

From the Canon Steward

The other day I was invited to a meeting. Although I was sent the postcode for the venue, I was told that this wasn't that helpful and that I should use the 'what3words app'. I had previously heard of it but had not used it. It is an app which has been developed for more accurate locating of specific places. The developers divided the world into three metre squares and gave each square a unique combination of three words in order to find and share exact locations. The cathedral has several three words depending on exact location: the west end's three words are 'couches.trap.curvy'; our office in the West Wing is described as 'hush.fats.park'. But location of the central part of the cathedral, the dais and altar, is given as, 'than.caller.feast'.

How do the developers of this app come up with these words? 'than.caller.feast', in a way, I think is quite apt for the location. We are called to gather around the table, the altar, for the special feast, the Holy Communion. We are called to feast together, If I could I would substitute 'Christ' for 'than'. Christ Jesus calls us to feast in remembrance of him and to be refreshed to go out and carry out his work.

I continue to ponder on this concept for identifying exact locations. If I could choose three words to locate the whole cathedral I might use, 'central.spiritual.beautiful'. Central, as the cathedral is in the centre of Exeter and is our centre of worship. Spiritual, as it is a place of prayer and reflection, of worship and concentrated closeness to God. Beautiful, as it is a spectacular building.

Three words are frequently seen in popular culture on items such as signs, mugs, and cards; words like 'Live. Love. Laugh', **'Dream. Believe. Achieve', 'Think. Plan. Do', 'Pause. Breathe. Reset'**. I'm sure you will have seen more. Do they mean anything to you, or are they just words that can roll off the tongue easily? Do such words have real depth of meaning?

The strap line of our new Strategic Plan has three words, 'Worship, Welcome Wellbeing', underpinned by a fourth Sustainability. These, of course, are not just words but a focus for our work for the next six years. If you haven't picked up a

copy of the Plan, please do so. There are many available in the Cathedral. It is an interesting and uplifting read.

The concept of three words is not new. The sixteenth century theologian Richard Hooker, who was born and initially educated in Exeter and whose statue is a feature on the green, used three words to explain the Anglican approach to authority in religion: Scripture, Tradition and Reason, which has been much debated and developed over the centuries. On a whimsey I used the what3words app to locate the statue, 'frogs.plenty.income', was the result! The mind boggles as to how those three words came together.

What three words, I wonder, might navigate us on our spiritual journeys? 'Father.Son.Holy Spirit.' might be the location we are seeking. As we move through the seasons, what words might help us navigate towards Advent and then Christmas? How about, 'Preparation. Expectation. Light'? Advent is a time of reflection, and preparation, a time to dwell more deeply on God coming to earth in human form. A time, perhaps, for deeper study, taking part in Advent courses and lectures. Revd Professor Chris Bryant will be leading the Advent Series this year; watch for details. Or if you prefer, just spending a little more time in prayer and reflection.

I have to confess, the three words I was given for the app to find the location of the meeting only confused me. So I returned to my faithful satnav and managed to arrive on time. I had better become more proficient at using the app before the next time I have to use it. I tested the app with the three words 'Father.Son.HolySpirit', but the software didn't understand! Even with AI it can't help us on our spiritual journeys. In the meantime, as we journey through the season may we find 'Father.Son.Holy Spirit' our guide and destination.

Blessings, greetings and joy,

Canon Cate

Exploring Ministry Event

Monday 17 November, 7.30pm to 9pm at the Old Deanery

Vocations is one of the five diocesan missional priorities and we are keen to help everyone explore God's call for their lives. If you are feeling a nudge from God, do come along to this evening to explore some of the ways God calls people into different forms of ministry. God uses people in a whole variety of ways at every stage of their lives. For some this might be a lay role, others might be called to be ordained. How might God be calling you, or someone you know? At this event led by Revd Hannah Mears, Diocesan Vocations Advisor, there will be space to reflect on God's calling, to hear from different speakers about different ministry avenues and the opportunity to ask questions. Refreshments will be provided.

[Click here to book to attend](#)

Christingle 2025. Volunteers needed!

The Christingle service will be at **4pm on Saturday 29th November.**

I have been asked to prepare the Christingle oranges and in order to do this I will some help:

1. To stick sweets and sultanas onto 1400 cocktail sticks. This will be from 10am at 1 Brooklands, Millbrook Lane, Exeter on Thursday 27th November.
2. To assemble the Christingle oranges. This will be from 10am at Cloister Garth on Friday 28th November.
3. To help in the cathedral at 3.30 on Saturday 29th November.

If you feel able to help at any or all of these times, please contact.

Shelagh Orrell
orrell2000@me.com
07976 921804

From the Company of Tapisers:

THANK YOU to everyone who visited our stall at the Autumn Fair – whether it was to chat or buy something. It was a happy and successful event for all stallholders. Several people make a point of coming along to our stall at this time to support us, and their enthusiastic comments on the standard of our work are much appreciated.

In accordance with the wishes of Dean Matthews, who had the initial idea of setting up our group in 1932, we do not put our names on our work – it is all made for Exeter Cathedral, not for any personal recognition!

Looking back to the beginning of our Company, it is a testament to Dean Matthews that ‘his’ group of dedicated needleworkers have purposefully contributed to the life of Exeter Cathedral for over nine decades! Tapisers have met regularly since 1933 – except during the Second World War, when the Cathedral was bombed, and during the lockdowns of Covid. It is an extraordinary legacy!

Items of our work are available in the Cathedral Shop throughout the year, so feel free to pop in and see our latest offerings.

Diana Symes, Chairman of The Company of Tapisers



Science Week Sunday at St Giles and St Nicholas, Sidmouth

At the 10am Eucharist in Sidmouth Science Week, the sermon slot at St Giles and St Nicholas, Sidmouth took the form of a conversation between the Archdeacon of Exeter, the Venerable Andrew Beane, and the Canon Scientist of the Cathedral, Professor Penny Endersby on climate change, stewardship and trust.

We are very grateful to Penny for sending us a lightly edited transcript of their conversation.

Penny writes It was a joy to attend the main Eucharist. There were lots of questions at coffee afterwards; the community showed a real thirst for greater understanding. I was touched to be thanked for my long work in Defence and National Security, and for work done behind the scenes to keep the UK safe and resilient, which I also passed on to some of the key contributors at the Cabinet Office, who probably seldom hear such acknowledgement.

Andrew: In your work at the Met Office, how do you see the relationship between truth and trust, especially in the public understanding of climate science?

Penny: The Met Office enjoys the most extraordinary level of public trust. We survey this all the time and it's very important to us. 84% of the public say they trust the Met Office a lot or a little. Compared with the person on the street at about 50% or politicians at about 20%, that's a very enviable level of trust. I'm not sure if we are trusted because people see us as scientific and impartial and independent, or also because they get the weather on their phones every day and most times it's right or thereabouts.

In climate science – of course there are people trying to undermine our trust, who don't like to think about what we are doing to the planet, that it's to do with fossil fuels. It's too scary. Now the science is so clear that people have started to attack the data. Instead of saying we've got the science wrong, they say we must be making up the data, because frankly you don't need to be a scientist if you look at the data to see how plain it is.

Andrew: Climate change is often framed in terms of data and danger, but what gives you hope in the work that you do.

Penny: It can be hard sometimes to maintain hope, but Lord Stern pointed out that when you reduce your fossil fuel use, you are aiming for a cleaner, greener, quieter, healthier, more equal, more biodiverse world. The other thing is that we know what to do and much of what we need to do is quite readily possible now. If we did that, we would be a long way towards making everyone's life safer and better.

Andrew: How do you see the role of stewardship in the way that we respond to climate science?

Penny: I think you can take it right back to Genesis and what we were charged to do with being stewards of creation. My experts in biodiversity tell us that all major ecosystems are on a path to collapse. It's really quite scary. We haven't done a great job. And we are all sustained by that creation, so it's not just the animals and plants, it's our biosphere that we need to survive in.

And climate change is profoundly unjust in every way. We all know it's unjust between nations. The nations that suffer worst tend to be in the global south and are not the ones who've burnt all the carbon. That's us. It's unjust between generations. If you are in your 50s, three quarters of all the carbon that's ever been burnt has been burnt in your lifetime. If you're 80, it's 90%. But the people who will bear the cost of that are the young people. And it's unjust between rich and poor. Rich people in the UK burn about three times more carbon than the poorest. So every way it speaks against what we believe in our faith.

Andrew: We understand that weather forecasting is a blend between precision and unpredictability. Do you find parallels between uncertainty in forecasting and the uncertainties that we face in life or faith.

Penny: You know, this feels like a question to which the answer should be yes. But if I'm honest, I don't think it is, because the uncertainties we experience in science, they're still rational and quantifiable. Something that may surprise you is: I think we all understand that a 1-day weather forecast will probably be quite right, but a 7-day forecast is more likely to be a bit off. But what you probably don't know is that we know when we don't know, because we run an ensemble of models. When all the ensemble tell us the same thing for next Saturday, chances are we really know; when they say different things, we know we don't know yet. And the same with climate science. We really understand what happens when you burn fossil fuels. We don't have much clue yet about what some of the tipping points could mean for us because we haven't observed those. So that's an uncertain part of science. Uncertainty in faith – it's more difficult to say where it comes from and it's not rational. When one day my faith seems strong and another I get doubts, it's not got anything to do with any

evidence. You could say it comes from outside and the devil, you could say it comes from your inner psychology, but it's a very different sort of uncertainty to me.

Andrew: But there's the same sense of patterns maybe in weather forecasting as there is in looking back over our lives, seeing where God has been playing a part. I guess some of the work you do is watching the weather as it moved in then reviewing the data. In the same way we might review our lives. And that helps us plan for the future.

Penny: That is true. If you look back from the perspective of decades, you can see much more clearly in science and in faith, what you couldn't see in the fog of war.

Andrew: If you speak to these wonderful people directly about climate science, what would you most want them to understand or to do?

Penny: I want people to understand that this is really pressing and can't wait and that what they can do is the right thing to do. So, it may not be right for you to hop on a bike instead of taking the car, but the young lady who's filming next week probably isn't thinking about ethically investing. So, I would say to everybody, learn about it, talk about it, talk to your friends about it. If I've said something that surprises you today, tell somebody. And if I've said something that you have doubts about today, come and ask me at coffee and do some research on it, rather than brushing it aside because it's uncomfortable. Then make the changes you can make. Everybody can waste less food, most of us can switch our energy to a green tariff. Not everybody can lay their car aside.

Andrew: A fun question now to end with. What would you rather forecast: a heatwave or a snowstorm.

Penny: Definitely the heatwave. At the Met Office we would always rather forecast big things, that we can see clearly in our models, like big storms. We don't often get a heat wave here in Sidmouth but not in Exeter. Fog is the hardest because it's really local. But snow is difficult in the UK. You know if you're in Sidmouth here, you can have snow up on the hill, you can see it, but it's not snowy down here. And for us to get exactly right where it transitions is tricky because it's the fine scale phenomena we don't have quite enough to resolve as well as we would like.

Andrew: Could you tell us about being based in the southwest.

Penny: It's just the most wonderful part of the world to live in. It's always been a part of the world that I've loved. I was born in London and I've been working my way west ever since, first to Wiltshire then again to Devon - and I definitely have no intention of going back the other way.



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@sewanees.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.

Special Preachers this autumn...

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

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

Cathedral Community Committee 11th November

The next meeting of the Cathedral Community Committee (CCC) will be on 11th November. If you have any items for the agenda, any questions or any topic you would like to be discussed, please contact me or Ann Barwood amb@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

Heather Morgan, Chair CCC hmm53@tiscali.co.uk



Unchained Grace: Historic Prisoners' Welfare Charity Seeks New Trustees

I imagine that only a handful of people across the diocese will know of the existence of an independent charity which has, for decades, been quietly helping former prisoners on release from custody. The Exeter Diocesan Church of England Council for Social Aid (EDCSA) uses the funds entrusted to it to help them get back on their feet. Though the individual awards it makes are modest, they may make the difference

between hope and despair as recipients begin the difficult task of rebuilding their lives.

Last month, as Prisons Week marked its fiftieth anniversary with the theme *"God's Word is not chained"* (2 Timothy 2.9), I found myself reflecting on Jesus's call in Matthew 25: *"I was in prison and you visited me."* While we rightly pray for victims of crime and all affected by the justice system, we are called to walk alongside convicted prisoners themselves. The EDCSA has, through its commitment to social action, answered that call faithfully since its foundation many decades ago. It now stands at a turning point.

The charity's roots reach back to Victorian prison-welfare movements such as the Police Court Missionaries and the Devon Discharged Prisoners Aid Society. When the work of those organisations was absorbed into the criminal justice system, Exeter Diocese chose to set up the EDCSA to ensure that Christian compassion for those leaving prison would continue in a very practical way. Today, Exeter Diocese is among only a small number of dioceses with a fully independent council for social aid. Its independence means that the EDCSA can be flexible and responsive to those it serves.

In recent years, and particularly following the pandemic, a number of long-serving trustees stepped down. The EDCSA is now earnestly seeking new hands and hearts to take forward its work. We are looking for people with imagination, integrity, and a heart for restorative justice. Expertise in the criminal justice field is not essential. The initial time commitment the charity asks is modest – typically it meets once each quarter. In addition to refreshing the board of trustees we are looking for support in other ways to build on the charity's legacy and reinvigorate its mission. What matters most is a willingness to serve faithfully to help continue this work and, through God's grace, it reaches those whom it exists to serve.

To learn more about the EDCSA, to explore joining as a trustee, or giving your time in other ways please contact Rev **Philip Wales, Priest Vicar** (phil.wales@exeter-cathedral.org.uk Tel: 07502 029288)



News from the Cathedral Flower Arrangers

A hectic and complicated few months have come to an end. The work for the Grand Nave Dinner (GND) all came together so well, and the actual week of work and planning was all well worthwhile. A large group of our ladies met for a 3-hour session twice each day. We started with the 50 table centres and finished with the stage on Thursday afternoon. The six pillars all looked fabulous with white and lilac delphiniums cascading out. There were troughs on the steps of each main pillar, the pulpit and the high altar, with extra pedestals and trees with twinkling white lights

throughout the Nave and Quire. A magical stairway entrance through the Friends Gallery, with more twinkles, led the guests into the uplit champagne reception!

Magical it was. Judith Kauntz would have been very proud of an event that has continued to raise very important funds for our beautiful Cathedral. I hope there was a great deal of profit to enable us to keep moving forward – we will hear in time no doubt. A



special thank you to Leila who made 50 exquisite button holes in white and purple for the “workers” on the night, and Helen who had just had a knee replacement, but who made a stunning autumnal wreath for the raffle. The next GND will need some thinking about but not just yet!!!

We had decided to leave as many flowers as was practical in place so that visitors could all enjoy the fruits of our labours, so they will change for Remembrance. The Young Farmers spent a Saturday morning decorating the pillars for Harvest Festival on 26th October.

We had to withdraw from the Autumn Fair as there were not enough volunteers to man the stall for the 2 days – the GND understandably taking a toll on a lot of



the ladies. Some remaining table centres were for sale in the Cathedral Shop. Look out for some Christmas vases for sale there soon.

Talking of Christmas, please don't miss the opportunity to order a traditional door wreath made by our ladies. We can only make a small number so book early – they will be available on December 11th.

Flick Evans, Chair Exeter Cathedral Flower Arrangers

Diocesan Synod 11th October

The Diocesan Synod met at County Hall on Saturday 11th October.

[Click here to read Bishop Mike's full presidential address.](#)

The agenda included the annual report of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel and an update on actions being taken to reduce the carbon footprint of the diocese. The main item of business was finance. Synod received the annual report and accounts for 2024, and the budget for 2026. An application has been made for a substantial grant from funds held centrally by the Church of England. If successful, this will make a significant difference to the financial picture in the next six years.

Heather Morgan

***Let's Face It*: Homelessness Event at the Mint Methodist Church 8th-13th November**

Let's Face It is a powerful exhibition to explore the experience of homelessness and housing insecurity, featuring stories, photos, music and poetry. It can be seen at the Mint Methodist Church from 8th-13th November. For opening times see www.themint.org.uk

The exhibition will launch on Saturday 8th November at 7.30pm with a free concert featuring Rhys Wynn Jones, known as "The Nightchurch Pianist".



**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.

Advent Procession

Advent Sunday, the beginning of the church year and the start of the season of preparation for Christmas is on Sunday 30th November. At 6pm there will be an Advent Procession. Please come to this service if you can. It's one of the liturgical and musical highlights of the year.

What's On in November

London Concertante: Ella and Friends

1 November

Enjoy a heartfelt celebration of Ella Fitzgerald inside the stunning setting of Exeter Cathedral.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/london-concertante-ella-and-friends/>

Roof Tours

3-24 November

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.

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

The Icon Tour

4 November

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

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

Onwards & Upwards Tours

6-27 November

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

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/2476003/>

The Music of Whitney Houston by Candlelight

7 November

Experience the best of Whitney Houston by candlelight, featuring Kieshia Chun and her Million Dollar Band, at Exeter Cathedral this November.

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

Exeter Philharmonic Choir: The Weather Book

8 November

Exeter Philharmonic Choir is proud to launch its 2025/26 season with the world première of a new choral work, The Weather Book.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/exeter-philharmonic-choir-the-weather-book/>

Remembrance Sunday Devon County Service

9 November

To enable as many people as possible to gather from across the county, this year's Remembrance Sunday Devon County Service in Exeter Cathedral will take place at 4pm on Sunday 9 November.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/remembrance-sunday-devon-county-service-at-exeter-cathedral/>

In Conversation with Bishop Moira Astin, The Bishop of Crediton

9 November

Join us for an interesting conversation with The Bishop of Crediton, followed by a short service of compline.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/in-conversation-with-bishop-moira-astin/>

Art of the Book: The Anatomy of Books

11 November

Explore remarkable early printed books in the Cathedral Library to discover clues to how books were printed, sewn and bound in the hand-press period.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/art-of-the-book-the-anatomy-of-books/>

St Peter's Singers of Exeter Cathedral – A Concert of Remembrance

11 November

Experience St Peter's Singers Concert of Remembrance, featuring Herbert Howells' Requiem.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/st-peters-singers-concert-of-remembrance/>

G4 Christmas

12 November

Enjoy the sounds of G4 at Exeter Cathedral this Christmas for a wonderfully festive performance.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/g4-christmas/>

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

12 November – 25 February

Join Revd Canon Professor Richard A. Burridge to explore the Gospel of Matthew – the set text for the gospel readings on Sundays from Advent 2025 to 2026.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/richard-burridge-study-course/>

Exeter Cathedral Choir Association Quiz

13 November

Exeter Cathedral Choir Association returns with another pub-style quiz set inside the glorious surrounds of Exeter Cathedral.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/exeter-cathedral-choir-association-quiz/>

Devon Philharmonic Orchestra Autumn Concert

15 November

Devon Philharmonic Orchestra will be performing their Autumn Concert in the magnificent nave of Exeter Cathedral.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/devon-philharmonic-orchestra-autumn-concert/>

The Old Document Reading Group

20 November

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

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

London Concertante: Viennese Christmas Spectacular by Candlelight

20 November

Experience the enchantment of Viennese Christmas at London Concertante's spectacular concert inside the magnificent setting of Exeter Cathedral.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/london-concertante-viennese-christmas-spectacular-by-candlelight/>

Exeter Cathedral Christmas Market

20 November - 19 December

Nestled in the historic heart of Exeter, the Exeter Cathedral Christmas Market returns – bigger, brighter and more magical than ever.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/exeter-cathedral-christmas-market/>

The Music of Céline Dion by Candlelight

21 November

The UK's leading Céline Dion tribute, January Butler and her spectacular live band, are coming to Exeter Cathedral this November!

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

Library & Archives In Focus: Trees

27 November

Discover how trees have been used, valued and managed on Exeter Cathedral's estates across the centuries.

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

Teachers Rock The Cathedral at Christmas

27 & 28 November

Teachers Rock return to Exeter Cathedral for two spectacular performances featuring Teachers Rock® adult and youth choir and guest youth choirs from across the region.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/teachers-rock/>

Be a Chorister for a Day

29 November

Be a Chorister for a Day is an experience for children aged 7 to 10 (school years 2 to 5) who love to sing.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/be-a-chorister-for-a-day/>

Christingle Service

29 November

Get into the festive spirit with our Christingle service to tell the story of Jesus while the Exeter Cathedral Choir sing popular hymns.

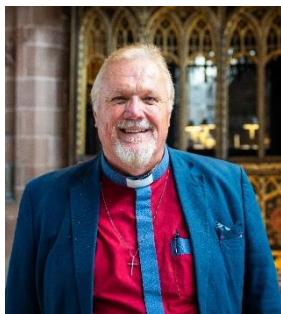
<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/christingle-service/>

Interfaith Week 2025: Devon Faith and Belief Forum

To mark Interfaith Week 2025 there will be Prayer and Meditation for Universal Peace at St Stephen's Church, Exeter on Saturday 8th November from 1.30pm-2.30pm. This will be followed by a talk on *Building an Interfaith Community* by Arezoo Farahzad from 3pm-4.30pm.

On Saturday 15th November from 2pm-4pm also in St Stephen's Church, there will be an opportunity to meet members of the Muslim, Pagan, Buddhist, Jewish, Humanist and Christian communities.

Come and share a cup of tea and meet diverse members of faith and belief groups from across the Devon.



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.

Prisons and Churches Ministry Event

Tuesday 18 November, 2:30-4pm, at St Matt's Church, Exeter

In November, Bishop James and the Diocesan Safeguarding Team (DST) invite you to an important opportunity to learn more about the work of the prison chaplaincy service, the probation service and how, as churches, we can engage safely with prison leavers who wish to join our worshipping communities. We are delighted that, alongside the DST, our keynote speakers will be The Venerable James Ridge, Chaplain General of the Prison Service in England and Wales and Kashmir Garton, National Faith Lead for the Probation Service. The event will be held at St Matt's Church, Exeter and will run from 2.30pm till 4.00pm. *Tea and coffee will be available from 2pm with additional refreshments afterwards. If you'd like to attend, please contact Jo Stobart, Bishop's Chaplain, via email: bishops.chaplain@exeter.anglican.org by Friday 7th November with any dietary or accessibility requirements.*

Welcome to our growing team!

If you've been to the Cathedral Refectory lately, you might have noticed some new and familiar faces! We're excited to welcome back Emily, Beth, and Faith and are thrilled to have Martha and Felicity join the team.

Our Welcome Desk also has a new member, Freya, who we are delighted to welcome into the broader Cathedral community. Finally, you may see Louise Lok around as she has joined our Cleaning Department.

A big, warm welcome to all our new and returning staff!

Monuments as Mission?

Some thoughts on the Testament Sculptures

So they've gone and await their new home. The background to the story of Kenneth Carter's Testament Sculptures was clearly set out in the Annual Report of the Friends of Exeter Cathedral (written by the Dean and well worth a read). For me it immediately raised two questions.....

a) what will be seen in their absence?, and

b). Who will see them now?

But to backtrack a little, reading the Dean's report took me back to being a member of the Cathedral Council. The complicated (not to say thorough) process of discerning the future of these monuments included reference to the locally based Cathedral Council as well as to the distinguished heights of the National Cathedral's Fabric Commission. Democratic consultation might be time consuming, but it does happen!

So, "*what will be seen in their absence?*" John Betjeman advised always to 'look upwards' when exploring a building but for me the sheer quantity shape and size of these sculptures inhibited my gaze from travelling towards the awe-inspiring ceiling. Not anymore! Then of course there are the remains of the wall paintings hidden behind them and due for further study. As for "*who will see them now?*" This is where I think the value of monuments as mission is significant. Most missional activities start with conversation, and The Testament Sculptures have always been a conversation starter! The opportunities to be seen by hundreds of students at Exeter College, means they will reach a new audience and strengthen our link with the College. It seems fitting too that they should be housed in the place where I understand their designer was Head of the then Art Department.

The College and the Cathedral both stand to benefit from rehousing The Testament Sculptures, for the cathedral there is the glory of more beauty revealed, for the College the opportunity to safeguard these art works, consider their meaning and make them more widely available.

Anne Foreman

End of Project Party Celebration

Thursday 4 December 10.30am The Lady Chapel

As a thank you to all our staff and volunteers for your patience and hard work over the past three years, The Dean and Chapter of Exeter Cathedral are delighted to invite you to an *End of Project Party Celebration*. Please RSVP by 20 November to: tina.robbers@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

Update from Deanery Synod

Our latest meeting on Thursday 16th October was hosted at Trinity Church serving Digby, Sowton and Newcourt. We received updates from across the Christianity (Exeter) Deanery including:

- Our own Canon Chris Palmer spoke about the last three years of project works, and the disruptions and challenges the Cathedral community has seen arising from this.
- Revd. Sheila Swabrick of the city's Central Parish, made up of 6 different churches, spoke briefly about the rich history and broad ranges of uses for each of those buildings.
- On the back of Sheila's updates, St Mary Arches has recently become the base for Unlimited Church, who have been doing fantastic work engaging with students and young people in the city, especially those who have no prior history or links to church.
- Jonathan Porter-Goff reported from Diocesan Synod that the volume and burden of cases on the Diocesan safeguarding team was currently a huge increase on the previous yearly average.
- Tim Hamilton spoke about the "fringe" meetings that take place alongside General Synod. This included a workshop from July hosted by the Bishop of Birmingham on the theme of a quiet revival currently taking place, where so many younger people are coming to church for the first time, having felt excluded by negative online experiences through lockdown.

Our remaining time focused on a presentation from Bishop Mike, who detailed his five priorities and tasked us to reflect on how these were working (or not) in our own church.

The entire meeting had an underlying theme of the positive actions and progress each community is seeing in engaging new congregants. We heard so many heartwarming anecdotes about how small, casual, and seemingly insignificant interactions had taken place in every community, and even the Bishop's Palace, that were contributing positively to our collective mission.

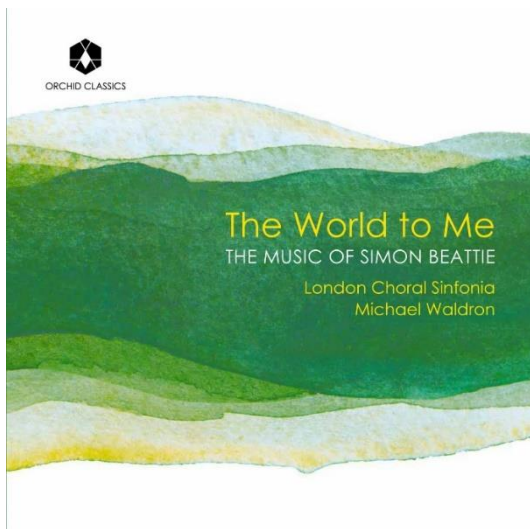
If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of the above with your three Deanery Synod representatives - Heather Morgan, Caitlin Lovic, and Jake Hibberd - please come and find us over coffee on Sunday mornings. Alternatively, you can email us via the Clerk to the Community Committee, Ann Barwood (amb@exeter-cathedral.org.uk).

Jake Hibberd

Harvest Supper 24th October

Over 30 people from different parts of the Cathedral Community enjoyed Harvest Supper in the Medieval Hall (previously known as the Law Library) at No 8 The Close. We feasted on pasties, traybakes, wine and soft drinks before hearing Canon Chris Palmer telling us about the Hall and the Chapter's plans to make it even more inviting for functions and other occasions. The evening ended with us all singing a selection of harvest hymns, for which many thanks to Canon Cate Edmonds and, at the keyboard, Prebendary Nigel Guthrie. He almost literally had to wrestle with the music for a hymn in samba rhythm.





Simon Beattie was a choral scholar at the Cathedral in the mid-1990s. He now has a distinguished career as an antiquarian bookseller, a literary translator and as a composer. His setting of *Advent Calendar*, a poem by Rowan Williams, was broadcast on BBC Radio 3 as part of the 2008 Advent carol service from St John's College, Cambridge. We are grateful to Mike Dobson for drawing our attention to a new CD of Simon's music *The World to Me*. In addition to a number of shorter anthems, it features settings of the Mass and of the Evening Canticles.

Congratulations to the Bellringers

The Cathedral band excelled themselves at the annual South West 12 Bell competition in Newport, South Wales. It was a very tight competition with the unusually high number of ten teams entering, which is great for our area of the country.

With the top five teams separated by just 4%, the Cathedral team managed to take away the 'Higby' trophy and finished first for the second consecutive year – having won the competition last year at Withycombe Raleigh, Exmouth. They were congratulated on their rhythm and superb consistency of striking, but especially the start to their ringing – which was considered to be the very best of the day – but their consistency throughout their ringing ensured their win.

This was a tremendous effort, given that they were drawn to ring 9th out of ten teams, they had never rung the bells together before, and there were ringers that don't normally ring in the 12 Bell band. Well done to all!

Paul Pascoe, Secretary to the Cathedral Ringers

Living in Love and Faith (LLF)

At a residential meeting in mid-October, the House of Bishops made a number of decisions concerning the LLF process. This has been widely reported in the press. Church House issued a statement for which please click on this link.

[Read the full article here.](#)

Contemplating the Beatitudes: Rediscovering what it means to be meek

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. (Matthew 5.5)

Having earlier considered our dependence on God and our mourning for all that is broken, we now come to the strength that sustains us. In this, the third in the series of reflections on the Beatitudes, we begin by considering what it means to be meek. Over the last six centuries, *meek* has undergone something of a reversal of fortune. The word did not always carry the negative baggage it carries today. The Middle English *meke* was first used by John Wycliffe in his translation of the Latin Vulgate Bible in 1382. William Tyndale also considered meek the most appropriate translation of the Greek word *praus* when he produced the first Greek-to-English translation of the New Testament in 1526.

Later, with the publication of the Geneva Bible in 1560 and then the Authorised Version (King James Bible) in 1611, *meek* had become standard in English translations. Why? Because it spoke of noble qualities rather than negative ones. It captured the character of someone who was stable, restrained, and peaceable. It also conveyed the qualities of true righteousness: humility, trust in God, and restraint, even when one has the power to retaliate and dominate. It meant power kept in check.

As the industrial revolution gradually reshaped society, these positive characteristics were valued differently. Gradual shifts in meaning de-emphasised its deeper theological significance, so that it became another word for timid. As a result, the commonplace understanding of meek is as a synonym for submissive.

Yet in the Bible, the Greek *praus* clearly evokes a quiet, disciplined strength, not a loss of will. It is the posture of those who trust God's justice enough to remain calm and gentle in spite of provocation. For the Israelites, the land was a sign of belonging and hope. Those who were to inherit the land promised to them by God were those who showed humility before God. We see this, for example, in Psalm 37:11, which promises: "The meek will inherit the land and enjoy great peace." And elsewhere in Psalm 25:9: "He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way."

In Scripture, then, to inherit means dwelling securely in the life God gives. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus first of all echoes this understanding, but then intentionally redefines 'land' to mean the whole earth. God's promise becomes one for all, not just for one group.

The world says the future belongs to the ambitious, the successful, and those who project strength. Jesus says otherwise. As one teacher put it: "blessed are those who can yield, not those who dominate".

John Climacus (also known as John of the Ladder) wrote about the Beatitudes in the 7th century. He said: "Meekness is a rock looking out over the sea of anger which breaks the waves that come crashing on it and stays entirely unmoved." He, like many of his time, saw the Beatitudes as virtues to cultivate. Jesus' blessing, though, does not require this. The meek need not strive for this virtue. Rather, Jesus blesses those who already possess this quiet strength, just as they are.

So then, meekness is a form of courage that flows from faith. Think of someone you know who has chosen not to retaliate when they had every reason to do so, or who has held silence when words could have been cruel. Think of those who work patiently for reconciliation, or who stay calm in the midst of conflict. Where might you notice this in your own life? It might be in choosing to listen rather than to win. It might be in holding back a cutting reply, or in allowing someone else to be first. These are small, frequently unnoticed acts, yet Jesus names them as blessed.

The inheritance of the earth comes from trust, not control. Meekness frees us from the need to prove ourselves. It lets us stand in the gentle strength of God's blessing.

Lord Jesus

Thank you for blessing the times I yield,

the choice I make to listen, and my willingness to learn.

Help me to see these moments as You do:

The gentle power of Your kingdom breaking into my life.


Amen.

Philip Wales, Priest Vicar


Exeter Cathedral Choir Association Quiz

Thursday 13 November 7:30pm

Following last year's success, Exeter Cathedral Choir Association are delighted to be returning with another pub-style quiz set inside our glorious Cathedral. Whether you're a seasoned quiz night attendee, or you simply fancy an evening out with friends, you are warmly invited to get a team together and join us for this fun and relaxed event.

 Tickets: £7.50 on the door

 Bar & raffle

 Pub-style quiz

Saint of the Month: Margaret, Queen of Scotland, Philanthropist, Reformer of the Church, 1093 - Lesser Festival 16th November

Margaret was born in c1046 in Hungary. Her family, descended from Alfred the Great, were exiled when King Canute invaded England. Returning in 1057 during the reign of her great-uncle, Edward the Confessor, they fled again following the Norman conquest. This time they went north. While sailing back to the continent from Northumbria, their ship was blown off course and they made landfall in Scotland, at Fife.

She married King Malcolm III of Scotland in 1070, and it is said that Margaret's compassion and piety mitigated his belligerent character. They had eight children including Edgar, Alexander and David who became Kings of Scotland, and Matilda, who married Henry I, and was Queen of England.

Margaret was known for her piety and generosity. She gave money and food to those in need and is reported to have washed the feet of the poor during Lent. Personally devout, spending much time in contemplative prayer and fasting, Margaret led the church in Scotland closer to the traditions and practice of the Roman Church, rather than the Celtic tradition. She was a patron of the arts, beginning the restoration of Iona Abbey, and she founded churches and monasteries, including the priory at Dunfermline Abbey. To facilitate the journey of pilgrims to St Andrew's Shrine at Fife, Margaret introduced a ferry across the Firth of Forth, the origin of today's North and South Queensferry.

Margaret died after a long illness on 16th November 1093, just three days after her husband and eldest son were killed at the Battle of Alnwick. Malcolm and Margaret were buried next to each other in Dunfermline Abbey. She was canonised on 1250 by Pope Innocent IV.

Locally, Margaret's name was prominent until relatively recently, in the dedication of St Margaret's School, an independent Church of England secondary school for girls, part of the Woodard Corporation. Sadly, the school closed in 2013. For many years, under the headship of the late Frances Morford, a much-loved member of the Cathedral Community, the school marked St Margaret's Day with a Eucharist in the Cathedral.

The December edition of *Cathedral News*

We hope to publish the next edition of the *News* on Sunday 30th November 2025. The deadline for material is **Tuesday 25th November 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. The first edition of 2026 will be published on Sunday 25th January, so please think ahead. Information about events in early January will need to be in the December edition.