



## From the Dean

There doesn't seem much to be cheerful about this Christmas. The world feels more dangerous than most of us can remember. The bounce-back following the General Election was short lived and there's not a lot to cheer about in the emerging policies and appointments on the far side of the Pond. Even the weather is ghastly - a constant reminder of our changing climate. But Christmas is traditionally the season of peace and joy and hope. So where might we look for hope as we approach the end of

another deeply unsettling year?

Let's start with what we know of Jesus' birth ... Mary and Joseph travelling 100 miles over hostile terrain, with Mary heavily pregnant. For the King of Glory, it's the cattle shed that serves as maternity ward, the feeding trough as the crib. And yet this, we believe, is nothing less than Emmanuel, God with us, breaking into earthly time and space. An explosion of light in the back streets of Bethlehem.

When, 40 days later, the baby is presented in the temple, Mary is forewarned that a sword will pierce her heart. This child is to bring more pain and suffering - on top of that the maiden Mary has already encountered, by saying yes to the angel, with all the doubt and tension that injects into her relationship with Joseph. And they can't even return home safely to Nazareth, but take that major detour via Egypt, in order to escape the murderous King Herod.

Our next encounter with the family is the annual Passover pilgrimage to Jerusalem. The 12-year old Jesus goes missing. What on earth has happened to that stereotypical bond between the son and his Jewish mother? Think of Maureen Lipman, Beattie, and the BT adverts. How frantic must Mary be... Travelling back a day's journey to the capital; finally locating their son in the Temple. "How could you treat us like this?" pleads Mary. But the almost teenage Jesus is unrepentant: "Duh! Where would you expect to find me?" Mary's sword is beginning to pierce.

Uncertainty. Unpredictability. Suffering. Recurring motifs through the Gospels. But the stuff therefore of Good News.

Fast forward to the final days of Jesus' earthly life. The betrayal by Judas. The injustice of the trial. The pain of Peter's three-fold denial. The agony, as Jesus drags his cross falteringly through the streets. The despair of the cross: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And Mary watching it all helplessly: the very same son she'd found teaching in the Temple, from then on always faithful, now seemingly abandoned by his heavenly Father. Unforeseen, tremendous suffering. And yet this day is called Good Friday. For this is the day when the world is saved.

As we look back on these crucial points from Jesus' life, and most especially as we ponder his birth and his death, what emerges is that it is precisely in uncertainty and suffering that God is to be found, that our hope is to be rediscovered. It's within a very ordinary family, struggling with the burden of giving birth in a shoddy stable miles from home, that God bursts into our world. Just when God seems most distant, on the cross, that is the moment when the curtain in the temple is torn in two, when our separation from God is brought to a dramatic end, when the world is filled with hope. The counterpoint to Good Friday is Easter Day; the consort of crucifixion is resurrection.

2024 has not necessarily felt full of hope, but hope is not just a feeling. It can also be the product of theological reflection. And our reflection reveals that uncertainty and suffering are where God's presence is most keenly felt, are the soil in which hope flourishes. So perhaps this year we might cheerfully wish one another a Hopeful Christmas, which in turn will give way to a Joyful New Year.

**Jonathan Greener**

## **Cathedral Music Trust Celebration Sunday**

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November was earmarked as Celebration Sunday by Cathedral Music Trust, particularly for the cathedrals and parish churches that had received grants in 2024. A total of £500,000 was awarded through the Trust's Cathedral Music Support Programme (for cathedrals) and the Church Choir Award (for parish churches). The 28 recipients included both Anglican and Roman Catholic Cathedrals throughout the UK.

Here in Exeter, we were very grateful for a grant of £30,000 and Crediton Parish Church received £7,000. We duly celebrated the ministry of music and gave thanks for the work of the Trust during the intercessions at Choral Eucharist at 10am and at Evensong on 17<sup>th</sup> November. If you would like to know more about the work of the Trust and how to become involved, please visit the website at <https://www.cathedralmusictrust.org.uk/> or speak to Canon James Mustard or Heather Morgan, both of whom are Trustees.

# **Safeguarding Notes from the Town Hall Meeting – November 2024**

## **Training.**

After this last week, with the disclosures in the Makin Report and the subsequent resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, I am conscious that any talk of safeguarding, and in particular training scenarios, can trigger past events. We are here to support you if you have any anxieties relating to past experiences.

If you have issues that mean safeguarding training will be very difficult for you because of past trauma, please contact me or Catherine so we can make suitable provision.

When we undertake informal training, such as the scenarios at Town Hall Meetings, I would like you to complete the simple feedback form so we can assess our training and monitor its effectiveness. It's pointless us putting on training that is not helpful.

## **Communications**

In addition, periodically, we may initiate surveys to ensure that we can gauge the impact of our communications. Please do respond if you have any improvements you can suggest. Try to be positive when responding! Posing the problems without suggesting solutions is not entirely helpful.

## **Escalating a concern**

One area that I know has been discussed recently is what to do if you have to refer a safeguarding concern?

You can find details in the Staff Handbook of our escalation process. It is important that everyone is confident in our processes. Our Credit Card aide memoire is a good place to start when you are asked about a safeguarding concern. The Diocesan Safeguarding Team (DST) have asked that we use a standard form for reporting matters to them. This form is on the Diocesan Website. It simply asks 3 broad questions: Who are you? Who are you concerned about? What is the nature of your concern? Please do also get used to using our dedicated safeguarding email address for contacting us about any safeguarding matter: [safeguarding@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@exeter-cathedral.org.uk)

## **Data Protection**

A reminder to everyone that we hold personal data, and this is processed lawfully in accordance with our Privacy Notice. This can be found on our website: <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/privacy-policy/>

## **Induction Procedures**

Many of you have been involved in the Cathedral for so long that you may not have had the benefit of some elements of the current induction training. The details of the current programme will be circulated shortly. If, when you see the scope of the current induction programme, you think there are elements that you have missed out on – then please let us know so we can plug any gaps. Please contact Catherine for details.

## **Mystery Shopper**

Finally, we had a mystery shopper – unsolicited – at the Cathedral a few weeks ago. He was a parish safeguarding representative from up country. He asked various people on the floor of the cathedral at the time where the safeguarding posters with information on them can be found – he says that those he spoke to had no idea... has also asked questions about general safeguarding procedures: (recognise: respond: record: refer.) Again, he says the people he spoke to were mystified as to what to do... He left us, not very impressed – I received an email from him advising me of his findings...

I replied to the email I received thanking him for taking the trouble to be in touch. I said I would let everyone know at a Town Hall meeting what he had found.

It is important that we continue to embed our safeguarding practice into our culture at the Cathedral. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

**The Venerable Nick Shutt, Chapter Lead on Safeguarding**

## **The January edition of *Cathedral News***

We hope to publish the next edition of the *News* on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The deadline for material is **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025**. This is a little later than usual because of the Christmas and New Year holiday. Please send any contributions to [hmm53@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:hmm53@tiscali.co.uk) or to any member of the editorial team; Heather Morgan, Rosemary Bethell, and Jenny Ellis.

We are always pleased to receive articles about Cathedral events, anniversaries, and news from all the Cathedral congregations and volunteer groups.

To all our readers, wherever you are, and by whatever means you receive the *News*, our very best wishes for Christmas and, in the Dean's words, for a Joyful New Year.

## Cloister Club Michaelmas Term



Cloister Club has seen more growth over this term, which is lovely. With more new families joining our community.

Over the course of the first half term, up to October 29<sup>th</sup>, children have joined us from 16 family groups, with an average attendance of 11 children per Sunday. Our largest session this half term had 15 attendees.

This means in the first half term 78 pieces of craft have been coloured, folded, and glued; 78 voices have contributed to the learning of seven songs; and lots of stories have been shared, and games played.

We have celebrated Harvest, reflecting on and acting upon Jesus's encouragement to share what we have by sharing biscuits with the congregation after the service. We

made colourful encouragement cards for those we knew were unwell and prayed for their healing. We also made salt dough cut-outs as we discussed when Jesus talked about the "salt of the earth" and not losing one's saltiness.

The highlight of the half term, of course, was joining in the procession for the Bishop's enthronement. Special thanks to Elizabeth and James for their outstanding behaviour throughout the service and for staying until the end so we could process out together.

After half term we have been equally busy with activities for remembrance, thinking about the bravery of Daniel in the lion's den and the children have written a new Cloister Club prayer which is recorded in the service sheet. We are looking forward to celebrating the Advent season, with continued Sunday activities, Christingle, Nativity and Crib services to attend.

It is with much gratefulness that we thank our volunteers for all that they do to help Cloister Club grow and become a thriving part of the Cathedral.

**Kathryn Timms, Cloister Club Co-ordinator**



## Prayer for the Cloister Club

Some of you will have noticed that the prayer as the children go out at the beginning of the service has been updated:

*Creator God, may our Cloister Club know your love as they gather today,  
May they hear your voice in song, story and play.  
May they be filled with joy in their worship,  
And give thanks for your generous gift of creation  
This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

The new prayer came from a session Kathryn led where the older children suggested ideas for a prayer, which were then woven together by her in consultation with James Mustard. Please do keep praying for us, that we will grow in numbers and fellowship with God and each other.

**Alastair Endersby**

## **Cathedral Lecture 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025: Professor Grace Davie** ***Religion in modern Europe: Some unexpected challenges***

The starting point of this lecture can be found in the work of Tomáš Halik, and in particular his most recent book *The Afternoon of Christianity: The Courage to Change*. Halik – a Czech Catholic priest trained in both theology and sociology – emphasizes the importance of context in understanding the place of religion in modern societies. Context is considered in terms of time as well as space and is constantly changing.

The second section draws briefly on an article that I published in 2006 which focused on the factors to take into account in understanding the religious situation in Europe at the turn of the millennium.

The third section indicates the changes that have taken place since then and the reasons for these. Some changes were expected; others less so, notably the growth of populism right across Europe and the place of religion in this. The mood is darker. The key to understanding these shifts is to *hold together* two much-studied phenomena: continuing – indeed remorseless – secularization and growing religious diversity. The implications are considerable.

*Grace Davie is well known to many in the Cathedral Community, and she has lectured and led awaydays here on several occasions. She is Professor Emeritus in the University of Exeter. Her main area of research is the sociology of religion on which she has published widely. She is a Lay Canon in the Diocese of Europe and has held posts in many universities in Europe and beyond.*

### **From the Canon Chancellor: A Pre-Nup Agreement**

A friend recently shared that she had asked for a Pre-Nup this Christmas. Not a pre-nuptial agreement but a Pre No Unnecessary Presents Pact.

She shared how she and her friend have decided that, instead of giving gifts for Christmas, this year, they will give time.

Part of that involves going out for an evening together to see “Wicked” and enjoy some quality time of fun, friendship and laughter. Part of it involves an agreement to walk each other`s dog for the month of December. One friend has agreed to walk the dogs in the morning; the other in the evening, releasing time for each of them to enter into the spirit and meaning of Christmas.

They hope this year that by doing this they will have a deeper appreciation, when Christmas arrives, of the greatest gift; the gift of Jesus Christ. Happy Christmas!

**Canon Deborah Parsons**





## **From the Company of Tapisers:**

### **The Rondels:**

We are all familiar with the row of cushions, along both sides of the nave, which narrate our history from Roman Times until 1983. These 'Rondels' form a unique piece of tapestry which have been admired by visitors from far and near.

For many years now it has been suggested the Tapisers should continue the narrative and bring the Rondels up-to-date. Well, forty years has now passed since they were made – and many significant events have happened since. The Dean has agreed we should continue this project – naturally, using the same style/design/colours. We

shall make four cushions to cover the four decades of 1984 – 2023.

We have now started the continuation of the Rondels – beginning with the statue of St Peter by Simon Verity, on the West Front ... to the Coronation of King Charles III. It will take us some time to complete them, but I'll give you regular updates as to our progress.

### **A Plea for unwanted cotton duvet covers**

When the next phase of work takes place in the Nave, the existing Rondel cushions will have to be stored safely – away from the dust and any dampness. It would be extremely helpful to wrap the Rondel cushions in cotton duvet covers first before they are stored. If you have an old duvet cover that you no longer need, we would be very grateful to make use of it. Any donations of duvet covers can be left at the Welcome Desk in the Cathedral. Thank you very much.

Members of The Company of Tapisers would like to wish you all a joyful Christmas Season.

**Diana Symes, Chairman of the Company of Tapisers**

## **Advent Procession: Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 6pm**

Join us for the start of the Advent Season, as we look for the coming, the "adventus" of Jesus at Christmas. The choir will lead us in singing advent carols and anthems in this atmospheric service.



## **Exeter Cathedral Advent Series 2024**

### ***Words for the Word: Advent in prayers, psalms and preaching***

In this series of three talks Exeter Cathedral's three Canons Theologian will explore some liturgical responses to the Advent and Christmas seasons. We will introduce some new texts and will share some new perspectives on familiar ones. Come and join us for one talk or all three, as we learn about and reflect on some beautiful seasonal words for the Word!

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November, 7:30 – 9:00 pm**

#### **The Revd Canon Dr Benjamin Williams: "Exciting Collects! Praying through Advent with Exeter Cathedral Library's Medieval Manuscripts and Early Printed Books"**

Benjamin Williams - Vicar of Barnstaple, Lecturer at Oxford University, and a Canon Theologian at the Cathedral - takes a look at how a treasure of Western spirituality, the Collect, developed through the Middle Ages and English Reformation, as this is illustrated in items from the Cathedral Library's Special Collections. Focussing on the series of Advent collects that begin "Excita!" - "Stir up!" - we'll begin with the prayers and musical notation in the Library's beautiful twelfth-century Missal, and trace the collects' history to the copy of the 1552 Book of Common Prayer that shows the collect that gave the Sunday next before Advent its popular name - "Stir up Sunday".

**Please book to be sent a link to the Zoom meeting:** <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/exciting-collects-praying-through-stir-up-sunday-and-advent/>

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 7:30 – 9:00 pm**

#### **The Revd Canon Prof Sue Gillingham: "Psalms 90-106: An Early Advent Hymn Book?"**

Sue was ordained to the Permanent Diaconate in 2018 and was installed as Canon Theologian in Exeter Cathedral later that year. She is Emeritus Professor of the Hebrew Bible at the University of Oxford and Emeritus Fellow at Worcester College, Oxford. She has written a good deal about the Psalms, and in this Advent talk she intends to show that Psalms 90-106 have been organised (as a pre-Christian, Jewish collection) to demonstrate God's eternal Kingship in an unpredictable world – an ancient message, but with a contemporary ring.

**Please book to be sent a link to the Zoom meeting:** <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/psalms-90-106-an-early-advent-hymn-book/>

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December, 7:30 – 9:00 pm**

**The Revd Canon Prof Morwenna Ludlow: “Inventing Christmas: the First Sermons on the Nativity”**

Morwenna is Professor in Christian History and Theology at the University of Exeter. She was ordained in 2015 and has been licensed to Exeter Cathedral since then, first as Assistant Curate then as Canon Theologian. Morwenna’s specialism is the history of the early church, especially fourth century theology in Greek. For these lectures she will look at the origins of the Christian feast of the Nativity, including some of the earliest evidence for its liturgical celebration – Christmas sermons by the ‘Cappadocian’ fathers, Basil of Caesarea, Gregory of Nazianzus and Gregory of Nyssa.

**Please book to be sent a link to the Zoom meeting:** <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/inventing-christmas-the-first-sermons-on-the-nativity/>

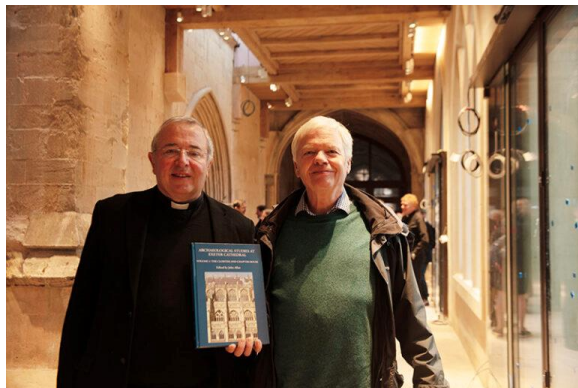


The  
EXETER CATHEDRAL  
2020s DEVELOPMENT  
APPEAL



**An Evening with John Allan: Wednesday 22 January 2025 at 7pm**

***Spend an evening with Exeter Cathedral Archaeologist, John Allan in conversation with the Dean***



Learn more about John’s fascinating archaeological career and new book which explores the recent excavations of the Exeter Cathedral Cloister and Chapter House. Tickets £15.

Proceeds to the Cathedral Sound System Appeal.

**Thank you** to the Sunday 8 o’clock congregation who have made another donation of £100 to the Cathedral Sound System appeal.



## News from the Cathedral Flower Arrangers

May I begin by saying a thank you to all who emailed, sent texts and spoke to me about the flower arrangements for the Bishop's Enthronement (see *photos*). I was very proud to be the Chair of such a talented group of ladies who helped produce the fabulous result. Your response was amazing, and I passed as many on to the arrangers as I was able to do. +Jackie said it was just perfect and took the trouble to email after the rehearsal on the Friday and +Mike wrote a lovely note of thanks. One member of the congregation said it was divine providence that our flowers matched the new Bishop's cope!



We moved swiftly on to Remembrance and poppies, which always look poignant. We then arranged an autumn look for two weeks and this week we move into dried flowers for Advent.

We have started to put together the flower arrangements for two events – Christmas and the Grand Nave Dinner (GND). We have been able to gather together the equipment for Christmas together and some of the purchased foliage will be used for the GND next year. We will be moving out of our current camp early in the New Year as our current position will become the scaffolding base for work on lights and sound in the Quire. At the present time new destination unknown!

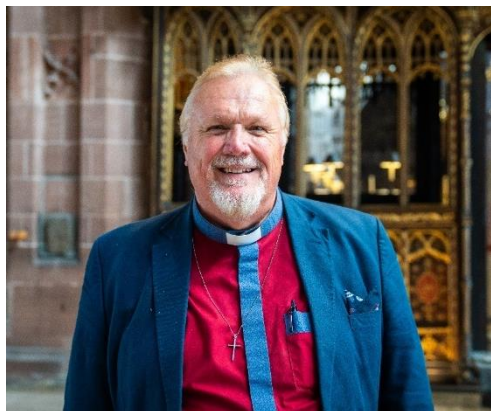


You still have time to order a fresh Christmas wreath, made by our team, for £35, by emailing [alisondavenport551@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:alisondavenport551@yahoo.co.uk). They will be available from 10<sup>th</sup> December from the Chapter House. This is a fundraiser for us, ECFA, as we have not had many extras to bring in funds over the past months. The more wreaths that are ordered the healthier our bank account will be!

**Flick Evans, Chair ECFA**

## A Study Course on the Gospel of John with The Revd Canon Professor Richard A. Burridge

**Wednesdays 15 January – 26 February, 2:30pm-4:30pm** in the Sacristy, The West Wing, Exeter Cathedral Library and Archives, Palace Gate, EX1 1HY; the course is also repeated on the same Wednesday evenings, **6.30-8.45pm** in the Baptist Church, 25 South Street, Exeter, EX1 1EB

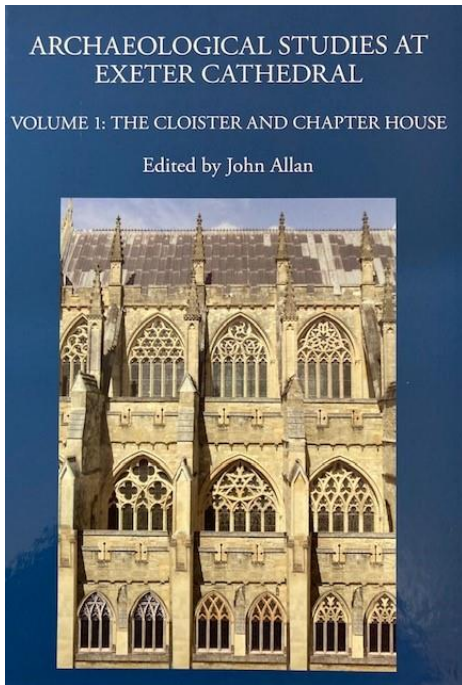


Following on from his successful course on the Gospel of Mark, last year, Richard will now lead a new seven-week course on **the Gospel of John**, which has been described as “**a book in which a child can paddle, but an elephant can swim deep**” – often given to new or young Christians, yet which has kept theologians and mystics studying and debating for generations.

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, while his *Commentary on John's Gospel* was adopted by Archbishop Rowan Williams as “*one of the finest and most accessible of modern studies*”, being given to all Anglican bishops who attended the Lambeth Conference 2008. His academic scholarship on Jesus and the gospels, 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.

Please book your place by emailing Professor Burridge at [richard.burridge@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:richard.burridge@manchester.ac.uk), stating whether you wish to register for the afternoon or evening group, and if you want to attend in person or on line. You will then be sent further details.



## **A New Publication**

### **John Allan: Archaeological Studies at Exeter Cathedral**

The cloisters of Exeter Cathedral, designed by two major figures in the story of medieval architecture in England – Thomas of Witney and Robert Lesyngham – must once have been one of the key 14<sup>th</sup>-century buildings in the West Country. They were demolished in the Civil War, and their site is now occupied by various later structures, themselves of considerable architectural interest.

When in the late 1990s the Cathedral Chapter considered rebuilding part of the lost cloister, it was apparent that a much fuller understanding of the site's architectural history would be needed to inform the programme.

This led to a series of investigations of its standing buildings, accompanied by new documentary research and selective archaeological investigation below ground, where a sequence of Roman deposits and unexpected burials of the 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> centuries AD were encountered. This volume brings together the results of archaeological work conducted on the site over the last 25 years.

Available from the Cathedral Shop

£30 full price, £20 to members of the Friends of Exeter Cathedral

## **Handel's *Messiah* with the Exeter Cathedral Choir** **Sunday 8 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*.

The proceeds from this concert will support the work of the [Exeter Cathedral Music Foundation](#).



## **From the Canon Chancellor: Chasing away the Winter Blues**

I was struck by a recent interview on television by Davina McCall. She had just returned home from surgery for a very rare brain tumour. The tumour was benign but nevertheless the surgery was not without its risks, and she admitted that she is still having to work on her short-term memory.

Looking tired, pale and wrung out, she spoke from her bed. She thanked all who had sent messages of support and now that she was on the other side of surgery, told friends that she had taken a huge dose of Vitamin G.

Vitamin G, I hear you say, don't you mean Vitamin C? No. Vitamin G. Vitamin Gratitude.

Facing her own mortality had made Davina acutely aware of how much she had to be grateful for.

This season can be difficult for many people particularly for those who are bereaved or facing Christmas without the support of a loved one. Many homes and businesses have been affected by recent flooding. Many too are having to navigate health issues or challenges as a result of the cost of living crisis or job losses or the rise in winter fuel bills.

However this season finds you, may you consider taking a large dose of Vitamin G each day. Ask yourself: "What three things am I grateful for today? What three things can I let go of?" Gratitude is one thing we can do to help chase away the Winter blues.

**Canon Deborah Parsons**

## **A Milestone for Cathedral News**

Eagle-eyed readers may have noticed from the front page that this is the 750<sup>th</sup> edition of *Cathedral News*. In 2012, for the 600<sup>th</sup> edition, Felicity Cawthra, a longstanding member of the Cathedral congregation, told us how it all began. We hope that Archdeacon Babington, who was also closely involved with the introduction of coffee after the Sunday Choral Eucharist (a daring innovation in its time) would be delighted with his legacy.

*In 1942 my father, Dick Babington, became Vicar of St. Mary-le-Tower Church, Ipswich. He inherited a thing called The Church Paper, a single sheet folded in three, which he edited and largely wrote. He had a light touch, and it became known as The Tower Tatler.*

*After becoming Canon here and Archdeacon of Exeter he decided the Cathedral needed a similar publication. In September 1961 he delivered the first edition of Cathedral News, a single folded sheet with an encouraging message from the then Dean, Marcus Knight. By the time he retired in June 1970 he had edited and written in over a hundred issues. He would be absolutely delighted to know that Cathedral News still exists and has gone from strength to strength.*

## Robert's Christmas fundraiser for Devon Historic Churches Trust



**12,000 steps a day challenge**  
**DECEMBER 2024**



The UK has some of the most historic and beautiful churches and chapels to be found anywhere in the world. But many are at risk of closing for good if urgent action is not taken. According to National Churches Trust, in England, there are now 900 places of

worship on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register – with 53 more added in 2023.

Church buildings provide massive social support to people and communities throughout the country, including in the most deprived areas. They provide a network of social support which helps to build more resilient and socially cohesive communities which results in huge wellbeing benefits. But churches are guaranteed no support from government, and many are in danger of closure.

### Devon Historic Churches Trust

Devon Historic Churches Trust is dedicated to funding repairs and maintenance of places of worship in the Diocese of Exeter and throughout Devon. It provides grants for essential repairs and refurbishments in a simple and accessible formula.

The Trust also provides emergency funding in a matter of days when something unexpected and urgent occurs. Volunteers throughout Devon are giving their time and talents every day to deliver the services that every community needs. But the considerable cost of repairs to the building are almost always beyond their resources – this is why supporting the DHCT is so very important.

### 12,000 steps a day challenge

Throughout December I will be walking at least 12,000 steps a day to raise funds for Devon Historic Churches Trust. You can support my fundraising efforts by donating through JustGiving: [www.justgiving.com/page/devonhct](https://www.justgiving.com/page/devonhct)

**Robert Middleton**



## Saints in Exeter: St Loye

*We have a special local Saint of the Month for December, not to be found in the Common Worship Calendar but important to Exeter nonetheless.*

St Loye was born in about 588 near Limoges, close to the middle of what is now France. He trained and worked as a goldsmith, rising to master of the mint and then councillor to the King of the Franks. He took advantage of royal favour to obtain alms for the poor, ransom slaves, and give criminals decent burials. He founded several monasteries and built and restored churches in Paris. In 642, he was (unwillingly) appointed Bishop of Noyon-Tournai with the unanimous approval of clergy and people. He died on 1 December 660, and 1 December is now his feast day.

Many early saints are surrounded by legend. St Loye is said to have reshod a reluctant horse, which he thought possessed by demons, by cutting off its foreleg, shodding it, then miraculously reattaching it to the horse. So St Loye became the patron saint of horses and those who work with them. His other patronages include vets, goldsmiths, coin collectors, and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) corps in the British Army. He is particularly honoured in parts of northern France and Belgium.

So what is his connection with Exeter?

It probably started with the dedication of the Chapel of St Loye. According to Historic England's listing, it "was built by Henry Twill in 1377 and was dedicated to St Loye the patron saint of metal workers." The dedication is unusual; it is the only one known in Devon or Cornwall. Maybe it was simply the whimsy of the lord of the manor. The Chapel is now in the parish of St Michael's Heavitree, and from time to time they hold a service in the ruins. You might like to keep an eye out for future events.

Later came St Loye's College, founded in 1937 to help people with disabilities overcome societal barriers and achieve their potential. This became the St Loye's Foundation, providing training in e.g. occupational therapy, and the charity StepOne after merging with the Community Care Trust.

Now St Loyes is a ward within Exeter City Council on the east side of the city. Bizarrely it doesn't encompass either the area around St Loyes Road often labelled as 'St Loyes' on maps, nor the old St Loye's Foundation site, nor even St Loye's Chapel, which is the other side of Rifford Road. Note that it doesn't do to get worked up about apostrophes either!

In any case, there have been many versions of St Loye through the ages. He signed himself Eligius, the Latin form of his name, which comes from *eligere*

meaning to choose. He also appears as Eloy, Éloy, Éloi, Loy, Loys, Lewis, Elius, Eligious, Eligio and Eligiusz.

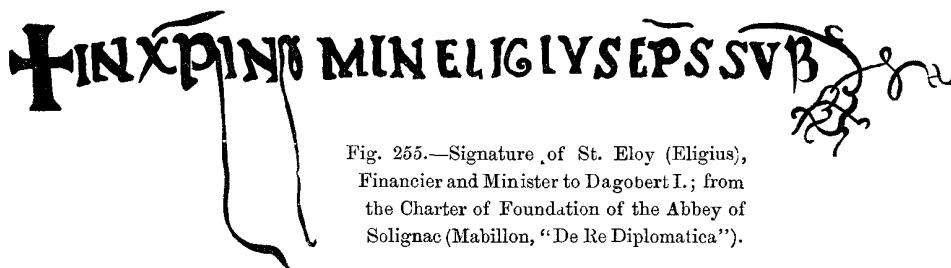


Fig. 255.—Signature of St. Eloy (Eligius),  
Financier and Minister to Dagobert I.; from  
the Charter of Foundation of the Abbey of  
Solignac (Mabillon, “De Re Diplomatica”).

Some readers might remember “St Elsewhere”, the US medical drama series set in a fictional Boston Hospital called St Eligius. That St Elsewhere got me thinking: where are all the other St Loyes elsewhere in the country? I’ve found a few: St Loy Cove, Cornwall; Weedon Lois, its castle and St Loys school; St Loy’s Chapel in Cheshire; St Elius Chapel in Spindlestone Heugh; a window of the poor horse in St James the Great, Slapton, and a sculpture in St Nicholas' Church, Durweston. Do you know of anywhere else?

**Clare Bryden**

There is a referenced version of this article at <https://clarebryden.co.uk/st-loye>.

## **Bishop Jackie's Farewell Service 18<sup>th</sup> January at 3pm**

You are warmly invited to Bishop Jackie’s Farewell Eucharist Service in the Cathedral on Saturday 18 January at 3pm, followed by refreshments. To give an indication of numbers and to book your seat, please [click here](#).

Bishop Jackie has been a huge blessing to this diocese over the past six years and we are grateful for all she has done as Bishop of Crediton and Acting Bishop of Exeter. We will be creating a leaving gift of a book of photos and messages from across the diocese. To upload a photo and/or a message (selfies appreciated!) for inclusion in the book please [click here](#).

If you would like to contribute to a gift for Bishop Jackie, please make a BACS payment to:

Sort Code: 56-00-49    Account Number: 00717673

Account Name: Exeter Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd

**Reference: Bishop Jackie** (please ensure you use this reference)

## The Friends Cloister Gallery and Cathedral Shop are open!

Many thanks and congratulations to all who contributed to the magnificent Friends Cloister Gallery and to the new Cathedral Shop, both of which opened at the beginning of November.

We are grateful to Malcolm Vallance, one of the Monday morning Stewards and Guides, for sharing these pictures. The team are seen here celebrating the splendid new surroundings with Caroline, the Duty Chaplain.





## Cathedral Confirmation: 24<sup>th</sup> November

Warmest congratulations to all who were confirmed in the Cathedral on 24<sup>th</sup> November, and especially to Oscar and Jamie from the Cathedral 10am congregation.

They are seen (*left*) with Bishop Mike, and with Prebendary Julian Ould (Priest Vicar) who prepared them for confirmation.



## **What's On in December**

### **Exeter Cathedral Christmas Market until 15 December**

Make it a day out to remember at Exeter Cathedral Christmas Market. You'll discover something for everyone, with over a hundred twinkling festive chalets, local gifts and produce, bars, global street food and seasonal entertainment. Find out more at [bit.ly/ECCM-24](https://bit.ly/ECCM-24)

### **Advent Procession: Sunday 1 December at 6pm**

The choir will lead us in singing advent carols and anthems in this atmospheric service. Find out more at [bit.ly/advent-procession](https://bit.ly/advent-procession)

### **Lord Mayor's Carol Service: Monday 2 December at 2pm**

All are welcome to join us for the Lord Mayor's annual carol service. Find out more at [bit.ly/mayor-carols](https://bit.ly/mayor-carols)

### **Exeter Hospiscare 'Light Up a Life' Carol Service**

#### **Wednesday 4 December at 6:30pm**

A special Christmas Memorial service for people missing their loved ones at Christmas time, hosted by Hospiscare, a Devon-based charity that provides care support for life-limiting illnesses. Find out more at [bit.ly/hospiscare24](https://bit.ly/hospiscare24)

### **Christmas by Candlelight: Friday 6 December 2024 at 7:30pm**

A spectacular West End Cast and incredible live band perform your favourite Christmas Hits, as you have never heard them before! Book your ticket at [bit.ly/christmas-candlelight](https://bit.ly/christmas-candlelight)

### **Christmas with the Cathedral Choir**

#### **Saturday 7, Tuesday 10 & Thursday 12 December at 7pm**

Enjoy the best choral music of the season with traditional carols and modern classics in the magnificent setting of Exeter Cathedral. Book your ticket at [bit.ly/cwtcc-2024](https://bit.ly/cwtcc-2024)

### **Handel's Messiah with the Exeter Cathedral Choir**

#### **Sunday 8 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 your ticket at [bit.ly/messiah-2024](https://bit.ly/messiah-2024)

**A Grand Georgian Christmas with Gabrieli Roar: Monday 9 December at 7pm**

Join Gabrieli Roar for 'A Grand Georgian Christmas', a festive treat featuring the rich harmonies and spirited rhythms. Book your ticket at [bit.ly/georgian-christmas](https://bit.ly/georgian-christmas)

**Library and Archives Christmas In Focus: Picturing the Nativity**

**Tuesday 10 December, drop in 1pm-3pm**

Start your Christmas with some seasonal treasures from the Cathedral Library. Find out more at [bit.ly/picturing-the-nativity](https://bit.ly/picturing-the-nativity)

**Psalms 90-106: An Early Advent Hymn Book? With The Revd Canon Prof Sue Gillingham**

**Thursday 12 December, 7:30pm on Zoom**

In this series of three talks Exeter Cathedral's three Canons Theologian will explore some liturgical responses to the Advent and Christmas seasons. Find out more [bit.ly/sue-advent-talk](https://bit.ly/sue-advent-talk)

**La La Choir Christmas Concert: Friday 13 December at 7:30pm**

La La choir will be returning for their ninth year, with a selection of Christmas favourites. Book your ticket at [bit.ly/lalachoir2024](https://bit.ly/lalachoir2024)

**Exeter Festival Chorus: Christmas Classics with Devon Youth Jazz Orchestra**

**Saturday 14 December 2024 at 7:30pm**

Join Exeter Festival Chorus and Devon Youth Jazz Orchestra at Exeter Cathedral for a festive family evening of familiar – and some not so familiar – seasonal music for all ages, with audience carols. Book your ticket at [bit.ly/efc-christmas-classics](https://bit.ly/efc-christmas-classics)

**The Exeter Nativity: Sunday 15 December 2024 at 4pm**

Brought to you by the staff of Exeter Cathedral and their friends, the Exeter Nativity returns with a star-studded cast portraying all the well-known figures from the famous Christmas story, as well as some lesser-known characters. However, the real stars of the evening are Harry and George, the llamas who dress up as very convincing, if slightly diminutive, camels. Book your free ticket at [bit.ly/ec-nativity](https://bit.ly/ec-nativity)

**Lunchtime Carols: Tuesday 17 and Thursday 19 December, 1-2pm.**

Get in the festive spirit by spending your lunchbreak singing traditional Christmas carols in the nave accompanied by the mighty organ. Lunchtime Carols are free to attend. There is no need to book in advance for this event. Find out more at [bit.ly/lunchtime-carols24](https://bit.ly/lunchtime-carols24)

**Inventing Christmas: the First Sermons on the Nativity with The Revd Canon Prof Morwenna Ludlow**

**Thursday 19 December at 7:30pm-9pm on Zoom**

In this series of three talks Exeter Cathedral's three Canons Theologian will explore some liturgical responses to the Advent and Christmas seasons. Find out more at [bit.ly/morwenna-advent-talk](https://bit.ly/morwenna-advent-talk)

**Christmas at the Movies by Candlelight**

**Saturday 21 December at 7:30pm**

Join London Concertante as they embark on a jolly journey through the heart-warming and hilarious worlds of beloved Christmas films. Book your ticket at [bit.ly/christmas-movies-ec](https://bit.ly/christmas-movies-ec)

**Grandisson Service of Lessons and Carols**

**Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 December at 6pm**

All are welcome at this unique service of lessons and carols for Christmas, which opens with Bishop John de Grandisson's service for Christmas. Book your free ticket [bit.ly/grandisson2024](https://bit.ly/grandisson2024)

**Crib Service**

**Tuesday 24 December at 12pm**

A short service for children young and older, and their carers. Join us as we hear the story of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, with carols led by our choristers. Find out more about our Christmas services at [bit.ly/advent-christmas-2024](https://bit.ly/advent-christmas-2024).

**Midnight Mass**

**Tuesday 24 December at 11:30pm**

The first Eucharist of Christmas, a traditional service with carols led by the Cathedral's clergy and the St Peter's Singers. Midnight Mass is free to attend. There is no need to book in advance for this event. Find out more about our Christmas services at [bit.ly/advent-christmas-2024](https://bit.ly/advent-christmas-2024).

**Christmas Day Services**

**8:00am: Holy Communion**

**10:00am: Choral Eucharist**

**11:45am: Choral Matins**

**4:00pm: Choral Evensong**

All services are free to attend. There is no need to book in advance. Find out more about our Christmas services at [bit.ly/advent-christmas-2024](https://bit.ly/advent-christmas-2024).



## **Time: The New Sound and Light Experience at Exeter Cathedral Tuesday 7 – Saturday 11 January 2025**

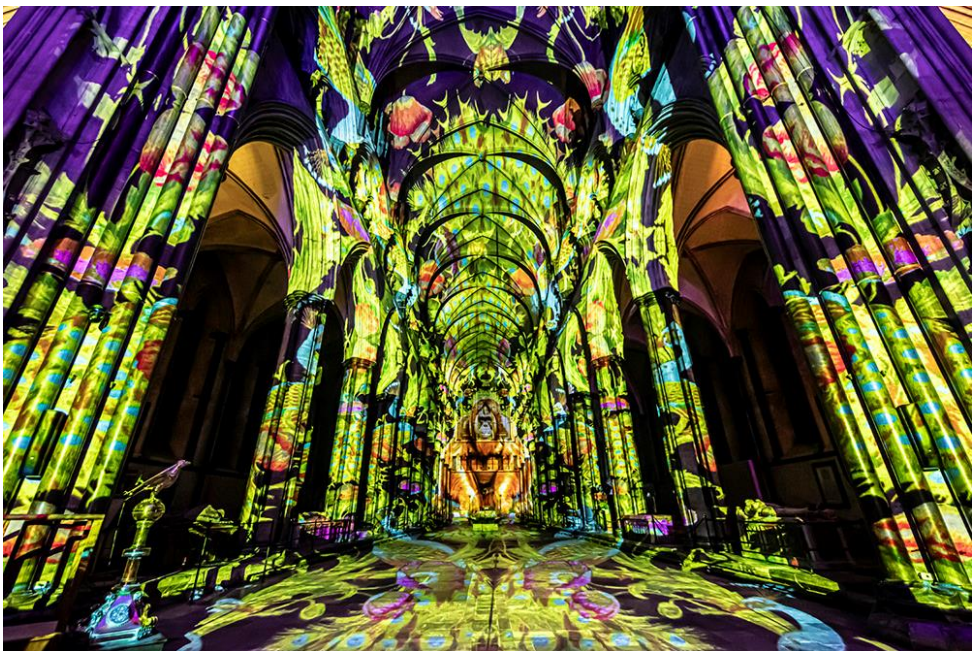
Take a journey through time at Exeter Cathedral

Explore our relationship with time with Luxmuralis' stunning new sound and light show. Featuring dazzling light, dynamic soundscapes, and multiple projection installations, Time will take visitors on an unforgettable journey through history, science, and imagination, transforming the magnificent architecture of Exeter Cathedral.

Following its launch at Salisbury Cathedral in November, Exeter Cathedral will be the first tour venue to host this spectacular immersive event.

Visitors will be guided through a series of captivating installations that portray humans as seen through different eras, exploring the fascinating theories of relativity, and the text of H.G. Wells' *The Time Machine*.

Find out more and book your ticket at [bit.ly/time-exeter](https://bit.ly/time-exeter)



## **Exeter Cathedral Lent Course 2025**

### **A Rule of Life: A Rule for My Life**

A short course commencing with a guided afternoon's retreat on Ash Wednesday (5<sup>th</sup> March) in The Sacristy followed by three fortnightly meetings between 12.00 and 1.00 on 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> of March and the 6<sup>th</sup> of April in the Richard Eyre Room. During this Lenten journey, we shall be giving time to exploring our relationship with God and giving practical tools on how we deepen our commitment to follow Christ every day of our lives.

#### **Ash Wednesday (5 March): A Guided Meditation on 'A Return to Love' 2.30-4.00 pm**

A time of guided contemplation and preparation to equip us for this Lenten journey and to enable those who wish to continue to examine and deepen their discipleship through Lent.

#### **Session 1: Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March 12.00 to 1.00: What is a Rule of Life and How Do We Live It?**

In this session, we shall introduce the idea and practice of a Rule of Life, taking time to introduce the Cathedral's own Rule of Life and consider how habits can positively shape and nurture a life of faith. We shall take time to explore how rhythm and structure can enable growth even when the fruits of such practices are not immediately apparent or obvious. There will be opportunities for personal and shared reflection and time to consider how individual practices might be cultivated in the coming weeks.

#### **Session 2: Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 12.00 to 1.00: Session 2: Exploring the Examen**

In this session, we shall dive deeper into a particular spiritual practice, the Examen, as a way in which we can pay attention to the moments in each day when we notice ourselves drawing close to or away from God. We shall think about how we might find ways to weave into our lives, times for candid self-examination, as well as reflect on times when we might overlook opportunities for gratitude. We hope that participants will be encouraged to try out the Examen in their everyday lives.

#### **Session 3: Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April 12.00 to 1.00: Your Personal Vocation**

Here we shall consider our personal calling or vocation and ways to align it with service to others. We shall introduce ways in which we might reconnect with our unique calling and how we might align our lives with God's purposes for the world. In this final session, we shall revisit our personal Rule of Life and think through how we might commit to continuing to live it out during Lent and beyond.

To book a place, please contact [deborah.parsons@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:deborah.parsons@exeter-cathedral.org.uk) or [phil.wales@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:phil.wales@exeter-cathedral.org.uk)