



From the Revd Prebendary Nigel Guthrie:

Work in Progress

‘Finish then thy new creation: pure and spotless let us be.’

Tina and I recently made our first visit to Portugal, and we thoroughly enjoyed it. The friendly people, delicious fresh fish and wonderful historic sites made for a happy and memorable trip. But a theme did emerge.

On our first, rather hot, afternoon in Lisbon we thought a trip to the Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga (the old stuff) would be cool and beautiful. And it was fascinating, especially the links with south America, Africa and India that were reflected there. But the main galleries of European paintings were closed for refurbishment until around spring 2026. It was a case of ‘work in progress’.

Having visited a number of other places including Porto we returned by train to Coimbra which is the site of Portugal’s oldest university, founded in 1290. In fact, the University was founded in Lisbon and moved to Coimbra in 1537. But the magnificent renaissance range of buildings are a great spectacle. Or they would be if half of them weren’t covered by one of those clever printed awnings that reproduce the appearance of a building while it is under restoration! It was another case of ‘work in progress’. Fortunately, we could visit the inside of the old buildings, including the richly decorated library, and even heard a recital on the 1737 organ in the chapel, one of those with the dramatic horizontal trumpets. Finally, we returned to Lisbon to get our flight back to Bristol. We arrived in very good time to get checked-in and to clear security. But, with a false sense of security we were ambling through duty-free when we saw an enormous queue, at least 200 metres long. It was the queue for passports to be checked. We really thought we would miss the plane but fortunately border security found some more staff to get through the hundreds of passengers so that with a bit of sprinting to the departure gate we caught our flight. But as we approached the

passport desks we realised the problem. There were at least twenty automatic passport checking machines still wrapped in their cellophane waiting to be commissioned! Work in progress.

Returning to Exeter Cathedral I could see the beginning of the end of the restoration of the Quire and aisles. It will be a real treat to be able to worship once again in the wonderful east end of the Cathedral without all the scaffolding and floor coverings. But we know that the work was necessary and that the inconvenience of the past months will have been worth it. Thank you to all those who work and volunteer in the Cathedral day-by-day, whose flexibility and good humour have enabled worship, events and visits to continue as well as they have. We long to see things finished off. We look forward to the completion of our degrees and courses, our projects at home and at work. We like everything to be tied up neatly. But underneath we know that our whole life as individuals and as Church is a 'work in progress'. Perfection is only to be found in the fulness of God's kingdom, which is to come.

I've come increasingly to see that I should look for joy in the incomplete, in the process of preparation and even in the longing for things to be better. After all, 'work in progress' is a lot better than stagnation and if we can catch a glimpse of God working in the messiness of change, of growth and even of decay, it might help us to find our own path within that without being hopelessly frustrated. "You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in thee" wrote St Augustine. It is not bad to feel dissatisfied with things as they are and long for them to be better. But perhaps appreciating the 'work in progress' in our own lives and in the church can help to attune us to the process of perfection and completion to which God calls us by his grace.

Prebendary Nigel Guthrie, Priest Vicar



Welcome...

To the newest member of the Cathedral Community. Elizabeth Georgina Mary Hibberd attended her first service in the Cathedral on 8th June, Jake and Jess's first wedding anniversary.

Many congratulations to them all, and thanks to Jake for the lovely photograph.

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)



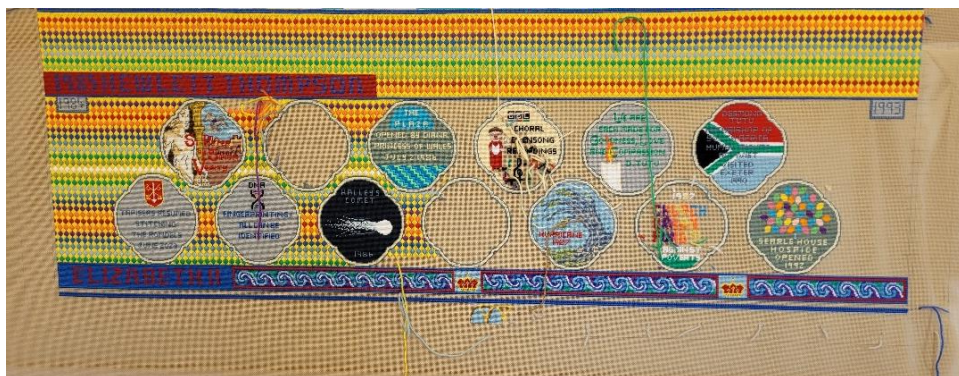
Dr Alison Perham is a retired physician, initially working in General Practice, before specialising in Palliative Medicine. She has worked in different settings, hospitals, hospices and the community, in different parts of the country as her husband's job moved.

Having this privileged 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 decision-making, 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

You may remember I told you some time ago that the Tapisers have been asked to 'extend' the Rondels. We have four cushions to make - each one covering one decade. This will take the narrative from 1983, when Queen Elizabeth II distributed Maundy Money at Exeter, up to 2023 and the Coronation of King Charles III.

This is an exciting project for the Tapisers to do - and has been met with much enthusiasm from our members.

The format of the new cushions must follow on from the original Rondel cushions - in style and colour, as far as is possible.

A considerable amount of time and effort has been put into this project: having to get new frames to set up the canvas, ordering canvas and finding the size and colour are no longer being made, discovering wools are different from those used in the 1980s, deciding which stitches should be used and which events should be selected ... these have all brought a few headaches along the way.

However, we have worked on the first 'new' Rondel for TWO years - started 23rd June 2023! Here is a photo of our progress so far. Big projects take time to complete satisfactorily... so you can see it will be several years yet before the new Rondels are finished.

Diana Symes, Chairman of The Company of Tapisers



Happy Birthday Blanche

Many congratulations to Blanche Kitchen, who celebrated her 90th birthday on 19th June.

Here she is with the flowers from the Cathedral Community presented after the Choral Eucharist on 22nd June.

The Exeter Nativity

For many years, and in various forms, the Exeter Nativity 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 Gunn-Johnson on dgunnjohnson439@btinternet.com 07921 150428

Farewell and thank you, Richard

Richard Remington will be leaving his post as Director of Marketing & Communications on Thursday 26 June.

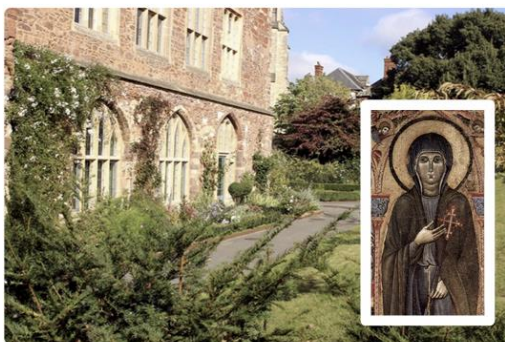
Over the last four and a half years, Richard has been instrumental in all things marketing and communications at the Cathedral, including maintaining engagement through the Covid pandemic, building a new team, refreshing our brand, developing and implementing marketing strategies and significantly raising our profile through positive media exposure.

We wish Richard the best of luck in his new role at Wells Cathedral.

A Quiet Day in the Bishop's Garden with St Clare of Assisi

10.30am - 3.30pm on Tuesday 19th August 2025

led by Demelza Henderson



St Clare of Assisi lived a life of poverty, simplicity and prayer in the 13th century, sharing a deep love of God's creation with her contemporary, St Francis. The Bishop of Exeter has kindly offered his garden for this Quiet Day, which will explore aspects of Clare's life through prayer, poetry, music and, of course, her own writings. There will be plenty of silence throughout the day for you to reflect on how Clare's witness might continue to inspire your own Christian life today.

Demelza Henderson leads Quiet Days and longer residential retreats across the UK through her work with the *Association for Promoting Retreats*. She is also an Oblate of the Society of Our Lady of the Isles, which combines her love of contemplative prayer with her joy in the natural world.

Some practicalities:

- **Location:** Bishop's Palace Garden, Palace Gate, Exeter, EX1 1HY
- **Parking:** There is no parking at the Bishop's Palace; please use a public car park.
- **Refreshments:** The day will start at 10am with tea/coffee. You will be able to use the kitchen to make your own drinks throughout the day, but please bring a packed lunch.
- **Seating:** There are a few benches scattered around the Bishop's garden, but it would be helpful if you could bring your own fold-up chair or a rug if you are able.
- **Toilet facilities** will be available inside the Bishop's Palace.
- **Disabled Facilities** are limited; sadly the gravel paths and lawn are uneven and thus unsuitable for wheelchairs, but there is an accessible toilet inside for those who need it.
- **Cost:** The day will cost £10 to cover expenses, payable in advance to Demelza.
- **Bookings:** All bookings (and any other questions) must be made through Demelza, either by email on QuietDaysinDevon@gmail.com, or by phone on (01395) 272243.

Oscar's Travels

Oscar Price, a regular member of the 10am Choral Eucharist congregation, soon to begin his university studies, travelled extensively in South America earlier this year. We were delighted to welcome him back, and are very grateful to him for telling us more about his exciting journey.

This spring I had the opportunity to travel to the touristy spots of South America, between March and May. Having returned to the UK, only now do I realise how quickly it all flew by, and now wish I was still there.



Travelling with both my friend Charlie, and a group of alike touristy Europeans, we set off from Lima, Peru, through the Atacama Desert, to stop at Oases to dune buggy and watch the sunset. Other highlights of Peru included touring Machu Picchu in the fog, as well as losing my breath

hiking up to Rainbow Mountain (over 5000 metres above sea level!).

In Bolivia, I had the chance to bike down the Death Road, historically known for featuring on Top Gear. However, this time it was free of cars and trucks. The highlight of this country was the Uyuni Salt flats, the biggest in the world, which we spent over 3 days crossing in SUVs. Staying in huts made from bricks of salt, and refuelling from jerrycans tied to the roof, this part of my travels was the most serene and eerie, as I felt that it was the most different experience from anything you might find in Britain, least of all Devon.

Stopping briefly in Chile, our next stop was Argentina, so big we had to fly over from one side to the other to reach Buenos Aires. This city felt incredibly European with very noticeable French architecture, and the residents had absolutely no problem consuming an entirely meat-based diet. Then in Uruguay, our brief stop included staying on a working ranch to milk cows and ride horses.



Finally, in Brazil, we visited the Iguassu Falls, and its status as the biggest waterfall system in the world was extremely evident from a quick helicopter ride over the national park. This was my favourite country on the trip to visit, likely because we soon began to drink Caipirinhas and go on many beach trips along the coast.

Further up the coast, our final stop, Rio De Janeiro, was a spirited and vibrant end to our trip. Getting caught up in the Lady Gaga concert was no challenge, with over 2 million people swarming all the streets around our hostel. We were also able to visit Christ the Redeemer at sunset, and at night the Lapa steps and Maracana football stadium.

While I am glad to be able to drink tap water again, and get to stay in one place for more than a few days, I will definitely miss the cheap prices and people I got to meet out there.

Oscar Price





From the Revd Phil Wales



Although I offered my verbal thanks on Trinity Sunday, may I underline and express once more my heartfelt thanks for all of the prayers offered, and the many kind words, e-mail messages, cards and gifts which I received from members of the Cathedral Community on my ordination as priest, and the following day when I presided at the Eucharist for the first

time. Special thanks to the Company of Tapisers, who lovingly repurposed my tailored deacon's stole, transforming it into the priest's stole seen in the picture.

Many congratulations to Phil and to the Revd Carys Baker, also known to many in the Cathedral Community (front row second from right) on their ordination. We celebrated with Phil the following day, seen here cutting his ordination cake.

What's On in July

Exeter Craft Festival: Thursday 3 - Saturday 5 July

This combination of arts, crafts, food and entertainment has been a highlight in Exeter's cultural calendar for 50 years, and 2025 promises to be better than ever. It's the perfect place to spend a summer's day with friends and family, exploring over 100 stalls and getting to chat with inspiring creatives from across the South West. Admission is free.

Thursday 3 July: 10am-5:30pm

Friday 4 July: 9:30am-5:30pm

Saturday 5 July: 9:30am-5pm

Find out more: bit.ly/exeter-craft

Summer Concert Series: James McVinnie: Thursday 3 July, 7pm

Jame McVinnie will be performing the first seasonal concert of our 2025 Summer Concert Series, celebrating exceptional organ music in one of the country's most atmospheric and historic sacred spaces.

Find out more: bit.ly/summer-mcvinnie

The Music of ABBA By Candlelight: Saturday 5 July, 7:30pm

Enjoy ABBA anthems by candlelight at Exeter Cathedral. Featuring the UK's leading ABBA tribute act, Abba Reunion, expect a sing-along concert packed to the rafters with over 20 ABBA hits that will leave you dancing in the aisles.

Find out more: bit.ly/ec-abba

Exeter Cathedral Choir: Haydn's *Nelson Mass*

Sunday 6 July, 10:30am

Join us on this special Eucharist to hear a complete liturgical performance of Haydn's celebrated *Nelson Mass*, accompanied by the Cathedral Orchestra and featuring soprano soloist Julia Featherstone.

Find out more: bit.ly/ec-nelson-mass

Art of the Book: *Illustration in Early Printed Books*

Tuesday 8 July, 2pm-3:30pm

Study beautiful treasures in the collections of Exeter Cathedral Library to discover how illustrations were produced from woodcuts to lithographs and explore how text and image come together to convey meaning.

Find out more: bit.ly/art-book-ec

Exeter Festival Chorus: A New Creation

Saturday 12 July, 7pm

Join The Exeter Festival Chorus to experience a modern version of Haydn's *The Creation* with associated music devised by Andrea Brown. This concert is in collaboration with Devon Music Hub to provide arts, educational and performance opportunities to local schoolchildren.

Find out more: <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/exeter-festival-chorus-a-new-creation/>

In Conversation with Dr. Alison Perham: Sunday 13 July, 6:30pm

Join Dr Alison Perham at Exeter Cathedral's Chapter House Refectory for an explorative discussion on palliative care and assisted dying, followed by a short service of compline. *In Conversation With* events are free to attend and no booking is required.

Find out more: bit.ly/conversation-perham

Summer Concert Series: Jan Liebermann: Thursday 17 July, 7pm

We are thrilled to welcome rising German organist, Jan Liebermann, for a special recital, as part of our Summer Concert series.

Find out more: bit.ly/summer-liebermann

The Music of Taylor Swift by Candlelight

Saturday 19 July, 7:30pm

Enjoy a breathtaking live performance by candlelight of Taylor Swift's biggest hits in the magnificent setting of Exeter Cathedral.

Find out more: bit.ly/ec-taylor-swift

Riddler in Residence: Making Our Hearts Bigger

Saturday 24 July, 7:15pm

Come and join Exeter Cathedral's Riddler in Residence, Bernadette Russell, for a celebratory evening of the stories co-created by her and the many talented and inspiring people in Exeter who took part in her workshops at Exeter Library, Cathedral Green, and at St Petrock's Centre. During these sessions they considered the themes of journeys, hope, joy and gratitude, and we'd love you to come and hear what we came up with!

Find out more: bit.ly/riddler-july25

Amadeus Orchestra: *Mahler Symphony No. 5*

Friday 25 July, 7pm

Hailed by BBC Radio 4 as “one of the finest orchestras of its kind in the world”, the Amadeus Orchestra are back at Exeter Cathedral by popular demand with an exciting concert of orchestral masterpieces.

Find out more: bit.ly/amadeus-mahler

Family Friendly Summer Holiday Activities

Saturday 26 July – Monday 1 September

Discover a range of family friendly activities at Exeter Cathedral this summer holiday, including Explorer Backpacks, the Cathedral Cat Trail and Brass Rubbing!

Find out more: <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/family-friendly-summer-holiday-activities/>

Exeter Independent Market

Saturday 26 July, 11am-4pm

Soak up the unique atmosphere of Cathedral Green with live music from local performers, while discovering a rich variety of our region's finest makers and traders. Whether you are looking for handmade crafts, clothes and accessories, locally produced food and drink or vintage treasures, Exeter Independent Market offers a unique one-stop shop in the heart of the city.

Find out more: bit.ly/exeter-indy-july

Library & Archives In Focus: *St Sidwell*

Thursday 31 July, 1pm-3pm (drop-in)

Join us for a special celebration of Exeter's own 8th-century saint, Sidwell, and the historic area of the city that bears her name. Hear about the life and legends surrounding this local saint and explore some of the older history of the St Sidwell area, brought to life through unique documents from the Cathedral Archives.

Find out more: bit.ly/in-focus-sidwell

The August edition of *Cathedral News*

We hope to publish the next edition of the *News* on Sunday 3rd August 2025. The deadline for material is **Monday 23rd July 2025**. Please send any contributions to hmm53@tiscali.co.uk or to any member of the editorial team; Heather Morgan, Rosemary Bethell, and Jenny Ellis.

Exeter to Host Northern European Cathedrals Conference

The Cathedral will be hosting the 2026 Northern European Cathedrals Conference from 3rd -6th February.

The NECC brings together professionals and stakeholders from cathedrals across Northern Europe to discuss the shared themes and challenges of cathedral ministry. The conferences typically occur every other year, with delegates from the 'Porvoo Communion' (Lutheran churches of Scandinavia, Iceland, the Baltic and Germany, and the Anglican churches of Britain and Ireland) and the Netherlands.

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)

Diocesan Synod 21st June

Diocesan Synod met at the Cullompton Community Centre on 21st June.

Opening worship took the form of "Dwelling in the Word", the distinctive feature of which is learning to listen to the response of another person to a passage of Scripture-listening with sufficient attention to report what they told you.

I recommend that you read Bishop Mike's Presidential Address when it is available on the diocesan website. A brief summary would not do it justice, especially his wise and measured comments on recent votes in the House of Commons.

In small groups we discussed the key considerations for the Diocesan Budget for 2026. For example, what is a realistic assumption for the shortfall in contributions to the Common Fund? What is a realistic measure by which to increase Common Fund in the next few years? The issue of central church institutions releasing more funding to dioceses for the support of stipendiary ministry, with a consequent reduction in the substantial sums retained and for which dioceses must bid, is becoming more pressing.

The afternoon of a very hot day was devoted to informal consultations on the draft proposals for the next stage of *Living in Love and Faith*. We had to follow a set pattern, in common with all dioceses, to provide feedback on the next steps in the process. These include the proposals for guidance on the use of Prayers of Love and Faith (PLF) for same-sex couples, and the draft Code of Practice for Pastoral Reassurance through delegated episcopal ministry. It is envisaged that this may be sought by those parishes who do not wish to use PLF, where the diocesan bishop is committed to doing so.

The House of Bishops will consider the feedback before deciding on the final draft proposals in December 2025. Those proposals will go to General Synod in February 2026.

Heather Morgan



The Poetry Pharmacy

Tried and True prescriptions for the heart mind and soul

William Sieghart

Penguin Particular Books: £12 per volume

To see that the Cathedral's slow book group is looking at poetry prompted me to share this volume of poems 'prescribed' for all occasions and situations'. Feeling low

during a period of ill health a friend recommended this slim volume and my goodness, it was a delight to discover!

William Sieghart is the Dispenser at this Pharmacy and each poem is accompanied by a commentary. I discovered that 'The Tried and True Prescriptions....' is one of a trilogy. I now have all three volumes and have spent many an hour dipping in and out of its sections on The World and other People. Love and Loss, Motivations, Self Image and Self Acceptance, Mental and Emotional Wellbeing, Coming Together, Moving Apart, and Grief and its Guises. ***"You don't need to be a poet to find solace in poetry"*** says William and he firmly believes in poetry's power as a spiritual link in these isolating times.

If poetry is not your thing, William suggests ways of reading a poem – aloud preferably, (if you're not on the bus he warns!) And remember no poem deserves only a single visit. Come back, try again, approach it in a new frame of mind – you may be surprised.

The genesis for this medicine was a literary Festival in Cornwall, where William set up in a tent with two chairs and a prescription pad. The hour allocated stretched into several and queues formed. Radio 4, BBC TV and press coverage followed. Inside these volumes you will find the words of Robert Frost, Maya Angelou, J.J.R. Tolkien, Mary Oliver, Gerard Manley Hopkins, Margaret Atwood, Hafiz, Siegfried Sassoon, Helen Farish, Philip Larkin, Wendy Cope, Raymond Carver and a host of others. Words to inspire and console, to delight and reflect and with a thoughtful commentary as a bonus. In this trilogy I did indeed find helpful prescriptions for heart, mind and soul. I recommend giving it a try!

Anne Foreman

Parking Queries -new email address

For any parking queries or concerns, please contact our new, dedicated email address: parking@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

Sing for The St Peter's Singers

Ever wanted to be part of a choir singing beautiful music in the magnificent Exeter Cathedral? The St Peter's Singers, Exeter Cathedral's auditioned voluntary choir, is on the lookout for new members!

Amongst their regular commitment to Tuesday evening rehearsals and monthly Saturday Evensongs, recent highlights have included singing for the enthronement of the new Bishop of Exeter, joint services with other choirs in the South West and leading the annual celebration of Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.

If you're a confident choral singer and this sounds like the perfect opportunity for you, click the link below to find out more.

[FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE ST PETER'S SINGERS >](#)

Cathedrals Cycle Relay 2025



Many congratulations to the Cathedral team, who cycled from the Cathedral to Truro Cathedral on 15th-16th June.

Here we see then being blessed before setting off following the Choral Eucharist.

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: revpaulkingdom@gmail.com to register your attendance and receive details of how to pay – or for more information about the event or the work of [Transforming Worship](http://TransformingWorship.org.uk).

[You can see our Devon Pilgrim routes here.](#)

Cathedral Choir Tour to Normandy and Paris 15th–21st 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 james.mustard@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

Cathedral Community Committee

The next meeting is on Saturday 19th July when the CCC will consider the Chapter Strategy for the next five years. This is part of the process of consultation that had involved Bishop Mike, and the College of Canons.

Heather Morgan, Chair Cathedral Community Committee