



From the Revd Prebendary Julian Ould:

Making a Commitment and being Accountable

One of my roles as a Priest Vicar is to look after all the enquiries for marriage in the Cathedral and as a result, I find myself frequently going through the preface of the service, by way of instruction to hopeful couples. Within the Marriage Rite preface we are told that marriage 'enriches society and strengthens community'. I jokingly suggest to couples this can sound like a political statement, in

that every now and then one of our canvassing parties speaks out about family values and the like. However, to be serious, this comment speaks clearly about commitment. In this instance commitment to one another, but generally I feel that this statement is one that we would all do well to consider in a much wider context.

When I was younger and had few responsibilities or concerns, I used to be keen to try all kinds of new ventures; to visit new places, try new sports, consider new directions in my work, - and somewhere within all of these, particularly if there was an element of risk involved, someone would invariably say, ... 'well, on your head be it!' They were basically saying, if you are going to do that, commit yourself to it, then you must be prepared to take the consequences, - you are accountable for what you do, which was fair enough, but usually meant that they thought I was being foolhardy. At the time, provided that the only person who was likely to suffer would be me, well so be it!!

Now I am a little older, and I do have commitments and responsibilities of family and even in retirement, work, and therefore I do endeavour to think a little more carefully before I act in a particular way - well at least I try to! For my accountability is that much greater - the implications of what I now do obviously

affect more people than me! And to a lesser or greater degree this is true for all of us. However, I like to think that I am still prepared to act, to commit myself to things and am prepared to launch out into new ventures, even if I have got responsibilities and am accountable to others. And I like to think this because I have a great fear that our society, our country, our world is turning into a planet of inactivity. People generally are not willing to commit themselves to things, - they have a reluctance to show an enthusiasm and a belief, in a course of action.

Certainly, technology is leaping on, and industry and the world economy still tick over, but the days of pioneers with real dreams and vision are disappearing.

One example is that of the YMCA– the Young Men's Christian Association – which today is a world-wide organisation with many strands that range from bringing young people together, to helping them in need, to working with them in helping other people.

This organisation was formed just over 180 years ago by George Williams, the son of a humble Somerset farmer, who sought to address the spiritual and moral welfare of young men in the drapers' trade, which he had entered.

True, today this may seem something of a pious and even odd course of action, but times have changed, and indeed the Association has changed with it. But at that time, George Williams saw a need and addressed it. He had no resources of his own, and could easily have protested, 'what can I do?', and hence done nothing! But he didn't, he stuck his neck out, and at the risk of personal ruin, of being accountable, he started something that literally thousands of people today can claim to have been helped by.

And to bring this up to date, I would like to tell the story of a young girl who was a resident within a YMCA that I worked with when I was in Peterborough.

This girl, aged 17, had been homeless in Peterborough and the YMCA had been able to offer her one of its flats.

Partly out of gratitude, and partly because she needed the money she applied and was successful in gaining a job as one of the YMCA staff.

She worked hard for the YMCA and during the course of her first year attended the National Assembly for all YMCAs across the country, and whilst at this assembly attended a talk and discussion on the plight of the homeless, particularly amongst young people. She was obviously able to make a valuable contribution with first-hand experience, and when she returned to Peterborough expressed a wish to do something to help the homeless young in Peterborough.

In discussion with all those involved with this YMCA, her ideas seemed good, in that she didn't just want to set up a hostel with a bed for the night and out the next morning, but wanted to help people make a new start. She spoke of a short

stay centre that was structured in such a way that all the relevant support agencies and benefit departments could come together whilst the person was there, and hopefully provide a means to enable the users to start again, going on to permanent accommodation.

It was a brilliant idea, but where were we going to find the money to build such a centre, let alone encourage the various agencies to work with this!!

But this young lady was determined; she wrote scores of letters and stirred the interested of many important people. She was asked to go and speak to Councils, company boards, and a whole host of organizations. She by her own admission was terrified, but nevertheless was still determined. It took a lot of effort and work from us all, and indeed all those who responded positively to her requests. But in the end, we succeeded, and three years later 'Time Stop' was opened. It was called this, because it was holding a person in limbo for a time, which hopefully allowed things to be sorted, and so start time again with a new beginning.

So successful was this centre, that it attracted the attention of North Housing Association, one of the largest housing associations in the country, and now such centres are being planned and have become realities in other places, and all because of the willingness of a young person to act and be prepared to make a commitment and to be accountable.

We do need to act responsibly and perhaps not to take unnecessary risks. **But we do need to act**, and sometimes be prepared to make a stand, to commit ourselves when we know something is right or needs to be done.

With every blessing,

Julian Ould

The September edition of *Cathedral News*

We hope to publish the next edition of the *News* on Sunday 31st August 2025. The deadline for material is **Tuesday 26th August 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.

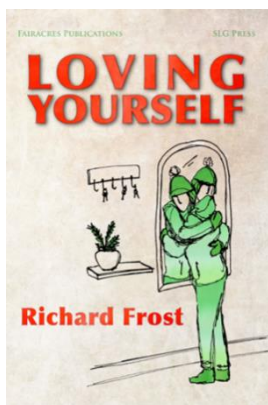
News from Cloister Club

Cloister Club continues to thrive, with about 30 children from one to twelve years old involved and 12-15 attending on any given Sunday. Katherine, Alastair, Mark and now Edmund share leading the sessions, and Judith, Sheila, Esther, Tom, Eva and OJ regularly support. We always have games, often music and craft, and recent sessions have focused on Pentecost, Trinity Sunday and the exciting story of the Prophet Elijah.

This term we've been delighted that the diocesan staff have invited us to use the Old Deanery garden across the lane from the West Front - the children are so enjoying the space to play games in, as well as the opportunity to grow some veg in the new raised beds. Recently, Edmund led a session on how God wants us to work together as church to do His will, reinforced with parachute games and relay races. Then we added sticks to the raised bed for our peas to climb up, tied in our tomatoes and cucumber and watered, before sharing out the strawberries that have already ripened.

By our last session of the term, which as I write is in two weeks time, I'm hoping we'll have radishes, lettuces and maybe a cucumber big enough to pick and share. Do pray for the continued growth and joy of the group, as well as for the right person to step forward as our new permanent Coordinator.

Alastair Endersby, Acting Cloister Club Coordinator



Book Launch: Loving Yourself by Richard Frost Thursday 18th September 6.15-7.15pm

'You shall love your neighbour as yourself' is one of Jesus's most well-known sayings. Probably most of us feel comfortable with the 'love your neighbour' part of Jesus's words: thinking of others, being kind to people. But what about, 'as yourself'? To have love for ourselves in the same way as we love others?

With a Foreword by Canon Deborah Parsons, this new book by Cathedral Volunteer and Licensed Lay Minister, Richard Frost explores how our love for both neighbour and ourselves stems from God's love for us. It considers what it means (and what it doesn't mean) to have love

for ourselves; and how we can love ourselves in a way which enables us to love our neighbour.

This special Book Launch Event takes place in the Chapter House after Choral Evensong. All are welcome.

Find out more: <https://richardfrostauthor.com/>



In Conversation with Ned Remington:

Climate Activist and official observer at Cop29 summit in Baku

**Sunday 14th September
2025 6:30pm in the Chapter House**

(Refreshments served from 6.00pm)

Exeter Cathedral was proud to support 19-year-old Devonian, Ned Remington, as an Official Observer at the *COP29 Climate Summit* in Baku last November. His placement was part of the *Christian Climate Observers' Programme (CCOP)*, which sends young observers from across the world to report back from the centre of negotiations to their local communities and churches.

On Sunday 14 September, Ned will share his experience of the conference and what we can expect from the *COP30 Summit* in November this year. He'll also talk about the role religion has played in inspiring him to be an activist and the power of faith to motivate constructive and effective change. The conversation and reflection will then be followed by a short service of compline.

Ned travelled most of the way to *COP29* by land, and recorded his journey and his conversations with people he met along the way about climate change. Here's an excerpt from a post discussing the relevance of Christianity to the climate action movement:

"I'm a Christian, and I'm heading to COP29 in Baku as part of the *Christian Climate Observer's Program*, with other young Christians from around the world. Whilst I'm at the summit, I'll be meeting with Christian leaders and representatives as well as secular political diplomats, and I'm hoping to show the role the church can play in these sorts of intergovernmental negotiations. It can feel very awkward to talk about faith openly, especially as a young person. Moreover, for progressive, liberally-minded Anglicans, finding the smoothest possible connection between modern secular society and Christianity seems to be a key ideological motivation for our whole 'brand' of faith.

The concept of conventional evangelism seems very foreign to my type of Christianity, and I was always taught growing up that sharing God's word meant showing kindness and acting in a Christ-like manner rather than speaking

directly to atheists and others about Jesus. It's almost a source of embarrassment to open up about your religion for those in my religious demographic, making this post very unusual for me, but I think it's a vital topic to cover in some detail."

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



News from The Company of Tapisers Music for the Exeter Rondels - Friday 15th August 2pm in the Nave

I first met Sam Richards a few months ago to discuss his idea of composing a response to our Exeter Rondel cushions. He had been inspired by a book which explained the story behind the Rondels and the narrative they tell. He recognised them as an unique artwork.

Sam Richards is a talented musician with many compositions and performances on his CV: he is described as an "English writer, composer, improviser,

jazz pianist, folk music collector and performer"... and in modern parlance, is a "really nice guy"!

The music he has created is very special: 31 short compositions, or 'miniatures' (one for each cushion), will be played by Flutecake, a professional flute trio. The flautists will walk from one cushion to the next whilst playing the miniatures: some will be for solo flute and others for duo or trio.

This concert (for which there will be no charge) will be an informal affair: people can walk around whilst listening to the music; they can sit when or if they want to; and people don't have to stay for the whole performance – and can join after it has begun. The complete performance should last between 60 and 90 minutes.

The performance (supported by the Hinrichsen Foundation) on Friday 15th August will be the only one for this music – so DO come along and hear some, or all, of Sam Richards' composition.

A couple of Tapisers will be stitching on the latest Rondel cushion throughout the concert – so you can come and see at first hand the progress we have made.

Hope to see you on the 15th.

Diana Symes, Chairman of The Company of Tapisers

Ride and Stride: Saturday September 14th

This is the Devon Historic Churches Trust annual fundraiser and half of what we raise comes back to the cathedral.

A successful day last year took the riders to Exmouth, while the striders visited the five Exeter central churches. This time we are hoping to stride a bit beyond and visit some other Exeter churches so please get your walking shoes on and prepare to join us for an interesting and enjoyable morning.

The regular riders would also welcome new enthusiasts! If you are interested please contact Canon Cate Edmonds (cate.edmonds@exeter-cathedral.org.uk) or Fiona Moffat (07950104513)



Congratulations...

... to John and Lyn Byfield who were married on Friday 18th July and had their marriage blessed in the Cathedral Lady Chapel on the following Monday.

In addition to being a member of our Cathedral congregation John is also a sidesman and a volunteer steward, and it was a joy to welcome him and his wife Lyn to be the first couple to have a service in the Lady Chapel since all the East End works began.

The happy couple are now enjoying a honeymoon in Tuscany and we look forward to welcoming them back on their return.

Julian Ould

VJ Day 2025

for Caroline and Michael

And there was a great light,
and their clothes became dazzling white
and the appearance of their faces changed.

And there was a cloud overshadowing them
and they were terrified as they entered it.
And they kept silent.

- - -

Behold the man!
A shadow etched into a wall
still.

Stand to face his hypocentre.
See the seared civilian flesh
on his right hand

and hear the hundreds of thousands of shadows
prophesying
an unpeopled future.

Some have tried to lift their voices
but what voices can be lifted
when they have been silenced?

Little boy and little girl
fat man and thin woman—
we the billions exist in spooked oblivion.

Once a year or perhaps one day a decade
our shadows tell us it is time
to pay attention to the remnant on his left hand

crying out crying
for the rule of law and justice and peace! peace! peace!
But they too have been silenced.

There has been no peace no peace
no peace for the shadows
who cannot submit to such a hollow victory.

Their broken hearts cannot be bound up.
They were emptied out way back.
Nor will the blinded recover their sight

when the forces of evil must be unleashed
to combat the forces of evil.
And there will be no release for captives released

to stumble their way back
to an indeterminate existence
remarking in their silence

that war makes no heroes—
heroes know only the shame shadowing them
for pity's sake!

Where the bells of Urakami tolled
a thousand penitents making their confession
will be cindered again and again and again until—

Be still.

Listen.

© Clare Bryden, 27 April 2025

On 6th August 1945, the Allies dropped a “Little Boy” nuclear bomb on Hiroshima. Three days later on 9th August, they dropped a “Fat Man” bomb on Nagasaki. Estimates of the dead by the end of 1945 vary from 150,000 to 246,000. Many shadows of people were left etched in walls or on steps when their bodies were vaporised.

The hypocentre of the Nagasaki bomb (directly beneath its detonation) was close to Urakami Roman Catholic Cathedral, where more than a 1,000 people were attending Mass in preparation for the Feast of the Assumption on 15th August, and were incinerated. The fallen remains of the belfry are now part of a designated Registered Monument.

The Japanese Emperor's announcement of surrender was broadcast on 15th August 1945, now observed as Victory over Japan (VJ) Day or Victory in the Pacific (VP) Day. Many British prisoners of war across SE Asia had to wait weeks after VJ Day to be found and released, and only months after Victory in Europe (VE) Day did they return to a Britain that had largely moved on.

Each year the church observes 6th August as the Feast of the Transfiguration. The poem draws on Luke 9.28-36, the Gospel reading set for 2025—the disciples see Jesus appear in glory, with Moses and Elijah representing the law and the prophets standing to his left and right. See also John 19.5 (in John's Gospel, Jesus appears in glory on the cross), Luke 4.18-19 quoting Isaiah 61.1-4, and Psalm 46.10.

We are very grateful to Clare for sending this poem, which she wrote for a friend whose father was a prisoner of war in Burma, to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VJ Day.

“We Believe...” The Nicene Creed from the 4th to the 21st century Tuesday 23rd September at 6.30pm in the Chapter House

Morwenna Ludlow, Canon Theologian and Professor of Christian History and Theology at the University of Exeter

In 2025, many Christian churches are commemorating the 1,700th anniversary of the formation of the Nicene Creed at the Council of Nicaea in the year 325.

In this lecture, Morwenna will briefly trace the origins and purpose of the Creed, before reflecting on its role today.

What was a Creed for then-and what does it do now?

What is a Christian community doing when they say “We believe...”?

Zoom Morning Prayer

Every weekday morning, Monday to Friday, in addition to Morning Prayer in the Cathedral, there is a service online.

All are invited and the welcoming bunch of regulars are often joined by friends from far afield and within the Diocese. For further information and sign-in details, please contact Canon Cate, cate.edmonds@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

Do feel free to pop in and enjoy Zoom Morning Prayer-9am Monday to Friday.

You will be very welcome.

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.



From Robert Middleton

The UK has seen a resurgence of interest in pilgrimage, with many historic routes and sites experiencing renewed popularity. This revival is driven by a desire for spiritual growth, connection with

nature and a sense of community. Pilgrims are drawn to the UK's beautiful landscapes and sacred sites, as well as historic churches and cathedrals.

Since 1st December 2024 I have been walking at least **12,000 steps (9+ kilometres) a day** to raise funds for **the Devon Historic Churches Trust**. I intend to continue reaching my daily target of 12,000+ steps until the Feast of Epiphany on 6th January 2026 **(that's a full year of hard walking!)**.

Why? I'm passionate about conservation and preservation of our beautiful historic churches. Too often we take our priceless heritage for granted, not realising all the many benefits historic churches and chapels bring to local communities and the UK economy.

As Churchill said in 1943: "we shape our buildings and afterwards our buildings shape us." In a way, historic churches can be considered more accessible than traditional museums and art galleries, in the sense that they are both living monuments and useful spaces, acting as bridges between the past and present - inspiring us to look into the past and immerse ourselves in the present moment; helping us build a better, more sustainable future.

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.



You can follow my progress and support my fundraising efforts by donating via Just Giving:

www.justgiving.com/page/devonhct

News from the Cathedral Flower Arrangers

Life has suddenly become manic for the flower arrangers for all sorts of reasons. Firstly, the Grand Nave Dinner gets closer and closer. This year we are making up table centres for 50 tables in vases with dried mechanics and foliage and twinkly lights. We need twelve different designs, and we still have three to design. The pillar designs and the overall plan are now in place and a doodle poll has gone out to all our arrangers to see who can help on each of the five days. Additionally we have fourteen troughs, six pedestals, the stage and the two pulpits to do over three days! We are truly exhausted when it is finished and it all looks fabulous.

The second big job has been sorting out our stock. Because of our very limited space in the new flower room and under the stairs, most flowers are going into long narrow boxes to preserve them and fit onto shelves. We also have four coffin-like plastic see-through boxes that hold the foliage we have to store. We have had to be very firm with ourselves as everything we keep has to earn its place on a shelf!

Thirdly. We have also been redoing the silk flowers in the state rooms at the Bishop's Palace: after 10 years it was time!! These rooms are in regular use for all types of occasions so it was important that they were refreshed.

We really enjoyed arranging fresh flowers for a marriage blessing in the Lady Chapel.

All this and still having the regular jobs to do! There has been a huge increase in visitors and groups visiting our beautiful buildings, which has been a joy to see even if we have to work around them. We love the questions!

Roll on the next thing to keep us on our toes!!!!

Flick Evans, Chair Exeter Cathedral Flower Arrangers

Dwelling in the Word

Last month, we recommended Bishop Mike's Presidential Address from the June Diocesan Synod.

It has now been published and here is the link.

[Click here](#)



Exeter Cathedral Choir Tour - Normandy and Paris 2025

The Cathedral Choir has returned from a successful tour to Normandy and Paris. Seventeen choristers from years 7 & 8 joined twelve choir adults and our organists and pastoral staff on a six day tour to our link diocese of Bayeux-Lisieux, and Paris.



The Choir gave concerts in Douvres-la-Deliverande, Bayeux Cathedral and Rouen Cathedral, and Saint Sulpice and La Madeleine in Paris. The choir presented mixed programmes of anthems to large and appreciative audiences. The acoustics in the churches were a revelation to many of our young singers, who revelled in hearing their voices resonate for many seconds, in contrast to Exeter's drier ambience.

As ever, (photo, left) the organists are working overtime getting to grips with an unfamiliar instrument!

But of course, the social aspect of the tour was as important as the music-making. There were trips to the Bayeux Tapestry, the new British Normandy Memorial, the Musee d'Orsay, the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame and a river cruise on a bateau mouche. In addition, there were some super meals, and choristers were impressively adventurous in trying new foods: moules frites Normandaise (in cider) was a firm favourite!



Thank you to all who hosted us, to Rayburn Tours and Blakes Coaches who arranged the trip and transported us, to the choir for such excellent company and singing, and to the Choir Association and all who raised funds for the tour. It was hugely-appreciated, and many happy memories were made!

Canon James Mustard

Thank you and welcome back

At the end of July, we said farewell to our Works Department Foreman, Anthony. We're pleased to welcome back Hannah to the Admin department.

We also extend a warm welcome back to Harvey, and to the new team members who will be assisting him in managing the floor. You will see some new faces in the Cathedral!

Celebration!

The new Treasures Exhibition opens on Monday 4th August! Visitors need to pre-book a special guided tour.

[FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR TREASURES EXHIBITION >](#)



Summer Organ Series

Adam Field

Thursday 28th August 2025
at 7pm

Exeter Cathedral's Summer Concert Series continues with a special performance by Adam Field. This will be Adam's final recital at Exeter before he takes up the position of Assistant Director of Music at Bath Abbey this autumn.

The programme reflects both Adam's musical versatility and the breadth of the organ repertoire. At its heart is J.S. Bach's radiant *Sinfonia to Cantata 29*, in the virtuosic arrangement by Marcel Dupré — a dazzling celebration of counterpoint and keyboard technique. Also featured are works by Herbert

Howells, whose deeply expressive harmonies are a cornerstone of the English organ tradition, and Cecilia McDowall, one of today's leading British composers, whose music brings fresh colour and clarity to the concert platform.

This performance promises to be a memorable and fitting farewell, marking the end of Adam's time in Exeter and celebrating the exciting next step in his musical career.

All are warmly invited to come and support Adam and enjoy an evening of outstanding music.

VJ Day

As Clare Bryden reminds us so powerfully in this month's *News*, VJ Day falls on 15th August; 80 years since the end of the Second World War. This will be commemorated in the Cathedral at Evensong on Sunday 17th August at 4pm, when we shall of course pray for the peace of the world. As always, all are very welcome to come and worship with us.

What's on in August

Family Friendly Summer Holiday Activities

21 July - 2 September

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

Find out more: bit.ly/ec-summer-activities

The Music of Coldplay by Candlelight

1 - 2 August

Experience Coldplay's biggest hits performed by world-class vocalists and live band inside the magnificent setting of Exeter Cathedral.

Find out more: <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/coldplay-by-candlelight/>

Roof Tours – August

4 - 19 August

This fascinating behind-the-scenes tour takes you into the roof void, high above the Nave, the South Tower, the Lead Room, the Ringing Chamber and then through the spaces in the North Tower.

Find out more: bit.ly/special-tours

Longplayer: A Sound Installation by Jem Finer

4 - 31 August

Throughout August a Longplayer listening post will be installed in the Lady Chapel, to mark the artwork's 25th anniversary, and the Cathedral's 975th anniversary.

Find out more: bit.ly/exeter-longplayer

Young Historians Summer Sessions – Anglo-Saxons and Normans

6 August

A unique hands-on session exploring original documents and manuscripts from the Anglo-Saxon and Norman periods.

Find out more: bit.ly/young-historians-saxons

Onwards & Upwards Tours – August

7 - 28 August

Explore Exeter Cathedral at ground level to discover its finest medieval features, before heading upwards, into its fascinating roof space.

Find out more: bit.ly/special-tours

The Music of Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons by Candlelight

9 August

Join us for an evening of hits made famous by Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, performed by one of the UK's leading tribute shows, featuring a live band in the magnificent Exeter Cathedral, by candlelight.

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

Stones & Bones: The Cathedral Precinct Tours – August

12 - 26 August

Delve into the history of the Cathedral Green and explore the surrounds of Exeter Cathedral, by tracing their history from Roman time to the present day.

Find out more: bit.ly/special-tours

Young Historians Summer Sessions – Tudors and Elizabethans

13 August

A unique hands-on session exploring original documents, such as royal charters and wills, from the Tudor and Elizabethan periods.

Find out more: bit.ly/young-historians-tudors

The Icon Tour

13 August

Delve into the history of the Cathedral Green and explore the surrounds of Exeter Cathedral, by tracing their history from Roman time to the present day.

Find out more: bit.ly/icon-tour-aug

Summer Concert Series: Peter King

14 August

Organist, Peter King, will be performing a delightful seasonal concert as part of our 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-organ-recitals

Music for the Exeter Rondels

15 August

Enjoy a special performance of Music for the Exeter Rondels by Devon-based composer Sam Richards. This music was inspired by the rondels, the 31 tapestry cushions which have been on either side of the nave of the Cathedral since the 1980s.

Find out more: bit.ly/exeter-rondels

Library & Archives In Focus: Scrapbooks – A Simple Pleasure

19 August

Join us for a celebration of the enduring joy and historical value of scrapbooking. The scrapbooks in the Cathedral Archives are a treasure-trove of cuttings, cartoons, letters, autographs, photographs, postcards and memorabilia all lovingly collected by Cathedral staff, volunteers and admirers.

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

Young Historians Summer Sessions – The First and Second World Wars

20 August

A unique hands-on session exploring the local experience and response to the First and Second World Wars.

Find out more: bit.ly/young-historians-wars

The Princess Proms

21 August

Enjoy a spectacular concert singing the wonderful themes from your favourite Princess movies, including Frozen, Cinderella and Little Mermaid.

Find out more: <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/princess-proms/>

Summer Concert Series: Adam Field

28 August

Exeter Cathedral Organ Scholar, Adam Field, will be performing a delightful seasonal concert as part of our Summer Concert Series, celebrating exceptional organ music in one of the country's most atmospheric and historic sacred spaces.

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Independent Market

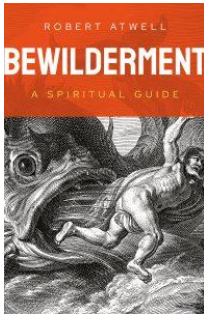
30 August

Discover the best of Exeter and the South West at the Exeter Independent Market on Cathedral Green.

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

Contemplative Prayer Group

The next meeting of the Contemplative Prayer Group will be on Tuesday 5th August at 12 noon in the Sacristy.



Bewilderment: A Spiritual Guide **The Rt Revd Robert Atwell**

Bishop Robert, who retired as Bishop of Exeter in 2023, has released a new book which is dedicated to the people of the Diocese of Exeter.

The book is titled *'Bewilderment: A Spiritual Guide'*. In his final year before retiring in 2023, Bishop Robert focused one of his regular Quiet Days for clergy on the prophet Jonah, developing a theological reflection he described as the "Spirituality of Bewilderment." Bishop Robert said, "Of all my Quiet Days, it was this theme that resonated the most strongly with the clergy."

In the book, Bishop Robert uncovers how the book of Jonah offers a strikingly relevant theology for our time- one that grapples with isolation, protest, anger, fear and depression, all under the shadow of divine presence in the midst of personal turmoil.

Bishop Robert said, "Chapters about Jonah are interleaved with reflections on where we are at as a society. As a generation, we have become profoundly anxious- and not without reason. How do we live without anxiety in an anxious world?" In the book, Bishop Robert hopes to explore how Jonah still speaks to us, offering insight and hope to an anxious generation.

To purchase a copy of *Bewilderment: A Spiritual Guide*, [click here.](#)

**Exeter
Cathedral**



JOIN US FOR OUR SERVICE OF CELEBRATION

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The Dean and Chapter are delighted to invite you to a

Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication

to celebrate the 975th anniversary of the foundation of Exeter Cathedral and the completion of the Development Project

Sunday 21 September 2025 at 4pm

Doors open at 3:15pm

You are also warmly invited to a drinks reception and entertainment following the service

Please RSVP to tina.robbers@exeter-cathedral.org.uk by Monday 8 September 2025

Saint of the Month: Octavia Hill, Social Reformer 1912

Commemoration 13th August

Probably best known as one of the three founder members of the National Trust, Octavia Hill was born on 3rd December 1838 in Wisbech. She died from cancer at her home in Marylebone on 13th August 1912.

Octavia's parents were actively engaged in social reform in areas such as housing, child labour in the mines and education. Under their influence, and that of F D Maurice, a renowned Anglican priest and social reformer, Charles Kingsley and John Ruskin (for whom she worked as a copyist for a while), Octavia began her work to alleviate poverty at an early age. Her particular passion was improving housing for the poor. With finance from John Ruskin, she transformed rundown properties in London and managed housing schemes with such success that she was able to attract funding for several more properties.

In 1884, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners asked her to manage and reform 38 slum properties in South London which were subsequently regarded as model developments. There are today projects and a Housing Association in London that bear her name. She took a keen interest in her tenants, who were expected to take personal responsibility not only for paying rent, but also for gaining employment, sending their children to school and the good management of their homes. She set up schemes to increase their access to music and the arts.

In addition to housing the poor, Octavia Hill believed passionately that people should have access to open spaces. She played a large part in saving places such as Hampstead Heath from development, and in 1883, she campaigned successfully to stop the building of a railway at Buttermere in the Lake District. In 1893, Octavia Hill, Canon Hardwicke Rawnsley and Sir Robert Hunter met and agreed to launch the National Trust to buy and preserve places of natural beauty for the nation.

In his leading article this month, Julian reminds us of the need to act and get things done when we see a need to be met. Octavia Hill most certainly did that. For a woman to achieve all that she did in the late 19th century, it is perhaps not surprising that she was formidable and determined. Having encountered her at a meeting of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, Frederick Temple, then Bishop of London, is reported to have said "She spoke for half an hour...I have never had such a beating in my life."

She is, however, much better known for more gentle words that resonate as strongly today as in times past.

"We all want quiet, we all want beauty...we all need space."

Heather Morgan

Cathedral Community Committee (CCC) 19th July



The CCC met on the morning of Saturday 19th July in the Law Library, 8 The Close. This was an extended meeting with one item on the agenda: the Chapter's Draft Strategic Plan. It was the last part of a threefold consultation, the previous contributors being Bishop Mike and the College of Canons.

We were asked to consider three questions about the draft plan:

- What do you think is good?
- The plan would be even better if...
- What would you leave out?



We addressed these questions in small groups, starting with the sections on Mission and Values, and then considering the Strategic Goals. It was a very constructive and enjoyable morning, in which we discovered that there had been considerable common ground shared by all three consultees.

Photo above: Animated conversation-And the Dean said.....?!



As a bonus, Canon Chris Palmer gave a short guide to our surroundings, the historic and splendid Law Library, which will be restored to even greater glory, and will be an excellent venue for social and other events.

Heather Morgan, CCC

(Thanks to Jake Hibberd for the photos)

Double Peal attempt - Saturday 27 September 2025 – an endurance marathon in bell ringing!

Exeter Cathedral houses the second heaviest set of bells hung for change ringing in the world, with a tenor of 72 hundredweight - that is over 3.5 tonnes. On Saturday 27 September, thirteen expert bell ringers (one for each bell but with two for the tenor) from across the country are aiming to ring these beautiful bells to a double peal (more than 10,000 changes).

If successful, this will take about 8 hours 15 minutes to complete, and will be the heaviest set of bells on which a double peal has been rung anywhere. To be successful, *each ringer must ring their bell accurately throughout the entire duration and there will be no breaks or pauses. A massive feat never achieved before on these bells.*

The peal is being rung to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the Chapter House and the completion of recent renovation works at Exeter Cathedral. Further fundraising is required to provide our new sound system so that everyone can hear clearly, replacing an analogue system that is over 30 years old and no-longer fit-for-purpose.

A practice peal of 7000 changes was rung earlier in the year. Success in September will be considered to be anything longer than 7000 changes.

We would appreciate you sponsoring the ringers both to encourage them, and to celebrate this amazing herculean effort. There will soon be a JustGiving page set up. There will be more information about the Sound System Appeal bellringers' fundraising effort, entitled 'Change for Changes', and how you can help, in the September edition of *Cathedral News*.

Jill Taylor



**Please join the Bishop of Exeter,
the RT Rev Mike Harrison for...**

**A Short Film Launch Event
about the ministry of**

Ben Cookson

**Church Army
Evangelist in Training
working in Exeter**

**Come and learn how you and your
church and organisations can
support Ben's work**

**6pm on Thursday 7th August
The Old Deanery, Exeter
EX1 1HS**

**Please RSVP to make sure
there are plenty of refreshments
jon.curtis@exeter.anglican.org**