



Exeter
Cathedral

Cathedral News

October 2025 – No. 760



From the Canon Treasurer

I'm writing this letter unusually early. I'd usually go down to the wire, and be writing the hour before it's due. But just now, I'm sitting in the waiting room of the Walk-in Centre, waiting to see a doctor, with a likely ear infection. There's a two and a half hour wait. I was tempted to go away, but when I was triaged, I was clearly told not to leave, as my ear is enflamed and needs treatment. Frustratingly, whilst I thought I would use the time to clear the backlog of email after a week

off, there's no internet access in this windowless waiting room, so that's proved impossible.

But I can write this article! And there's something in this story about learning to accept the realities of life. All my fine plans to catch up, work hard, and meet the expectations of people waiting for replies have to go on hold, whilst I deal with my health, and learn to live with the delays of an overburdened health care system. And my frustration at the lack of internet access, is a reminder of just how dependent we've become on this means of connection, often to the exclusion of more natural contact with people.

I am grateful for the kind clinician who took one look at my ear and told me not to go away! And gratitude is a great antidote to frustration and resentment when things don't go our way. What else am I grateful for sitting here? I'm grateful that I woke to safety and people I love and who love me today. I'm grateful that this morning I was able to take assembly to Exeter Cathedral School, an experience so like my ministry of former days, but so unlike my usual days now; it connected me with the past and the deep desire to share faith with all ages. The assembly was about The Lord's Prayer. So, whilst I'm at it, I'm grateful for that prayer and the daily rhythm of prayer that punctuates the busyness of life. This rhythm of Morning Prayer and Evensong asks me each day to repeat psalms and canticles that I've spoken countless times before, and to read from the scriptures passages almost always familiar. There is something wasteful about this use of time, but



prayer is a wasteful, reckless choice to do something that is valueless in a worldly sense, but is the only activity needing no further justification for those who desire to love God, and know they are loved by him.

And then, I could add to this list many other reasons for gratitude: family, a recent holiday in Shropshire, the beauty of nature, and general good health (ear infection besides!)

Gratitude is of course the main reason for Harvest Thanksgiving, which we celebrate this month. It is the moment to remember that all the fruits of the earth come from God, and we receive them as gift.

Perhaps even being forced to stop and wait for an appointment is itself a gift, as it shakes my arrogant pretension that I am in control of my life and the world. And maybe I can even be grateful for the commercial radio station that's playing in the background here; I have no idea what it is, and it's nothing I'd usually listen to, but again, it is "given" rather than chosen, organised, or arranged by me - and loving what we have, rather than striving to have what we love is a joyful part of growth in the spiritual life.

When I started writing this piece there were 12 people waiting to be seen, then it fell 8, and now it's up again to 11. I'm probably at around number 4 now, but I really don't know. Thanks be to God for uncertainty, for being made to wait, and for unexpected opportunities to write reflections early!

Canon Chris Palmer, Canon Treasurer

The November edition of *Cathedral News*

We hope to publish the next edition of the *News* on Sunday 2nd November 2025. The deadline for material is **Tuesday 28th October 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.

Some special preachers this autumn...

The Legal Service - Sun 12 October, 11.45am

The Revd Professor Morwenna Ludlow, Canon Theologian

Trafalgar Service - Sun 19 October, 11.45am

The Revd Prebendary Nigel Guthrie, Priest Vicar

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

The Revd Prebendary Matthew Tregenza, Rector of Crediton

All Saints' Sunday - Sun 2 November, 10am:

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



National Retreat Week – renew:all

For the last three years, the last full week of September has been designated 'National Retreat Week'. It is organised by a team from the Royal Foundation of St Katharine in London, who write, 'Retreat is for everyone. It is simply being intentional about taking time out for rest, reflection and prayer – whether it's 20 minutes at home, a quiet day alone or with others, or a stay at a retreat centre. The *renew:all* initiative focuses on Christian retreat practices, from

those rooted in ancient spiritual traditions, to innovative ideas drawing on modern approaches to mindfulness and wellbeing. *National Retreat Week* is a call to be intentional about finding and setting that time – alone or with others – whether during the week itself or at any time throughout the year.'

Each day during the week, the team produces resources from experienced retreat leaders (such as Paula Gooder, John Bell and Brian Draper) and share other ideas and inspiration from across Christian traditions, to encourage people to make time to 'Be still and know that I am God' (Psalm 46.10). These resources remain available online throughout the year.

So whether you are looking for inspiration about how to structure your own prayer time, or how to lead a small group for a quiet day or overnight retreat, do take a look at this year's resources on renewal.org.uk, and watch out for news of next year's events from 19-26 September 2026! And if you are looking for somewhere to go away on retreat, there are dozens of retreat houses across the UK listed on the websites of the Association for Promoting Retreats (promotingretreats.org) and the Retreat Association (retreats.org.uk).

The Perspective of a Visiting Choir

We are very grateful to the choirs who sing Cathedral Services when the Cathedral Choir is on holiday, especially in the long summer break. We were pleased to receive this from Richard Clemmit, organist and choirmaster of Christ Church Winnetka, Illinois who visited in August 2025. It gives an interesting insight into the experience of our visiting choirs.

Richard wrote to the Dean:

With continued gratitude to you, Dean Jonathan, and everyone at the Cathedral who helped make our visit possible, I am writing one more time to share an article that came out yesterday in a local online publication.

The article describes from our perspective of the opportunity we had to sing at Exeter Cathedral. I thought you might be interested to read how valuable and formational the experience was for us.

“Canterbury, Winchester, Salisbury and Durham are just a few of the places Winnetka resident Carrie Healy has travelled with the Christ Church choir over the past 20 years.

Now, she can add Exeter to that list.

Every other year, the Christ Church choir — composed of choristers starting as young as 9 years old from Christ Church Winnetka, 784 Sheridan Road — takes a break from its Sunday morning services and a trip overseas to England’s cathedrals. For one week, the choir serves as a choir-in-residence, taking the place of that cathedral’s year-round choir.

And while being chosen for the residency is an honor, the trip also offers choristers opportunities to bond with one another and explore England’s rich history.

“When you look at the architecture and the history and what inspired it, that’s just amazing enough,” Healy said, “and to be singing some of the same music that people have sung for hundreds of years, the same rituals, it’s pretty humbling.”

This August 40 individuals from the Christ Church choir served as the choir-in-residence at Exeter Cathedral, which dates back to the 12th century. From Aug. 4-10, the group sang at evening service, known as Evensong, every day except Thursday, with an additional service on Sunday.

“You’re only there for a week, but you’re continuing a tradition that has been going on for hundreds of years and hopefully will go on for many more years,”

said rising New Trier junior Mattie Blair MacDonald, who has sung in the choir alongside her parents Dan and Amanda MacDonald since the third grade.



The Christ Church choir attempts biennial overseas trips.

To be singing in a place with so much history was “a little overwhelming,” Dan MacDonald added, but to do so with his wife and daughter was “magical.”

Sharing this experience with family is not unique to the MacDonalds. Healy said one of her sons, now 14 years out of college, also went on the trip to Exeter.

Another choir member, Sarah Generes, sang alongside her teenage daughter, Lily.

Being selected as a choir-in-residence is no small feat. Generes said choirs must apply for these residencies years in advance — the trip for 2027 is already lined up — and the application process is selective.

Generes added that selected choirs must be well prepared, because the English style of psalm singing is different from how American choirs sing.

“In our final service in Exeter, the Dean of the Cathedral mentioned in his remarks that he was encouraging people to come back and hear us for our final Evensong because we are an excellent American choir,” she said. “It’s pretty

intense competition because a lot of less polished, less professional choirs apply and aren't able to get a space."

But singing wasn't the sole focus of the trip. The choir touched down in England on July 31, allowing them time to reset and explore nearby estates and castles.

Mattie Blair added that another highlight of the trip was getting to know other members of the group better over meals and downtime.

For Healy, what stands out is the "camaraderie building" she said. The choir is open to everyone — lay and professional singers, Episcopalian and non-Episcopalian members, choristers young and old.

"It's so open and warm and welcoming," she said. "It's just this wonderful sense of community that I have never seen replicated in any other setting."



In Conversation with Christopher Southgate:

Poetry of grief, joy, and the spiritual search

**Sunday 12th October 2025
6:30pm in the Chapter House**

(Refreshments served from 6.00pm)

As well as a poet, Christopher Southgate has been a research biochemist, a house-husband, a bookseller, and a lay chaplain. He is now Professor of Christian Theodicy at the University of Exeter.

His two newest poetry collections are *Losing Ithaca* (Shoestring) and *Rain falling by the River* (Canterbury Press). Chris will reflect on what recent grief has taught him, his enthusiasm for Greta Thunberg and Garry Sobers, and his poetic meditations on biblical scenes and characters.

Join us for a fascinating conversation...followed by a short service of compline.



From the Company of Tapisers:

Our most recently completed vestment was handed over to the Cathedral on Sunday 28th September at the 10.00am service. It is a green tunicle made from a rich green damask, with a striking gold and red braid border above the hem. It will be worn by the Crucifer in mid-week services during Ordinary Time.

You may think that the Sacristy is full of vestments, so why are we making more?! The answer is quite simply that vestments wear out! Vestments in various colours, according to the Church's seasons, are worn every day for services at the Cathedral throughout the year. This daily use equates to considerable wear and tear!

All vestments are blessed when completed and it gives the Tapisers a sense of real satisfaction to be able to contribute towards the beauty of Cathedral services.

The Autumn Fair on the 14th and 15th October is an event the Tapisers look forward to each year. We shall be offering handmade items for sale: cushions, pincushions, lavender bags and more... Do come along and see us!

Diana Symes, Chairman of The Company of Tapisers

Ed. The tunicle was donated in memory of Wilfred Reynolds, a much loved member of the team of Servers as described in this panel inside the vestment.





Advent Series 2025 by the Revd Professor Christopher Bryan

This three-session course will take place on Sunday 30 November, 7th December and 14th December 2025 from 12 noon in The Cloister Garth Room, Exeter Cathedral. The session will explore (1) The Meaning of Advent, (2) the Four Last Things, and (3) “The Former Advent.”

To book a place on the course or for more information, please contact Chris on: cbryan@sewanee.edu

Sometime Woodward Scholar of Wadham College, Oxford, Chris is a priest, academic, and novelist, now semi-retired (whatever that means). His most important non-fiction books

are *The Resurrection of the Messiah* ([Oxford, 2011](#)), *Son of God: Reflections on a Tradition* ([Oxford 2023](#)), *Mary of Nazareth: The Mother of Jesus as Remembered by the Earliest Christians* (Seabury, 2024) and the popular *And God Spoke: The Authority of the Bible for the Church Today* (Cowley, 2002). The first of his six “Inspector Cecilia Cavaliere” novels is *Siding Star* ([Diamond 2012](#)), a somewhat supernatural police case that actually starts in Exeter Cathedral! Copies of all are available for purchase in the Cathedral Bookstore.

75 Years of Narnia: Continental Breakfast & Celebration Morning Saturday 18th October 9:30am-11:30am

All are welcome to join us on Saturday 18th October for a celebration of 75 years of *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* at our community breakfast.

Come along for a fun morning with something for all ages and an opportunity to visit Narnia.

This is a free event and all are welcome to attend.

Ride and Stride: Saturday September 14th

Many congratulations to Canon Chris Palmer who cycled in aid of the Historic Churches Trust on 14th September. Setting off from the Cathedral at 10am, he visited churches at Countess Wear, Topsham, Holy Cross Topsham, Exton, Lymptone, Holy Trinity Exmouth, All Saints Exmouth, Alphington, St Thomas and St Mary Steps, Exeter.

Here we see him with Fiona Moffat on departure and at All Saints Exmouth.



It isn't too late to sponsor Chris. Remember that half of the amount raised helps to fund the vital work of the Devon Historic Churches Trust, and the other half comes back to the Cathedral. Fiona will be pleased to receive your donation!

Veni Spiritus... Rebrand for South West Theological College

South West Ministry Training Course (SWMTC), which is where our Licensed Lay Ministers and some of our ordinands do their training, has changed its name to **Spiritus College** for the start of the new academic year. The college also has a new website, which includes details of all the courses it offers. [Click here.](#)

An official launch for the rebrand is being planned by Spiritus, to be held on Saturday, 6th December at Marjon University in Plymouth. Entitled 'Cream Tea, Conversations and Celebrations'. It will be a celebration of the past, present, and future of Spiritus College, recognising the contribution of SWMTC to ministry within the Church of England in Devon and Cornwall, and looking ahead to what the future will bring.

Contemplating the Beatitudes

Contemplating the Beatitudes: God Promises to Comfort Those Who Mourn

In the first article in this series last month, we discovered that blessing begins with acknowledging our total dependence on God. We now turn to the second beatitude: *Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted* (Matt 5.4).

Some of those who have written extensively on the Beatitudes group them into pairs, and by doing so they offer means by which we may contemplate them. Although I do not find that approach particularly convincing, the first two beatitudes do seem to belong together. This is because they describe a similar, vulnerable honesty before God. People who know their complete dependence on God are also able to face, openly and compassionately, the brokenness of the world and lament for that which is not as God intended.

It may be helpful to distinguish between three dimensions of loss here. First, bereavement is the fact of being deprived of someone or something dear to us. Grief is the inner experience of that loss; the ache we carry inside. Mourning, then, is the outward expression of one's grief. Given this, it may be surprising to recall that this beatitude has sometimes been misinterpreted. Some have taken Jesus' words to mean that suffering is a virtue, that we are to strive for such a state (this is the 'ladder of spiritual progression' which we considered last month). But life shows us that grief is not an ideal state to be sought after. Instead, loss, and the grief and mourning which accompany it, are an inescapable reality of human existence. When we mourn, as we inevitably shall, God promises to meet and comfort us.

The distinction between these two emphases comes into sharp focus when we consider how some have translated the phrase "*Blessed are those...*". Although firmly in the minority, there are still some translations which replace it with "*Happy are those...*" or even "*Congratulations to those...*". Although well-intentioned, such interpretations sound glib, trite or, frankly, insensitive especially in the context of a consideration of this particular beatitude.

By contrast, Eugene Peterson's paraphrase in *The Message* captures more faithfully the paradox at the heart of Jesus' words: "*You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.*" (Matt 5.4). Here, notice how it is God's promise which comes into focus. Similarly, Tom Wright translates it as "*Wonderful news for those who mourn*". The distinction here is that neither Peterson nor Wright says that those who grieve ought to feel happy, but rather that there is genuinely good news for them in the midst of their loss.

Mourning takes different forms: the death of someone we love, the breakdown of a committed relationship, the loss of a long-hoped-for future. But Jesus' words also echo the prophets who spoke of Israel lamenting the brokenness of the world itself. Isaiah heard God promise "*to comfort all who mourn ... to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes*" (Isaiah 61.2–3). Mourning, then, is not only about personal bereavement; it is a lament for all that is fractured, unjust, and unfinished in creation.

The promise Jesus makes is that those who mourn will be comforted. But what does it mean to be comforted? Well, it does not mean, as Tom Wright has put it, being enveloped in a sugary pretence that things are not as bad as they seem, because deep down we know that they are (else we would not mourn). Indeed, the fourth commitment of those who choose to adopt the Cathedral's Rule of Life is to "care for ourselves as beloved children of God and be accountable for living this rule of life". This means permitting ourselves to mourn; to lament, to weep, to let ourselves speak of our loss to God.

As we mourn, God's comfort is present. Sometimes we feel it through the love of others who come alongside us. Sometimes we sense it more quietly, privately, through God's Holy Spirit, the Comforter who has no need for words and yet holds us in the depths of our being. And then, when grief leaves us too numb to feel anything at all, we trust through faith that we are still yet held by our God who will never ever abandon us.

*God of all comfort,
hold us when our hearts are heavy,
carry us when our strength is gone,
and heal us with your presence.
Give us courage to weep and grace to hope,
until sorrow is turned to joy
and mourning to dancing,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen

Philip Wales, Priest Vicar

News from the Cathedral Flower Arrangers

The Flower Arrangers will be preparing Christmas Wreaths again this year. Please keep an eye out for the details of how to order them. They hope to be making them in the Friends Gallery.



**Saint of the Month: Cedd,
Abbot of Lastingham,
Bishop of the East
Saxons, 664**

**Commemoration:
26th October**

St Cedd's chapel, at Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex, pictured here, is dedicated to St Peter. It is an evocative and beautiful Church dating from c654.

St Cedd is one of the lesser known Celtic saints of the seventh century. He was a missionary, founding two important monastic communities in Essex and Yorkshire, but is also remembered for playing a critical part in the infamous Synod of Whitby in the year 664AD.

Cedd was born in around 620AD, and was trained for the priesthood at Lindisfarne, alongside his four brothers, Chad, Caelin and Cynebil. Following his ordination, he was sent first as a missionary to Mercia (the large Anglo-Saxon kingdom which incorporates all of the modern-day Midlands), and then to Essex, where he made his base in a disused Roman settlement at Bradwell-on-Sea. From Bradwell, Cedd and his companions travelled up and down the Essex coast establishing a number of other Christian monastic communities. Indeed, they had such success, that within a year, Cedd was consecrated Bishop of the East Saxons.

When news of the extent of Cedd's mission reached King Ethelwald of Northumbria in 659, Cedd was invited to evangelise northern parts of England too. He built his new monastery at Lastingham on the North York Moors, but as the King's summons came during Lent, Cedd refused to start the work until his fast was over – reportedly eating just one egg, with some watered milk and bread each day, and spending the rest of the day in prayer.

But Cedd's real legacy lies in his role at the Synod of Whitby in the year 664AD. At this time, Christianity in the British Isles was divided between those who followed the 'Celtic' style of organisation and worship, and the 'Roman' style, as introduced by St Augustine in Canterbury in 597AD. Matters were brought to a head in Northumbria, when the (Celtic-trained) King and the (Kentish/Roman) Queen found themselves celebrating Easter on different days! The Synod was

called to try and resolve this, alongside other issues, such as the 'correct' style of monastic tonsure, and whether immersion at baptism should be just once or three times.

The Synod took place at the Abbey in Whitby, under the guidance of its Abbess St Hilda, and Cedd was invited to be the official interpreter between the two sides. Clearly, he was fluent in both Latin and Irish, but he must also have been a man of integrity, who both sides could trust. Despite there being significantly more 'Celtic' delegates than 'Roman' ones, it was the continental bishops who eventually won the debate – arguing that since Jesus had given St Peter the keys of heaven, the Roman church (with its hierarchical structure of bishops and dioceses) instead of the Celtic way of tribal affiliations and monastic communities, should take precedence.

Following the Synod, Cedd retired back to his abbey at Lastingham, where he died of the plague just a few months later; his body is still buried in the crypt of the church there.

Demelza Henderson

Congratulations to the Ringers!



Many congratulations and thanks to our bellringers who completed their marathon double peal after 8¼ hours at 4.25pm on Saturday 27th September. They are pictured here shortly afterwards. Please give generously to their JustGiving page at bit.ly/double-peal-appeal All proceeds to the Cathedral Sound System Appeal.

**In Conversation with ... Bishop Moira Astin, The Bishop of Crediton
9th November 2025 at 6.30pm in the Chapter House
Refreshments from 6.00pm**

Moira was born in 1965 and grew up in Staines in Surrey. She went to Clare College, Cambridge, where she studied Natural Sciences specialising in Geology. After some years working in computing, she went to Wycliffe Hall, Oxford to train for ordained ministry.

Her curacy at Newbury in West Berkshire, in Oxford Diocese, was followed by five years as Team Vicar in nearby Thatcham. She then became Vicar of St James in Woodley near Reading, before moving to North Lincolnshire where she served as Vicar of Frodingham and New Brumby, in the heart of Scunthorpe, and as Area Dean of North Lincolnshire. Most recently, Moira served as the Archdeacon of Reigate in Southwark Diocese, a role she held for nine years.

The Bishop of Crediton serves the whole of Devon, but has a particular care for North Devon, Mid Devon and East Devon. Moira brings decades of practical experience of ministry in various roles as well as being a theologian, published author and natural teacher.

She teaches church history and doctrine and has recently published *The Missing Ending: Rediscovering the Joy of the Ascension and From Nazareth to Northumbria, how Christianity came to Britain and stayed*.

Moira is married to Timothy, and they have one son, Edmund (Ed).

She enjoys birdwatching, geology and is researching the history of the Church in England between 400AD and 600AD.

Join us for an interesting conversation followed by a short service of compline.

**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>

What's On in October

World Postcard Day

1 October

See some of the best examples of our old postcards as part of World Postcard Day.

Find out more:

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/world-postcard-day/>

Onwards & Upwards Tours – October

2 - 16 October

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

Find out more:

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/onwards-upwards-tours-october/>

Cathedral Green Market

5 October

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-3/>

Library & Archives In Focus: Exeter Cathedral in the 1920s

9 October

Explore life at Exeter Cathedral in the 1920s through newspapers and new research in the Cathedral Archives.

Find out more:

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/in-focus-exeter-cathedral-1920s/>

Roof Tours – October

11 - 21 October

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: <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/roof-tours-october/>

In Conversation with Christopher Southgate

12 October

Join us for a conversation with Christopher Southgate covering poetry of grief, joy, and the spiritual search.

Find out more:

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/in-conversation-christopher-southgate/>

Devonshire Association Discovery Days: Treasures Exhibition

13 October

Our first Discovery Day in celebration of the 'Exeter Book' will be a chance to explore the newly opened Treasures Exhibition.

Find out more:

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/devonshire-association-discovery-day-treasures-exhibition/>

Exeter Cathedral Autumn Fair 2025

14 & 15 October

Discover a diverse line-up of local businesses at the Autumn Fair this October.

Find out more:

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/exeter-cathedral-autumn-fair-2025/>

The Icon Tour

15 October

Join the Dean of Exeter to hear all about the process of icon making and what his collections depict.

Find out more:

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/icon-tour-october-2025/>

The Old Document Reading Group

16 October

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:

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/old-document-reading-group-october-2025/>

75 Years of Narnia: Continental Breakfast & Celebration Morning

18 October

Come and join us for a special Narnia-themed breakfast morning to celebrate 75 years of The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe.

Find out more:

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/narnia-breakfast/>

Yoga with Rosie Ellis

20 October

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-2/>

The Music of Eagles by Candlelight

23 October

Join us for an unforgettable evening of Eagles hits by candlelight inside the magnificent setting of Exeter Cathedral.

Find out more:

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/eagles-music-candlelight/>

Devonshire Association Discovery Days: The Exeter Book

23 October

Our second Discovery Day in celebration of the Exeter Book will be two free one-hour workshops with Cathedral Librarian, Emma Laws, exploring what makes the Exeter Book special.

Find out more:

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/devonshire-association-discovery-days-the-exeter-book/>

The Music of Meat Loaf by Candlelight

24 October

Join us for an evening of Meat Loaf anthems, performed by candlelight inside the stunning setting of Exeter Cathedral.

Find out more: <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/meat-loaf-music-candlelight/>

Through the Wardrobe: Celebrating 75 Years of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

25 October - 1 November

Visit Exeter Cathedral and step through the wardrobe door with us into the snowy world of Narnia and beyond.

Find out more:

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/the-lion-the-witch-and-the-wardrobe-celebrating-75-years/>

Harvest Thanksgiving Service

26 October

Join us for a special Harvest Thanksgiving Service, attended by the Devon Young Farmers.

Find out more:

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/harvest-thanksgiving-service/>

Yoga with Rosie Ellis

29 October

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-3/>

2025 Annual Library Lecture: The secrets and silences of Exon Domesday

30 October

Explore the many secrets of Exon Domesday, and discover why, where and how it was written.

Find out more:

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/2025-annual-library-lecture/>

Bishop Mike's Newsletter

Bishop Mike has written about some of the current divisions in our society in his recent Ad Clerum (newsletter). [Click here](#) to read the Michaelmas Ad Clerum.



John Allan awarded the Canterbury Cross

The Cathedral Community are pleased to note that John Allan has been awarded the Canterbury Cross (also known as the Cross of St Augustine) for his work as Cathedral Archaeologist since 1989. The Award of the Canterbury Cross was founded by Archbishop Michael Ramsey and was first awarded in February 1965. It is a circular medallion bearing a replica of a 9th-century Saxon brooch

found in Canterbury. The Cross is now awarded to both clergy and lay people who have made an outstanding contribution to the Anglican Communion worldwide.

Many of us within the community, and far beyond, are aware of John's meticulous study of the archaeology, architecture and history of the Cathedral and its buildings. We have benefitted from the fruits of this work in print, in lectures and during fascinating guided visits to the buildings. The good state in which the Cathedral now is owes a great deal to John's knowledge, enthusiasm and determination to get things done properly.

John was among those awarded the Cross in September 2024. The citation reads *For his extraordinary contribution over more than 40 years to the understanding of Exeter Cathedral's life, history and the Church of England's other historic buildings throughout the West of England, and his relentless efforts to promote interest in, and affection for, the cathedral and the churches of the region.*

The detailed reasons for this award are recorded as follows:

John Allan has been Exeter Cathedral's Consultant Archaeologist for several decades. During this period, he has made an outstanding contribution both to the care and upkeep of the building and to its history. He has a knowledge, unsurpassed at any other cathedral, of its fabric down to virtually every stone and feature, spanning a history ranging from Anglo-Saxon times to the most recent restorations. This knowledge extends to the cathedral monuments and to the buildings of the Close. He has made important and definitive contributions to these subjects in academic books and journals. He has been an enormous help for our present major development project, advising the Chapter about how best to proceed, and helping us secure the necessary permissions.

His knowledge is most generously shared. He offers every assistance to other researchers, to the cathedral chapter and congregation, and to the general public. He is an excellent and generous tour guide and lecturer, who has the

ability to rouse people's affection for the building and inform their understanding of the spirituality and history that it represents. His enthusiasm is infectious.

John has additionally contributed hugely to the knowledge and appreciation of church buildings throughout the South West. He is archaeological advisor to Glastonbury Abbey, and has worked on such former religious houses as St Nicholas Priory Exeter, Polsloe Priory, Cleeve Abbey, Launceston Priory, Newenham Abbey, and the Exeter friaries, as well as many parish churches in Cornwall and Devon.

Unfortunately the formal award presentation by the Archbishop which is usually held at Lambeth Palace was cancelled due to the resignation of Archbishop Justin Welby. John subsequently received the Cross by post but in order to acknowledge this honour more formally and publicly the presentation was made by Dean Jonathan at the Friends of Exeter Cathedral Evensong on 30th June. It seems as though no photographs were taken at the time but John has kindly supplied a photograph of the Cross. If anyone is aware of a photograph of the presentation we would be glad to know of it.

We congratulate John warmly on the recognition of his valuable and extensive work.

Celia King

Cathedral Strategic Plan

The Cathedral's Strategic Plan for the coming six years was launched at the Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication on Sunday 21st September. The plan is summarised in the priorities of Worship, Welcome and Wellbeing. It was developed by Chapter in consultation with the Bishop, the College of Canons, the Cathedral Community Committee, and Cathedral Staff. Printed copies are available in the Cathedral, and an online version can be found [here](#).

Inside the plan, you'll find our 19 strategic goals for the coming years. These cover the many areas of our life, including working with the Bishop and Diocese, nurturing our worship and community, welcoming visitors and reaching out to new people, ensuring wellbeing through excellent pastoral care and safeguarding, developing our estate and treasures, and caring for God's world. We would like for as many people as possible interested in the life of the Cathedral to read this plan, so please feel free to share this widely.

The Blessing of the Serving Clerks



Photo: Jake Hibberd

On Sunday 28th September, the Servers were thanked for their work and blessed by the Dean. A “team photograph” followed. If you would like to know more about the role, or are interested in joining the team, please contact Canon James Mustard james.mustard@exeter-cathedral.org.uk in the first instance.

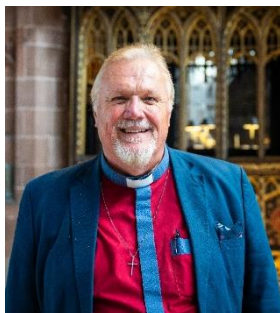
Cathedral Community Committee 9th September

At the meeting 9th September we were delighted to hear that the Strategic Plan had been amended following the extensive consultation and was now complete. We suggested a celebratory launch and agreed that the best time for this would be at the service of thanksgiving on 21st September.

We confirmed the Harvest Supper on 24th October. We also agreed to trial meetings bi-monthly leaving the intervening months for other meetings such as social events and fundraising.

The importance of distributing information from Town Hall meetings was stressed as many volunteers cannot attend during the day. The Committee offered to draft reports after each meeting if this would help.

Heather Morgan, Chair CCC



A Study Course on the Gospel of Matthew with the Revd Canon Professor Richard A. Burridge

Wednesdays Nov 12th – 26th 2025, and Jan 28th – Feb 25th 2026, 2:30pm-4:30pm, repeated 6.30-8.45pm, Baptist Church, 25 South Street, Exeter, EX1 1EB

Following on from his successful courses on Mark and John over the last two years, this year Richard will be considering **the Gospel of Matthew**, which is the set text for the gospel readings on Sundays from Advent 2025 to 2026. This will consider:



What does it mean to be Jewish? And to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ of God? Such questions are as much debated today as they were in the first century. Matthew is the most Jewish of the gospels, and one of the most Jewish texts in the New Testament. Yet, sadly, its verses were also used to justify anti-Semitic persecution from mediaeval pogroms to Nazi concentration camps, see Matthew chapter 23, and especially Matt. 27.25.

This will provide us an opportunity to “go deeper” in three directions: deeper **into** the original text itself; deeper **back** to its origins, background and historical setting; and, thirdly, deeper **forward** to its meaning and significance for us today. The first three sessions in November will introduce the gospel, especially Matthew chapters 1-4, to help us celebrate **Christmas and Epiphany**. The other five weeks will study Matthew’s main account of the life and ministry of Jesus, leading up to his arrest and crucifixion, so we can **observe Lent, and prepare for Holy Week and Easter**.

The Revd Canon Professor **Richard A. Burridge** is an internationally recognised biblical scholar, ethicist, theologian and social commentator. He was Dean of King’s College London from 1993 to 2019. Now a Research Fellow in the Department of Theology at the University of Manchester, with extraordinary appointments at Virginia Theological Seminary, USA, and the University of Pretoria, South Africa, he devotes his time to research and writing, as well as his public ministry lecturing and undertaking theological training for clergy and lay people. His best-selling *Four Gospels, One Jesus?* has made biblical scholarship accessible to a wider audience. His academic scholarship on Jesus and the gospels, and his contribution to the life of the world-wide church, was

recognised when he was awarded the 2013 Ratzinger Prize by Pope Francis, the first non-Roman Catholic to receive this prestigious prize.

To allow as many people as possible to attend, the sessions will be run **twice**, on **Wednesday afternoons 2.30-4.30pm**, and repeated on **Wednesday evenings**, at **6.30-8.45pm. November 12th, 19th and 26th 2025, and Jan 28th, February 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th 2026**. Refreshments will be available.

At both afternoon and evening sessions, there will also be **the opportunity to participate instead on-line via Zoom** (using a laptop, tablet or smartphone; no extra software needed). For more details, email

richard.burridge@manchester.ac.uk , stating if you want to register for the afternoon or evening sessions, and whether attending in person or on-line. You will then be sent further details.

21st September: A Day of Celebration

At Evensong on 21st September, we celebrated the renovation of the Quire, the completion of the Friends Cloister, and the 975th anniversary of the foundation of the Cathedral.

At the 10am Choral Eucharist that day, Elizabeth Georgina Mary Hibberd, the youngest member of the Cathedral Community was baptised by Canon Cate. The photographs taken by Jake capture perfectly the joy of the occasion for us all.



Cathedral Pilgrimage to Bayeux, Lisieux, and Paris



ssThe Cathedral Pilgrimage to Bayeux, Lisieux and Paris is taking place as we prepare this edition of *Cathedral News*. Our special correspondent and photographer, Peter Emmanuel, sent us these images of some of the party on the ferry and of the home of St Therese of Lisieux, visited on the second day of the pilgrimage. On Sunday 28th September at the Choral Eucharist, the congregation prayed for the pilgrims before they set off.

We pray that our pilgrims come before you with open hearts and eager spirits. Bless their travels, Lord; those with whom they journey; and their hosts at the Monastery. Strengthen their faith, deepen their love for you and grant them grace to be open to the blessings you have prepared for them."