the Liturgy will be at 1.30pm and at 7.30pm Exeter University Chapel Choir will sing Stainer's *Crucifixion*. For full details of services for Holy Week and Easter please see the Weekly Sheet and Cathedral website.



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

The Friends Cloister Gallery is now at full height with the last coping stone hoisted into position on 27th Feb.

The work in the Quire is in the final stages now with the stalls and pulpit back in

position and the majority of the new Jubilee Pavement complete. The improvements around the high altar are coming together as well, with the stonework complete and joinery being assembled. We're all looking forward to completing this challenging phase of the project and hopefully re-opening the Quire in good time for Easter.

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



Silent Disco

Several hundred people, many of whom were visiting the Cathedral for the first time, enjoyed the recent Silent Disco.

We are grateful to Peter Emmanuel for this photograph of the Nave lit up for the occasion.



Celebrating RAMM: Inspiring past, present and future generations

Saturday 27 April 2.00pm to 6.00pm

Gallery 20

Tickets £25 (including drinks and canapés after the talks)

Book online

The Royal Albert Memorial Museum and Art Gallery opened its doors in 1868. For more than 150 years RAMM has been a beacon for cultural and social life in Exeter and beyond. Following a major extension and the award of Art Fund Museum of the Year in 2012, it continues to inspire young and old, and be an important part of the cultural landscape in Devon.

How does RAMM continue to develop, meet challenges and thrive?

Join the Friends of RAMM to hear a wide range of speakers from arts and funding organisations, universities and others discuss their connections with RAMM and look to the future. It promises to be a stimulating afternoon and a fitting celebration of RAMM's achievements.

Cathedral Players

With the success of Twelfth Night to encourage us and with the support of the Dean and Chapter we are looking to the 2024 season with excitement. There will be a dramatised reading of St Mark's Gospel on Sunday 14 April, which is being cast even as you read this.

The next major production will run from 24-27 September.

The Exeter Nativity will be performed on Sunday 15 December.

In order to realise these hopes committed assistance will be needed and the tasks to be undertaken are:

Experienced directors with a play to suggest for the September production.

A person with patience and interpersonal skills to act as Stage/Set/Properties manager.

A Costumes Mistress (or Master) to make, beg, borrow or hire the necessary outfits and then to be on hand to manage them before during and after each performance or run of performances. If you would like to help please make contact with either

David Gunn-Johnson at david.gunn-johnson@exeter-cathedral.org.uk or

James Stevenson at james.stevenson@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

Holy Week 2024 with Canon Angela Tilby

This year's preacher will be Canon Angela Tilby. Angela is a writer, broadcaster and theological educator. She will be with us from Palm Sunday to Good Friday. She is a Canon Emeritus of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford and a Canon of Honour at Portsmouth Cathedral. She lives in Portsmouth and is writing a book on the promise and perils of the Church of England. Through Holy Week, Angela will trace the path to the cross and resurrection by reflecting on particular psalms.

Canon Tilby writes:

"These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled". Luke 24.44

Though the psalms were written long before the time of Christ they have always held a special place in the life of the Christian Church because they seem to point so powerfully to the meaning of his life, death and resurrection. Jesus would have known the psalms intimately, and, according to two of the Gospel accounts, died with words from the 22nd psalm on his lips. In the early church, the psalms were given special status as the core of the Church's prayer to Christ and of Christ's prayer to the Father through the Church. St Augustine wrote:

Jesus Christ, who on earth prayed the psalms, now prays them with his members. He won these members by his life and death on the cross. With us, therefore, as we pray the psalms, he offers to the Father praise, gratitude, sorrow for our sins, petitions for grace.

(On the Psalms 138.12)

The psalms are also wonderful prayers for individuals as we wonder, question, struggle and rejoice our way through our lives.

Cathedral Community Committee (CCC) 13th February 2024

At the meeting of the CCC on 13th February thanks were expressed to those who had made it possible for Prayers for Healing to return to St Gabriel's Chapel. The prayer board is being well used. We were pleased and grateful to hear that Kathy Stubbings has arrangements for Mothering Sunday flowers well in hand.

Feedback on the use of incense on Sunday mornings had been largely positive, but this was not universal. The Committee supported the Chapter's future strategy, of which more from the Precentor next month. Dates were discussed for an Awayday. We decided how best to deliver a new Cathedral Directory and a "mugshot" board. There will be a Cathedral Community Party on Sunday 2nd June after the 10am Choral Eucharist for the feast of Corpus Christi.

Heather Morgan