

# **Cathedral News**

June 2025 - No. 756



# From the Canon Chancellor:

If we were walking in the woods near our home with our children at this time of the year, we used to joke that it was very noisy. Each year, they fell for this comment and would ask why? My husband would reply that was all the bells blowing in the wind making it so noisy. They would then realise that he was talking about the bluebells, which had just appeared, and were making a wonderful blue carpet. The children have now grown up and

certainly wouldn't fall for that joke again, but as the bluebells appear in the woods where we now walk with our dogs, I always think of the noisy bluebells and it makes me smile.

We are fortunate in having a wonderful display of bluebells near to us at this time of year, as I am sure many do in nearby woods. I am glad to say that our woods contain native bluebells, not the relatively new imported Spanish ones. I see these blooming on the edge of our wildflower meadow on the south side of the Cathedral. If you don't know the difference, our native bluebells have fewer bells, only on one side of the slightly bent stalk, whereas the invaders have bells all around the stalk and are much more upright. Both, however, are beautiful and bring us joy at this time of the year.

I like to think in fact that the bluebells are ringing out the joy of this season, that Jesus Christ is Risen. In their own way, they are sharing the good news, and are silently shouting "Alleluia". As Easter is late this year perhaps that is why I have noticed their Alleluias more than other years.

I have been told that you can age a woodland by the amount of bluebell cover: thick cover and a good spread indicates that the woodland has been established for a long time. It is important that we all do as much as we can to preserve our woodlands for the future, for others to enjoy them in future generations.

It's interesting to note that these beautiful flowers are in fact very poisonous; they contain a substance which causes sickness and if taken in large amounts can even cause heart failure! Beautiful on the outside but toxic within. The Woes



1

of Jesus, as referred to in Matthew 23, come to mind particularly v 27; "woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like white washed tombs, which on the outside look beautiful, but inside are full of bones and all kinds of filth."

I'm not saying that bluebells are hypocrites, but may serve to remind us that external beauty must not camouflage internal negativity or toxicity. Jesus talks much about hypocrisy in this chapter from Matthew's Gospel, and therefore the need for integrity and honesty both inside and out; thus beauty on the inside and out. Perhaps then the message the bells of the bluebells ring out is to guard ourselves from hypocrisy, and to ring out honesty and integrity as Christ taught. To ring out God's love brought to us by the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Alleluia.

#### **Canon Deborah Parsons**



# **CHORISTER TRY-OUTS!**

- sing in Exeter Cathedral 3 times a week
- a fully-funded / part-funded place at Exeter Cathedral School
- tours and recordings
- skills and friendships for life



admissions@exetercs.org

#### In Conversation with Dr. Alison Perham on: "We need to talk about Assisted Dying."

# Sunday 13th July 2025 6:30pm The Chapter House, Exeter Cathedral

(Refreshments served from 6.00pm)



Dr Alison Perham is a retired physician, initially working in General Practice, before specialising in Palliative Medicine. She has worked in different settings, hospitals, hospices and the community, in different parts of the country as her husband's job moved.

privileged Having this experience made her appreciate the value for families. individuals and communities of discussions around older care, and end of life care. Having seen the benefit of informed decisionmaking it has made her value opportunities where those discussions can be gently approached.

Her intention during the conversation, is not to set herself up as an expert, but as someone who has been privileged to have witnessed, perhaps more than some, the complexities surrounding the end of our lives.

Her faith has always been, she hopes, at the core of her practice, and at the heart of her own decision making.

Join us for an evening of conversation and exploration followed by a short service of compline.



# News from The Company of Tapisers

There is going to be a special exhibition of Vestments and Textiles called 'Threads of Gold' at Colyton Church from Wednesday 18th - Friday 20th June.

They will display Vestments from churches in the Holyford Mission Community, as well as some from Exeter Cathedral.

On Wednesday 18th June at 7.00pm I will be giving an illustrated talk about the work of the Tapisers - and sharing a few secrets about Vestments along the way.

Colyton has a lovely church with a friendly and welcoming atmosphere.

Do pop along to see their exhibition, if you can - it will have some really interesting vestments to view.

#### Diana Symes, Chairman of The Company of Tapisers

## **Cloister Club Co-ordinator**

We are looking to recruit a Co-ordinator for Exeter Cathedral's junior church, Cloister Club. The Cloister Club Co-coordinator will develop work with the children and families in our Cathedral community and beyond, enabling them to feel fully part of Exeter Cathedral. The successful candidate will lead a team of volunteers to develop a fresh curriculum and experience for children and families. This is a paid, fixed-term contract for 1 year, 12 hours per week for 40 weeks, with potential for a longer-term contract. Please see the Cathedral website vacancies page to download an information pack and application form.

## The July edition of Cathedral News

We hope to publish the next edition of the *News* on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The deadline for material is **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025.** Please send any contributions to <u>hmm53@tiscali.co.uk</u> or to any member of the editorial team; Heather Morgan, Rosemary Bethell, and Jenny Ellis.

# **News from Cathedral Players**

The Players are back with a proposed production of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. The play will be presented in the Cathedral with four performances. The opening night will be Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September, closing on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Elizabeth Noon and David Gunn-Johnson will be sharing various aspects of the Direction and look forward to working together and with the cast and crew.

There will be a read-through of the play on 28<sup>th</sup> May at 7:30 pm in the Chapter House (access through the Cloister Garden) Open auditions will take place on 4<sup>th</sup> June, same time, same place. If you are interested but want to find out more before the start please contact either Elizabeth (<u>pianokeys@gmail.com</u> / 07575 486468) or David (<u>dgunnjohnson549@btinternet.com</u> / 07921 150428) for a conversation.

**The Exeter Nativity** has for many years and in various forms been a special part of the Cathedral's public offering for Christmas. Some members of the cast, who have been splendid performers for a long time have decided that it is time for them to retire. That leaves several gaps which need to be filled now in order for the Nativity to be ready in time for Christmas. Acting experience and a sense of comedy timing would be an advantage, but skills can be taught and learned.

For more details contact David G-J, details above.

# At St Matt's Exeter: Wednesday 11th June

## 'Hope for the Future: Inspiring involvement in the Care System'

How can the church support families who are at risk of having kids taken into care?

Safe Families (who've just merged with Home for Good) will be at the event, as will a social worker, an adopted adult, someone who works with care leavers going into supported lodgings and a care experienced young person.

Exploring a variety of ways that are less intense than fostering and adoption to bridge the gap between those that feel in some way called or prompted but for whom fostering or adoption is not for them, or they aren't in a position to do that at the moment.

We will have some interviews and then hot drinks and sweet snack break before a panel discussion.

It is an open invitation to anyone who would like to come, and everyone is welcome.

# From the Cathedral Flower Arrangers

The sunshine of the past weeks has made arranging in the Cathedral a comfortable and pleasing experience. Such a change from January when we all had frozen fingers!

We have taken the Easter Garden down earlier than usual to accommodate the electricians putting in the new heaters in the Nave. There was no way we could physically move the whole thing and just put it back, as was originally planned. With the willingly given help of the Virgers and Maintenance team we not only got it all down but actually put away in hidey hole places all over the Cathedral footprint in about 2 hours! It took us twice that long to put it together. We do continue with fresh foliage at the Easter candle for another 3 weeks or so.

We are now well back into our routine and we are hoping that next month will see all the "normal" places we arrange back in use. We will stay with silks pro tem until we move into the new Flower Room, and adjust to having water and some space to work in regularly.

We arranged a pedestal for the stage used by the Dean and Rob Rinder: the flowers softened the view through to the Golden Gates and on to the scaffolding in the Quire. For those not there, you missed a very interesting interview by the Dean and some moving, funny and educational answers from Rob. And some lovely flowers of course!!

#### Flick Evans

# **Cathedral Community Committee**

The next meeting is on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June. Please send any items or questions for the agenda to <u>amb@exeter-cathedral.org.uk</u> or to <u>hmm53@tiscali.co.uk</u>

#### Heather Morgan, Chair Cathedral Community Committee

## Farewell and Thank you

Our thanks and very best wishes to Kit Reynolds who left his post as Project Manager in the Development Project on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May.

Farewell and thanks also to Ella Foster, who is leaving the Marketing team to complete a Masters degree at Exeter University.

We are very grateful to Kit and Ella for everything they have done for the Cathedral in their time here. We wish them both all the very best for the future.



#### From the Vow Made Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025, during Cathedral opening hours

From The Vow Made is a landmark sculptural installation suspending 1,000 wax objects made by 1,000 people in Devon for the nave of the Cathedral.

Each object, or votive, has been hand-crafted out of local Devon beeswax by a member of the local community on the theme of 'giving thanks', representing something for which each person is grateful.

The Votives Project is led by international award-winning artists Neil Musson and Jono Retallick, and is kindly supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund. The project is inspired by Exeter Cathedral's medieval votive collection. The moulded votive offerings were hung around the tomb of Bishop Edmund Lacy (c. 1370-1455) by pilgrims seeking cures through the Bishop's saintly influence.

Find out more at bit.ly/vow-made

## **Education Volunteers**

We are currently in need of Education Volunteers to join our successful department. They will be instrumental in making a positive and informative difference, to the experience of those young learners who come to visit this wonderful and historic building.

FIND OUT MORE >

## **Congratulations!**

Many congratulations to the 25 candidates from across the County and Diocese confirmed on 11<sup>th</sup> May by the Bishop of Plymouth, including choristers William, Lettie and Thomas, and student members of the congregation, Oscar and Stephanie.

# Slow Book Group: a slow approach to Poetry

The next edition of the Slow Book Group is turning for a season to poetry. We will be exploring and reflecting on poems, drawn from an anthology assembled specially for the group, that in different ways speak to contemplative prayer and deepening our relationship with the Divine. The poets range from George Herbert to Lucille Clifton – a mix of voices across centuries, genders and cultures.

The group will meet on the six last Tuesdays of the following months: 27 May, 24 June, 29 July, no meeting in August, 30 September, 28 October, 25 November. As previously, the sessions will be on Zoom from 7.30-8.30pm.

The group will be led by Clare Bryden and Canon Deborah Parsons. There will be an opportunity for members to volunteer to choose a poem for the month and lead the session. Members will have the opportunity in advance to read and sit with the chosen poem of the month. During the session we will use the practice of Lectio Divina – slow reading and pondering over the text – as another way of listening to and praying the poem, then spend time sharing in small groups and the whole.

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 Canon Deborah at <u>deborah.parsons@exeter-cathedral.org.uk</u>

# **Cathedral Community Quiz**

Don't forget to return the completed quiz form! We have until Pentecost. Please return the quiz sheets to the Cathedral Shop, to Jake Hibberd or to Heather Morgan no later than 12 noon on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June. We will draw the lucky winner at the Cathedral Community Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> June.

# Andrew Mimmack RIP

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Andrew Mimmack. Andrew was a roof tour guide, member of the Cathedral Players and a member of the group leading funraising for the sound system. In all he did, he deployed his dry sense of humour, supreme competence, generosity, and kindness.

In his professional life, Andrew was a barrister and well-known locally as the Clerk to the Justices for Central Devon and North Devon. After his retirement from that post he was a member of the Parole Board.

Andrew was involved in many other local activities and charities. He was churchwarden at St James, Exeter where a service of thanksgiving was held on 30<sup>th</sup> May. Our prayers and deepest sympathy to Joanna, to their children Nic, Louisa and Francis, and to all his family and friends.

# What's On in June

#### Themes of the Sea – Family Half Term Fun Monday 26 – Friday 30 May

Join in with Family Fun Activities this May half term including keyring making, make your own Japanese fish kite, mini sailboat making and more!

Find out more at <a href="mailto:bit.ly/ec-may-half-term">bit.ly/ec-may-half-term</a>

#### From the Vow Made – Family Half Term Fun Sunday 1 – Wednesday 4 June

From The Vow Made will be a landmark sculptural installation featuring 1,000 wax objects made by 1,000 people in Devon, suspended from Exeter Cathedral's magnificent nave.

Find out more: <a href="http://www.made">bit.ly/vow-made</a>

#### Thy Kingdom Come Sunday 8 June

Join us on 8 June for the Thy Kingdom Come celebration service on Pentecost Sunday for an inspiring evening of prayer and worship led by Bishop Mike Harrison, with music led by Andy Flannagan and speaker Dr Krish Kandiah OBE.

Thy Kingdom Come is a global wave of prayer which takes places every year between Ascension Day and Pentecost. Christians around the world are encouraged to pray for people they know to come to faith. It is a movement that unites Christians across traditions, denominations and nations.

Find out more: <a href="https://www.bit.ly/TKC-25">bit.ly/TKC-25</a>

#### Summer Serenade with Exeter Cathedral Choir at Throwleigh Sunday 8 June

Join Exeter Cathedral Choir at St Mary's Church, Throwleigh, for a musical celebration of Summer with this special Choral Outreach Concert. This spectacular concert will include music from Mozart, Goodall, Ireland, Fauré and more. There will also be vocal and instrumental solo performances from the exceptionally talented Choristers.

Find out more: <a href="mailto:bit.ly/summer-serenade25">bit.ly/summer-serenade25</a>

#### The Book Market Sunday 8 June

The fifth annual Exeter City of Literature Book Market is set to take over Cathedral Green on Sunday 8 June from 11am to 4pm, for a vibrant celebration of Devon's thriving literary scene.

Find out more: <a href="mailto:bit.ly/exeter-book-market">bit.ly/exeter-book-market</a>

#### The Music of Fleetwood Mac By Candlelight Thursday 12 June

Featuring a cast of West End Singers and a live band, join us for a landslide concert, jam packed with Fleetwood Mac hits as you have never heard them before!

Find out more: <a href="mailto:bit.ly/ec-fleetwood-mac">bit.ly/ec-fleetwood-mac</a>

#### Library & Archives In Focus: Bare Bones Thursday 12 June

Discover skeletons in the Cathedral Library, from depictions in medieval manuscripts to the magnificent anatomical woodcuts in Andreas Vesalius's De humani fabrica.

Find out more: <a href="mailto:bit.ly/in-focus-barebones">bit.ly/in-focus-barebones</a>

#### The Music of U2 by Candlelight Friday 13 June

Calling all U2 super fans... we've found exactly what you're looking for! The Music Of U2 By Candlelight is finally here and it's guaranteed to be an Unforgettable Fire!

Find out more: <a href="http://www.bit.ly/ec-u2">bit.ly/ec-u2</a>

#### Exeter Philharmonic Choir: A Feast of English Choral Music Saturday 14 June

Exeter Philharmonic Choir's summer concert in Exeter Cathedral promises a feast of great English choral and organ music of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Find out more: <a href="mailto:bit.ly/epc-25">bit.ly/epc-25</a>

#### Kenneth Wilson: Pilgrim Cello Sunday 15 June

Poet and Cellist Kenneth Wilson is undertaking a 2,000 mile bicycle pilgrimage around all 42 English Anglican cathedrals, performing a Meditation on the Seven Last Words of Jesus.

Find out more: bit.ly/ec-pilgrim-cello

#### Golden Age of Hollywood – Fulltone Orchestra Friday 20 June

The Fulltone Orchestra are set to take their audience on a musical journey back to Hollywood's most iconic era with their new concert, The Golden Age of Hollywood. This concert will feature the unforgettable music from some of the most beloved films in cinema history, promising a night full of nostalgia and musical hits from an era that shaped the film world of the 20s through to the 60s.

Find out more: bit.ly/ec-golden

#### Four Seasons & Lark Ascending by Candlelight Friday 27 June

London Concertante are delighted to announce the return of their sell-out Vivaldi's *Four Seasons and The Lark Ascending* by Candlelight concert series. Experience astounding music by one of classical music's greatest composers performed by some of the country's best classical musicians, all presented by stunning candlelight.

Find out more: bit.ly/four-seasons-ec

# Congratulations

Many congratulations to Timothy Noon who has been elected President of the Cathedral Organists' Association. A first for Exeter, this appointment is richly deserved recognition of Timothy's outstanding contribution to cathedral music and his commitment to encouraging the next generation of cathedral musicians.

The Cathedral Organists Association provides a forum for directors of music of cathedral and collegiate foundations in Great Britain to meet twice a year for professional development and support. These conferences enable members to experience the challenges and opportunities of working in different kinds of institution and to disseminate good professional practice.

# News from the Hospital Chaplaincy Team

Thank you for your continued prayers for our Hospitals. It is a real encouragement for our team to know that so many of you are holding the patients, their families and our staff in prayer.

Here are a few specific requests from the team at this time:

- The recent news regarding NHS England, for all those who will be affected by the decisions and who may feel vulnerable in their job security as a result.
- Please hold in prayer those in leadership roles in the Hospitals that unity and compassion will remain at the heart of all that we do and the decisions made
- That all those in the Spiritual Care and Wellbeing Team will be given the strength they need to continue and to flourish in their service.
- Pray for our community hospitals and the Chaplains working there: Exmouth, Sidmouth, Tiverton and South Molton
- For those who find themselves in Hospital during festivities that are central to their faith
- And of course for all patients and their families, especially those facing uncertainty and loss

With our grateful thanks, on behalf of the Spiritual Care and Wellbeing Team. Kirstie Randall, Chaplaincy Team, Royal Devon Hospital Trust

## Hymns and Pimms: 29<sup>th</sup> June St Peter's Day

Make a date to celebrate the Cathedral's Patronal Festival. Come to Evensong on St Peter's Day at 4p on 29<sup>th</sup> June and sing some festal hymns before enjoying Pimms and nibbles after the service. More details imminently in the Weekly Sheet and website.

## **Congratulations!**

Many congratulations to Jess and Jake Hibberd on the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth Georgina Mary.

We look forward to welcoming the youngest member of the Cathedral Community.



## News from the Bellringers

On Sunday May 18th, the Cathedral celebrated 'Bell Sunday' - it being the closest day to the feast of St Dunstan, the patron saint of Bellringers.

St Dunstan is known as the Patron Saint of Bellringers due to his experimentation in the early forging of bells in the 10<sup>th</sup> century. Many of our Cathedral bells have been recast,

but some of the current bells still date back over 400 years - the oldest being last cast in 1616.



celebrate То the dav. members of the 'Cathedral Society of Ringers' were ringing all day! A quarter peal of Stedman Cinques on our magnificent 12 bells. which lasted over an hour. was rung prior to the 10am Choral Eucharist. A donation made from the was collection at this service to the Bell Restoration Fund. Handbells were also rung during the service-in the

photo are Susan Sparling, David Hird, Oliver Coldrick, and Matthew Hilling). Open ringing took place for 90minutes prior to Choral Evensong at 4pm.

Following on, the Cathedral were very pleased to host the Devon Ringers Council annual competitions on the 26th May - Bank Holiday Monday. The 10 and 8 bell competitions were rung at the Cathedral during the morning, and a 6 bell competition was rung at St Petrock's (on the High Street) in the afternoon. The Cathedral team won the 10 bell event. Evensong at the Cathedral that day was also arranged with the ringers in mind, and it included the 'Devon Ringers Choir', and the 'Ringers Hymn' and was very well attended by all.

The Cathedral ringers will also be included in the county-wide ringing event on Saturday 31st May, when the 'Devon Association of Ringers' will try to have the bells ringing at as many towers in Devon as they can at 12noon. Over 100 towers will be taking part, and our ringers will be attempting a quarter peal on the 'Jubilee 10' to celebrate the occasion of the Association's 100th anniversary.

#### Paul Pascoe, Secretary, Cathedral Ringers

Ed. We wish the Cathedral team well in the national 12 bell final at St Mary Redcliffe, Bristol on 28<sup>th</sup> .

## Thy Kingdom Come Pentecost Celebration Sunday 8 June, Exeter Cathedral, 6pm-7:30pm

"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place." Acts 2:1 The theme for this year's Pentecost Celebration is *Making Room*. Who and what do we need to make room for in our lives and in our churches? Our vision is for Christians from different denominations, from across Devon, to be gathered together in the Cathedral on Pentecost Sunday in worship, in prayer and in expectation of the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

Speakers include The Bishop of Exeter, Dr Krish Kandiah OBE, Founder of the Sanctuary Foundation, Dr Ysanna Marville, Child, Educational and Community Psychologist and Academic and Professional Tutor at Exeter University, and Hannah Richards, Chair of Christians Together across Exeter (CTaX). Andy Flanagan, sing-songwriter and Executive Director of Christians in Politics will be leading us in worship. The Cloister Garden will be available from 4:30pm for children and families activities, crafts and prayer. Refreshments will be available.

Tickets are free, but you will need to book a ticket for each individual attending so that we know numbers. <u>Click here</u> to book your free tickets. You can <u>download an event flyer to share here</u>.

Leading up to this event, there will be a reflection trail around the Nave of the Cathedral. Look out for the notices and perhaps spend a few moments in contemplation? There are helpful booklets at the Entry Desk, and an App can be downloaded from Apple

## Welcome, Jodie!

We are delighted to welcome Jodie Smith, who has joined the Marketing & Communications Team for six months as Graphic Designer. Recruited as part of our National Lottery Heritage Fund initiative to create career opportunities through heritage, Jodie has recently completed a UAL Foundation Diploma in Art & Design, specialising in Graphic Design, at Exeter College. The main focus of her work here will be the Lottery-funded Activity Plan. Please join us in welcoming Jodie to the Cathedral!

# Exploring Worship in Pilgrimage Saturday 5 July 2025, 10.00–16.00 in the Cathedral

Pilgrimage has been growing in popularity in recent years for those of faith and none. This ancient tradition resonates with the deep searching of the human soul and the human need for spiritual meaning in an increasingly unpredictable world. Both journey and destination can be significant. But what turns a walk into a pilgrimage? How does a physical pilgrimage relate to a spiritual journey of faith or the journey of life? And where does worship fit in? This event will be hosted by Transforming Worship South West and the leader and keynote speaker is the Revd Helen Bent, who has led many different pilgrimages in both city and rural settings.

Helen's significant experience in liturgical teaching and training will assist us as we revisit the concept of pilgrimage, offering pilgrimage liturgies, poems, symbols and music. Come and experience worship in pilgrimage for yourself as we share a pilgrimage walk around Exeter city centre churches (0.4 miles), pausing to reflect and pray at strategic points. and discover resources to create a 'worship pilgrimage' round your own church or community.

The fee for this in person event at Exeter is £20, or £15 for affiliates of Transforming Worship. Please contact Revd Paul Kingdom: <u>revpaulkingdom@gmail.com</u> to register your attendance and receive details of how to pay – or for more information about the event or the work of <u>Transforming Worship</u>.

You can see our Devon Pilgrim routes here.

## **Bishop Hewlett Thompson RIP**

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Bishop Hewlett Thompson, a muchloved and distinguished Bishop of Exeter from 1985-1999. His funeral was at St Theobald's, Great Musgrave, Cumbria on 30<sup>th</sup> May. It is hoped that there will be a memorial service in the Cathedral later in the year. We will include a tribute to Bishop Hewlett in the next edition of the News.

## **Cathedrals Cycle Relay 2025**

If you would like to cycle with the Cathedral team on the stage of the relay from Exeter Cathedral to Truro Cathedral on Sunday 15th-Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June, please contact Canon James Mustard on <u>james.mustard@exeter-cathedral.org.uk</u>

## Saint of the Month: St Petroc, Abbot of Padstow, 6<sup>th</sup> Century Commemoration 4<sup>th</sup> June

The name "Saint Petroc" has become increasingly familiar to the Cathedral congregation over the past few months as the early morning weekday services have been held in St Petrock's Church. The flag of Devon is also dedicated to St Petroc and he is commemorated by the Church of England on 4<sup>th</sup> June. But who was he?

Like some other people, he had a foot on both sides of the Tamar and beyond. Indeed he is at least as well known in Cornwall as in Devon, with his major shrine being at Bodmin. He is believed to have been born in South Wales in 468, the younger son of a Welsh chieftain. He studied in Ireland before making a pilgrimage to Rome. On his return from Rome he landed at Trebetherick. He founded a monastery and school at the mouth of the river Camel at a place we now know as Padstow. He subsequently created a monastery at Bodmin where his relics were kept and venerated for some years: they were stolen in 1177 and given to the Abbey of St Meen, in Brittany, restored by Henry II, and then disposed of during the English Reformation. One story suggests they ended up in the sea near Padstow. The 12<sup>th</sup> century ivory Reliquary in which the relics were kept can still be seen at St Petroc's church in Bodmin. Exeter Cathedral is said to have held some of the Saint's relics.

Petroc appears to have ministered in places throughout Devon, Cornwall, Somerset and Dorset as well as Brittany; and a number of Churches bear his name, including 17 in Devon. He has been described as the "master builder" of the Celtic church in the West and was responsible for converting many people to Christianity including King Constantine of Cornwall. He became known as the patron saint "of those without a home", reflected today in St Petrock's charity in Exeter and The St Petroc's Society in Cornwall, both dedicated to support of the homeless. Petroc is also said to have had a close connection with nature and especially wild animals. Many stories claim that he kept tame wolves and he is often depicted with a deer.

Petroc died in around 564 reputedly at a house belonging to a family named Rovel, thought to be a farm now called Treravel near Little Petherick in Cornwall.

Jenny Ellis

## Cathedral Choir Tour to Normandy and Paris 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> July

The Choir would love to see supporters from the Cathedral Community at concerts during their tour. For full details see the Weekly Sheet. Sponsors would also be welcome. Contact <u>james.mustard@exeter-cathedral.org.uk</u>