

From the Revd Prebendary Nigel Guthrie: Trees of Life

At the time of writing this we are on track for one of the warmest summers on record. If you like the heat, then that is good news! But for many of us it is a cause for deep concern, especially when linked with the huge fires that have been burning in parts of Europe. I recently read that nearly 900,000 hectares of forest have burned across the continent this year.

Tina and I are very fortunate to live less than five minutes walk from a beautiful small woodland which

includes many mature chestnut trees. Entering the wood on a hot afternoon over the summer I have been struck by how cool it feels – perhaps five degrees (centigrade) cooler than in the full sun, although I haven't measured it. But it might be even cooler than that, as research shows that in certain conditions trees can reduce ground temperatures by up to twelve degrees centigrade. They are surely going to have a massive part to play as we adapt to a warmer climate.

And that is not all that trees do. As we may remember from primary school they use sunlight to convert carbon dioxide and water into oxygen and glucose. They also provide homes for other species. Old oak trees are considered to support 2,300 other species such as birds, insects, fungi, lichen and mammals.

Yet Britain has around 13% tree cover compared with a European average of about 38%, which is rather sobering, although efforts are being made to increase that. Soon after moving to Devon I became a supporter of the Woodland Trust, which was founded here in Devon in 1972 to conserve woodland heritage and plant new trees for the benefit of people and wildlife. If you don't know about their work it's worth a read at <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk>.

I wonder if the expression of our faith could make more of arboreal resources? Trees can certainly be of great symbolic value. They take what is potentially damaging, carbon dioxide, and convert it into something we need for life, oxygen. Trees are generous hosts to other species and they can help with flood management. They are sustainable, so that, if woodland is well managed it can continue on its natural cycle of productivity and life indefinitely.

And we could say that the Bible is bookended by trees. In the second chapter of Genesis we read of the 'tree of life' and the 'tree of knowledge of good and evil' which God placed in the Garden of Eden. The trees of the garden are said to be 'pleasant to the sight and good for food'. And in the final chapter of the Revelation of St John movingly describes the 'tree of life' as 'producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations'. In Psalm 1 those who trust in the Lord are described as being 'like a tree planted by streams of water which yield their fruit in season, and their leaves do not wither'. It is an image we find echoed in Jeremiah 17 verse 8 when Jeremiah adds 'in the year of drought it shall not be anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit'.

That alone is a nourishing and comforting image for us, living as we do with growing threats to our well-being and witnessing many human and environmental horrors around the world. How can we continue to be fruitful and to bring healing in time of darkness or dryness?

In a time when it can hard to avoid feelings of doom about the climate crisis (amongst other world events!) trees offer a beautiful and organic model of hope and healing. Perhaps we should be attending to them more in our nation, in our theology and in our prayers?

Nigel Guthrie, Priest Vicar

“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...”?



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:

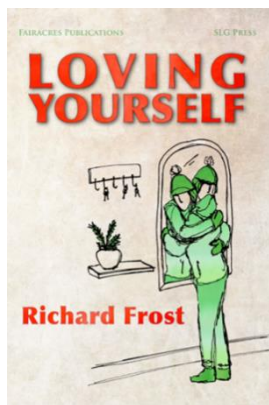
"I'm a Christian, and I'm heading to COP29 in Baku as part of the *Christian Climate Observer's Program*, with other young Christians from around the world. Whilst I'm at the summit, I'll be meeting with Christian leaders and representatives as well as secular political diplomats, and I'm hoping to show 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.

Loving Yourself



'You shall love your neighbour as yourself' is one of Jesus's most well-known and often quoted sayings. (Mark 12:31) 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?

Loving Yourself is a new book by Richard Frost, Cathedral volunteer and Licensed Lay Minister on the Totnes Ministry Team.

In this book, Richard explores how our love for both neighbour and ourselves stems from God's love for us. It considers the background and context of Jesus's words; 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. The book offers practical suggestions – and, yes, wrestles with some of the trickier parts too.

In the Foreword, Canon Deborah Parsons writes, 'This is a book to linger with and to apply to daily living and spiritual practice. It is a book that is compassionate and realistic, honest and accessible, offering down-to-earth tips borne from lived experience and forged in the furnace of life. There is something in it for everyone. Drink deeply from this wisdom well and trust that the living water it contains will nourish the parched or dry places in yourself.'

There will be a special **Book Launch** event in the **Chapter House on Thursday 18 September at 6.15pm** to which all are welcome.

Richard will also be leading a **Quiet Afternoon** based on the theme of loving yourself at **The Boniface Centre, Crediton on Monday 22 September**. Please contact Richard if you would like to come.

Published by SLG Press at £7, for more information (and to buy the book) please visit richardfrostauthor.com or contact Richard at richardnfrost@outlook.com



From the Company of Tapisers:

If you had been in the Cathedral on Friday 15th August you would have witnessed a unique musical event.

Sam Richards, a talented composer who lives in Devon, created a series of thirty-one mini-compositions to form a 'soundscape' to celebrate the Exeter Rondels. He had been inspired to compose this music after recently seeing a book about the special cushions that adorn the sides of the Nave.

Sam Richards came up with the idea of creating background music which would be played by three flautists as they progressed

in front of each cushion – for a once only performance. He wanted visitors to stop and listen, if they wanted to, or to continue to walk around the Cathedral. In the event, the majority of people who came into the Cathedral while this performance was playing sat and listened – fascinated by the music and the players.

The three flautists, a group called Flute Cake (*photo above*), played beautifully – creating a tangible tranquility and feeling of peace. It was a truly lovely and memorable occasion.

I would like to thank Sam Richards most sincerely for highlighting the Exeter Rondels as a special artwork through his evocative and stunning composition. Also, many thanks to Flute Cake who played so wonderfully – even though they hadn't been able to rehearse in the Cathedral beforehand.



Finally, it was through the generous sponsorship of the Hinrichsen Foundation and the Vaughan Williams Foundation that this event was able to take place – which was greatly appreciated.

(As a 'bridge' between the original Rondels and the new ones, now being stitched by the Tapisers, we sat and worked on the next Rondel during the performance.)

Diana Symes,
Chairman of The Company of Tapisers



A Quiet Day in the Bishop's Garden

Despite it being the first day of rain in almost three months, it was a real joy to be able to host a Quiet Day in the Bishop's Garden in mid-August; we were extremely grateful to Bishop Mike for his generous hospitality. Forty people from across the diocese assembled with their deckchairs (and waterproofs), to reflect on the life and ministry of

St Clare of Assisi, and to spend some time reflecting and praying in the Bishop's oasis of peace in the middle of the city. Demelza Henderson led the day, sharing insights she has gathered as an Oblate of the Celtic-Franciscan *Society of Our Lady of the Isles*, and also some of the beautiful prayer-poetry written by St Clare herself.

St Clare was a contemporary of St Francis of Assisi. Both lived at the turn of the thirteenth century and shared a love of nature and of contemplative prayer. Like Mary and Martha in the gospels, Clare and Francis' respective lives of prayer and contemplation, and more active preaching and evangelism, perfectly complemented each other. Together with a shared compassion for humanity, these still form the essence of the Franciscan life today.

During the Quiet Day, participants were given the opportunity to explore different aspects of St Clare's unique spirituality. We started by reflecting on her belief that everyone and everything should each accept their own place within creation, and strive to be an equal part of a glorious celebration of life. Demelza led the group in an exercise in *Terra Divina* (the practice of using the natural world, rather than the more usual scriptural passage as found in traditional *Lectio Divina*, to lead us into a place of deeper prayer and contemplation*), before the first period of silence.

After lunch, participants were invited to explore some of the imagery of mirrors that St Clare uses in several of her writings. Using small hand-held mirrors to do this, we pondered not only how we might see the image of Christ reflected in our own selves and lives, but also how we might, in turn, reflect Him to others.

The day was held in a framework of prayer, the gentle patter of the raindrops on the leaves overhead complementing the music used in the worship. But the inclement weather didn't spoil the day; participants were able to warm up in an

inside drawing-room, and the urn provided an endless supply of hot teas and coffees. Indeed, the hospitality of the Bishop's staff, and the peace offered by his spacious garden, provided the perfect location to explore St Clare's contemplative and creation-centred spirituality – and everyone left feeling restored and refreshed.

Reflecting on the day, some participants wrote that 'it was lovely to be silent for a time to allow one to go deeper', and that 'it was a very serene and beautiful experience'. Commenting on Demelza's leadership, another kindly wrote, 'You had obviously put so much thought and prayer into the day, which made it flow very seamlessly, gently and peacefully'.

Demelza's next Quiet Morning will be held as part of National Retreat Week (renewall.org.uk) on Wednesday 24th September, from 10am – 1pm in Lypstone Parish Church; please do come and join us!

* This is a practice proposed by Ian Adams, in his book '*Running over Rocks*' (Canterbury Press, 2013)
Demelza Henderson

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)

The October edition of *Cathedral News*

We hope to publish the next edition of the *News* on Sunday 5th October 2025. The deadline for material is **Tuesday 30th September 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.

Cathedral Community Committee (CCC)

The CCC had a month off in August. The next meeting is on Tuesday 9th September at 6.30pm. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions for agenda items, please contact Ann Barwood amb@exeter-cathedral.org.uk or Heather Morgan.

Heather Morgan, Chair CCC

Contemplating the Beatitudes

I simply can't recall the first time I signed off an email or card with the words 'every blessing', but it has become a phrase I now use often. And I notice others do too. But what do we actually mean by it? Are we wishing someone receives a light dusting of spiritual icing sugar, or sending them a warm virtual hug? Maybe we are. But I believe we are hinting at, even directly pointing to, the revolutionary nature of God's blessing which Jesus proclaims at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5.1–7.29).

What we now call The Beatitudes (Matthew 5.3–12) are the blessings Jesus declares on the very people who would have been looked upon as 'un-blessed' or even, by some, to use Dallas Willard's word, 'un-blessable'. By pronouncing God's blessing on the poor, the meek, the sorrowful and others, Jesus upends our understanding of what it means to live a good life. God, in Jesus, blesses those whom the world turns its back on.

The Beatitudes have been prayed and pondered for two thousand years, woven into the fabric of Christian life. So why return to them now in this context? One answer may be that, like my email sign-off, they have become so familiar to us that they no longer jolt or stir as they once did (and ought). Yet Jesus' blessings are just as much for any of us as they were for those to whom he first preached. God blesses the overlooked, the grieving, the hungry, the fragile. God blesses, for example, new parents who, after another sleepless night, feel they have nothing left to give. God blesses the worker dismissed unfairly from their identity-defining job, or the teenager who takes a wrong turn in life. The Beatitudes matter today because they shake us out of our complacency, where we feel most secure. They offer us hope when faced with circumstances we would rather avoid.

Reflecting together over the coming months, I will look at each beatitude in more detail. I hope we may, during the course of these explorations, ask what it means for us to receive God's blessing when we are lost, sorrowful, and fragile. And what might it mean, here and now, to rediscover that those we quietly doubt are blessed are, in fact, already loved by Jesus. This exploration begins with the simplest and most challenging recognition of all: our complete dependence on God.

Blessed are the poor in spirit

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

(Matthew 5.3)

Jesus does not begin by blessing the strong, the successful, or the self-assured. He starts with those who are poor. To be "poor in spirit" speaks of weakness,

dependence, and even failure. And yet Jesus says it is precisely here that the kingdom of heaven is breaking in.

Jesus' declaration runs against the grain of the received wisdom of the day, but it is not without precedent in the Jewish religious tradition. Isaiah heard God declare: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with those who are contrite and lowly in spirit" (Isaiah 57.15). What is new is that Jesus gathers up these ancient promises and offers them as gifts for the present moment.

Some read each of the blessings as a ladder of progression towards 'real' holiness: for example, lead a life of extreme material poverty, and so be, correspondingly, blessed. But few of us would wish to choose a life of poverty, or contrive to bring about the circumstances in which one might receive God's blessing; that is a risky endeavour. The Beatitudes are therefore not a prescription for a holy life but descriptions of real circumstances which people will find themselves in. It is not, therefore, "become poor in spirit to be blessed," but *you who are poor in spirit are already blessed, because God has drawn near to you.*

Eugene Peterson interprets it this way in *The Message*: "*You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you, there is more of God and his rule.*" And someone else speaks of it like this: "*Oh, the happiness when you realise you can't do anything apart from God.*" These modern takes may not suit everyone's taste, but they both make plain that blessing comes when we find ourselves in need, not in contriving to bring about the circumstances in which one is blessed.

This upending is at the heart of the Good News Jesus came to bring. In the conventional wisdom of the time, being blessed meant having children, being honoured, gaining wisdom and even victory over enemies. But Jesus turns such traditional thinking on its head by declaring a blessing on 'lack' instead. The world admires strength, independence, and self-reliance. Jesus says those who know their need of God, who cannot pretend to manage alone, are the very people through whom God's kingdom shines. It is about recognising our dependence and discovering that God's grace is already there ahead of us, waiting for us.

This first Beatitude then gives us a way into what will lie ahead in the coming reflections. Each of the blessings that follow in Jesus' Sermon, and in our consideration of them, springs from this first realisation: we stand before God with empty hands and only God can fill them. The kingdom begins where our illusions of self-reliance end.

A prayer we may choose to pray at the start of this slow, tentative exploration of each of the Beatitudes may be this, or one like it:

*Lord,
show me my need of you,
that I may discover
the joy of your blessing already at work in my life.
Amen.*

In praying this prayer, may we also dare to loosen our grip on the things we think make us secure, and discover instead God's blessing waiting in those places we prefer not to go.

Philip Wales, Priest Vicar

Some special preachers this autumn...

The Legal Service - Sun 12 October, 11.45am

Preacher: The Revd Professor Morwenna Ludlow, Canon Theologian

Trafalgar Service - Sun 19 October, 11.45am

Preacher: The Revd Prebendary Nigel Guthrie, Priest Vicar

Young Farmers' Harvest Festival - Sun 26 October, 7pm

Preacher: The Revd Prebendary Matthew Tregenza, Rector of Crediton

All Saints' Sunday - Sun 2 November, 10am

Preacher: The Revd Canon Carl Turner, Rector, St Thomas' Church, Fifth Avenue, New York

County Remembrance Service - Sun 9 November, 4pm

Preacher: The Revd Marisa Cockfield, Rural Dean of Totnes

Third Sunday of Advent - Sun 14 December, 10am

Preacher: The Right Revd Luke Irvine-Capel, Bishop of Richborough

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.

Giving to the Cathedral

At Exeter Cathedral we are dependent on the generosity of many people. This includes congregations and members of the Cathedral Community, visitors, The Friends of Exeter Cathedral, Exeter Cathedral Music Foundation, and other trusts and foundations.

This giving enables us to keep the Cathedral a living place of worship and to welcome many people through our doors. For those who are followers of Christ, giving is an important expression of our Christian discipleship; it demonstrates a commitment to each other within the fellowship of the church: being church is not something we do alone, but together, and what we give supports this joint venture of Christian community and belonging.

There are many ways to give to the life of the Cathedral, including to our development plans, to our music, and to our fabric; through legacies and by one off gifts. But the regular giving of those who give month by month and year by year is essential to keeping the Cathedral alive as a place of worship, welcome, and wellbeing.

We use a scheme called the 'Parish Giving Scheme' to collect these regular gifts. Of course, the Cathedral is not a parish, but this is just the name of a national scheme. The scheme collects donations, applies for Gift Aid, and passes the money to the Cathedral. The scheme does not charge any commission for this service, so every penny you give comes to the Cathedral. The scheme also has an option for uplifting your gift in line with inflation each year, so that you don't have to keep changing your instruction to your bank.

The Cathedral website has easy to access information about how to give to the cathedral in this way. This can be found at www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/the-parish-giving-scheme/. You can set this up on paper, by phone, or online. There are also leaflets about this available on the Cathedral Community stand in the north transept (near to where we serve coffee on Sunday morning).

If you would like more information or a conversation about this, please do get in touch with me. And thank you very much for everything you contribute to our life together.



Canon Chris Palmer

chris.palmer@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

07906 249132



News from the Cathedral Flower Arrangers

The new flower room is finished – but we have not yet been told to move! The Dean & Chapter have decided that after the Grand Nave Dinner (GND) we should return to fresh flowers and foliage. Hurray say the majority of our ladies, although it will only be for a few weeks; at the end of November we arrange dried flowers for Advent, this year designed by Jill. Then dare I mention it-comes Christmas!

We will be doing wreaths again. You will need to pre-order: look out for the ads. We hope to be making them in the Friends' Gallery.

A number of our ladies entered the Devon and Cornwall NAFAS competition at Rosemoor. One of

our ladies, Carol, arranged the competitions with a committee. There were a number of classes and ECFA ladies won awards from commended to First, then Best in show and Visitors Choice. This highlights the talent we are so fortunate to have amongst our volunteers. So very well done Katrina (3), Helen (3), Julie (2) and Liz who all entered their interpretations of various classes. *(Helen's First Prize arrangement in Nature's Contrast (Novice Class) is shown above.)*

The GND arranging and organising is taking up a great deal of our time, and we are almost ready to go. We will be using the Lady Chapel for all of the week before to make up 150 table centres which we are hoping to sell to those attending. Any that are not sold will be offered to the congregation immediately after! The Cathedral, however beautiful, has absolutely no storage for anything we don't HAVE to keep, so please do be prepared to help us out in October.

We arranged wedding flowers for Nate and Ella who + Mike married on Bank Holiday Saturday. Blue and white, just the same as the Enthronement last November. The whole Nave and Quire were much admired by guests, visitors and the congregation – which pleased us hugely.

Flick Evans, Chair Exeter Cathedral Flower Arrangers

Saint of the Month: Lancelot Andrewes, Bishop of Winchester, Spiritual Writer, 1626

Lesser Festival 25th September

Lancelot Andrewes was a distinguished theologian, scholar and Bishop during the reigns of Elizabeth 1 and James 1. His most significant preferment came during the reign of James 1 when he held the offices of: Bishop of Ely, Lord Almoner, Bishop of Chichester, Dean of Westminster, Dean of the Chapel Royal and, finally, Bishop of Winchester from 1619 until his death in 1626.

He was born in 1555 near All Hallows and close to the Tower of London. His father was Master of Trinity House. Lancelot attended the Merchant Taylor's' School where one of his fellow students was the poet Edmund Spenser. He was clearly a dedicated student and a contemporary biographer wrote:

“From his tender years he was totally addicted to study. Andrewes studied so hard that his parents had to force play upon him.”

He went on to study at Pembroke College, Cambridge, graduating in 1578. He was ordained a priest in 1580. His talent was recognised by appointments as a chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury and as a chaplain to Elizabeth 1. He was a stout defender of the Church of England against both Roman Catholicism and movements such as Calvinism. He could, however, be an outspoken preacher and appears to have annoyed Elizabeth 1 by his opposition to the Crown seeking to “alienate” ecclesiastical revenues.

It was under James 1 that his abilities were recognised in the various ecclesiastical roles mentioned above. He was a renowned preacher and, after the Gunpowder Plot, was asked to prepare a sermon to be presented to the King. Many of his sermons were published along with his “Private Prayers”. Some of the latter have been set to music by John Rutter.

James 1 also appointed Andrewes to be one of the clergy working on the Authorised Version of the Bible, commissioned in 1604 and published in 1611. He headed what was known as the “First Westminster Company” who worked on the books of the Old Testament from Genesis to 2 Kings. He also seems to have acted as a general editor for the whole project.

Andrewes died in 1626 and was buried in what is now Southwark Cathedral but then known as St Saviour's Church. He has continued to influence religious thinkers and was greatly admired by TS Eliot among others. Indeed the opening passage of Eliot's “Journey of the Magi” is almost a direct quote from Andrewes' sermon preached on Christmas Day 1622. On a more secular level, one of the blocks of flats in the Barbican in the City of London is named Andrewes House in his honour!

Jenny Ellis



Exeter
Cathedral



Support the Double Peal Appeal

On 27 September, 13 expert bellringers will attempt a double peal on the second heaviest set of bells hung for change ringing, and raising funds in support of Exeter Cathedral's sound system.

If successful, this will take about 8 hours 15 minutes to complete. 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.

If you would like to sponsor the ringers to encourage and celebrate this amazing herculean effort, please visit their [Just Giving](https://bit.ly/double-peal-appeal) page at bit.ly/double-peal-appeal

What's On in September

Onwards & Upwards Tours – September

4 - 25 September

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

London Concertante: Four Seasons and The Lark Ascending

5 September

London Concertante returns to Exeter Cathedral with their sell-out Vivaldi's Four Seasons and The Lark Ascending by Candlelight concert series.

Find out more: bit.ly/lc-lark-2025

Roof Tours – September

5 - 29 September

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

The Music of Elvis by Candlelight

6 September

Join us at Exeter Cathedral for a night of best loved classics, performed live by the UK's leading Elvis tribute act by candlelight.

Find out more: bit.ly/elvis-candlelight

Cathedral Green Market

6 September

Discover the charm of the Cathedral Green Market – where vintage treasures, unique crafts, and fresh local produce come together in the heart of Exeter.

Find out more: <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/cathedral-green-market-2/>

Shakespeare's Second Folio (1632)

9 September

Join the Cathedral Librarian for a unique opportunity to experience the magnificent Shakespeare Second Folio.

Find out more: bit.ly/library-shakespeare

Summer Concert Series: Michael Stephens-Jones

11 September

Michael Stephens-Jones, Assistant Director of Music here at Exeter Cathedral, 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

In Conversation with Ned Remington

14 September

Join us for a conversation and reflection with 19-year-old Devonian, Ned Remington – Climate Activist, Writer and Official Observer at COP29 Climate Summit in Baku.

Find out more: bit.ly/conversation-ned-remington

Stones & Bones: The Cathedral Precinct Tours – September

16 - 23 September

Discover the secrets of Exeter's cemetery (you may be surprised) and uncover the medieval murder of a local priest.

Find out more: bit.ly/special-tours

Yoga with Rosie Ellis

17 September

Led by acclaimed teacher Rosie Ellis, these evening sessions promise to combine mindful movement with the soul-stirring beauty of centuries-old architecture.

Find out more: <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/yoga-with-rosie-ellis/>

Heritage Open Days: Introduction to the Cathedral's Architectural Archives

17 September

Join us in the Exeter Cathedral Library & Archives for an introductory look at the architectural records of the Cathedral. Explore records from the Medieval to Modern era.

Find out more: <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/heritage-open-days-introduction-to-the-cathedrals-architectural-archives/>

Library & Archives In Focus: Women and the Book

18 September

Discover the stories of women in the collections of the Cathedral Library, from medieval saints to a 17th century poet, 18th century botanist, 19th century scientist and 20th century illustrator.

Find out more: bit.ly/in-focus-women-book

The Old Document Reading Group

18 September

Enjoy contributing to improving cataloguing and access to historical materials in the Cathedral Archives as part of The Old Document Reading Group.

Find out more: bit.ly/old-doc-sept

Book Launch: Loving Yourself by Richard Frost

18 September

Loving Yourself is a new book by Richard Frost, Cathedral Volunteer and Licensed Lay Minister on the Totnes Ministry Team, and we warmly invite you to attend the official book launch.

Find out more: <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/book-launch-loving-yourself-richard-frost/>

The Sixteen's 2025 Choral Pilgrimage: Angel of Peace

20 September

The Sixteen returns to Exeter Cathedral as part of their 2025 Choral Pilgrimage: Angel of Peace, offering a tranquil programme of choral music combining medieval sounds with the contemporary voices of Arvo Pärt, Will Todd and Anna Clyne.

Find out more: bit.ly/sixteen-pilgrimage-25

Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication

21 September

All are welcome to join us for a Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication to celebrate the 975th anniversary of the foundation of Exeter Cathedral and the completion of the Development Project.

Find out more: <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/service-of-thanksgiving-and-rededication/>

Yoga with Rosie Ellis

22 September

Led by acclaimed teacher Rosie Ellis, these evening sessions promise to combine mindful movement with the soul-stirring beauty of centuries-old architecture.

Find out more: <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/yoga-rosie-ellis/>

Morwenna Ludlow: 'We Believe...' The Nicene Creed From The Fourth To The Twenty-First Century

23 September

In 2025, Christians worldwide mark 1,700 years of the Nicene Creed. But what enduring truths were forged in 325 AD that still shape what millions believe today?

Find out more: bit.ly/nicene-creed-ec

London Concertante: A Night at The Opera

26 September

Enjoy an array of the finest opera arias and overtures inside the spectacular Exeter Cathedral.

Find out more: bit.ly/lc-opera25

The Music of Bowie by Candlelight

27 September

Experience David Bowie by Candlelight in the magnificent setting of Exeter Cathedral, featuring 'David Live' The David Bowie Tribute Show, and his live band performing Bowie anthems including Let's Dance, Starman, Life on Mars, Rebel Rebel and more.

Find out more: bit.ly/ec-bowie-candlelight

Cathedral Players: The Importance of Being Earnest

30 September - 3 October

Cathedral Players are back with their production of Oscar Wilde's 'The Importance of Being Earnest', set inside the magnificent Exeter Cathedral.

Find out more: bit.ly/cathedral-players-earnest

Town Hall Meeting: 4th September

There is a Town Hall Meeting on Thursday 4 September from 11am-1pm. All volunteers and staff welcome.

Disability Awareness Sunday 28th September

Churches across the UK will celebrate Disability Awareness Sunday on 28th September 2025. The theme of this year's day is 'made in God's image', reminding us that every person reflects the image of God.



Cycling Pilgrimage for Cathedral Music Trust

Jonathan Mayes, Chief Executive Officer of Cathedral Music Trust has embarked on an epic [cycling pilgrimage](#), visiting over 100 choirs across England and Wales (and the Isle of Man) in just 50 days of cycling. This mammoth challenge covers a whopping 2,700 miles, with JJ raising much-needed funds for cathedral music along the way.

He plans to arrive at Exeter for Evensong on Thursday 18th September, his previous port of call being Buckfast Abbey. Read more about the adventure by clicking on the link above. Jonathan

reached the milestone of 1000 miles in early August in a punishing but rewarding week, in which he cycled 456 miles and visited 14 choral foundations including Brecon Cathedral, St David's Cathedral, Swansea Minster, Newport Cathedral, St Peter's Carmarthen, Tewkesbury Abbey and Gloucester Cathedral.

Please sponsor Jonathan generously. Cathedral Music Trust supports cathedral musicians and choirs through the Cathedral Music Support Programme and Church Choir Award. In 2024, grants of £500,000 in total were made to 28 Anglican and Roman Catholic music departments across the UK. At Exeter we have greatly benefited from grants in recent years.

Residential Retreat

If you are interested in attending a future residential retreat, please contact Canon Deborah Parsons at deborah.parsons@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

News from CTaX

Education Sunday Service 7th September 2025

Exeter Network Church, Providence Chapel, Northernhay St, EX4 3ER

An evening for all those involved in Education and all our churches. For encouragement, inspiration, fellowship and prayer.

Tercentenary Exhibition South Street Baptist Church

Our friends and close neighbours at South Street Baptist Church are celebrating their tercentenary this year for which we send our congratulations and prayers. There will be a celebratory exhibition open on Tuesday 16th & Saturday 20th September from 10.30am-4pm

Join us for a Service of Celebration

The Dean and Chapter are delighted to invite you to a Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication to celebrate the 975th anniversary of the foundation Exeter Cathedral and the completion of the Development Project on Sunday 21st September at 4pm. Doors open at 3.15pm. You are warmly invited to a drinks reception and entertainment following the service. Please book your free ticket at bit.ly/rededication-ec.

Season of Creation

Monday 1 September is the international Day of Prayer for Creation. It marks the start of the Season of Creation, which runs until Saturday 4 October, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology. The month is an opportunity to focus in church services and small groups etc on giving thanks for Creation and renewing our collective commitment to care for our planet. The theme for this year's Season of Creation is peace with creation, based on Isaiah 32:14-18. You can find service resources and practical suggestions (like signing-up to be an Eco Church) on the Church of England website's [Season of Creation page](#).

Posbury St Francis Lecture, Monday 6th October at 6.30pm. University of Exeter, the Exeter Centre for Ethics and Practical Theology

Steve Chalke will give a lecture on *"Where there's ruin, there's hope"*.

Steve Chalke MBE is the founder of Oasis Trust, which has wide experience in youth work, housing, healthcare and educational projects internationally. To book free in-person or online tickets please visit

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/posbury-st-francis-except-lecture-2025-steve-chalke-mbe-tickets-1499116851859?aff=oddtcreator>

Doing a new thing... could the Foundations Course be for you?

[Foundations](#) is the introductory course for everyone in the Diocese of Exeter who is exploring their discipleship journey and/or their vocation (both lay and ordained). The course is designed to help people grow in their discipleship, and flourish as part of the Church. It is open to everyone who is a member of a church community.