

From the Reverend Prebendary Nigel Guthrie, Priest Vicar

I had practised my Greek Easter greeting and response – Christos Anesti (Christ is risen): Alithos anesti (truly He is risen) before leaving on Easter Monday. Then, having celebrated Easter in Devon, Tina and I set off for our first visit to Greece hoping that we would catch a flavour of Holy Week and Easter in an Greek Orthodox setting.

We weren't disappointed. In the first two days we visited the Acropolis and Agora, and the Areopagas, the rock where St Paul preached his famous sermon (Acts 17: 16-34) and some amazing museums. Then, on the Greek Good Friday, we saw people preparing the beautiful displays that cover the Epitaphios – a beautiful flower-adorned wooden bier that represents the tomb of Christ (pictured right).

We attended part of the Good Friday veneration of the cross service in Athens Cathedral in which a choir of men's voices sang the Lamentations (in Greek) while hundreds of the faithful came forward to venerate. And in the evening a Good Friday procession came straight past the street café where we were eating. A band led the procession with mournful music and were followed by men in women in national

costume (complete with old rifles!), servers dressed in black, the Epitaphios, priests and many adults and children following carrying candles and lanterns. It



was a most moving procession and one which seemed to represent a living faith which engaged the local people.

The following day we took the ferry to Tinos and by the evening Easter celebrations were getting going – loudly. At about 9pm the church bells started clanging furiously and then the ships horns joined in, together with police car sirens. The Bishop arrived and gave an Easter blessing to the coastguard boat which was moored up in the harbour, and anyone else within blessing distance. Shotguns were heard and apparently there is a competition between some of the villages on the island who can make the most noise in celebration of the resurrection. Our Easter experience was completed the next day as our local bistro held a barbeque of a whole lamb (vegetarian options rather limited, I'm afraid!) as is traditional - to celebrate the paschal lamb sacrificed on the cross and raised to life.

It was a wonderful experience and all very un-English. But a certainly a joyful affirmation of the faith that God has brought Jesus from the dead and will also raise us, with him. Our own celebration of Eastertide continues until Pentecost on 24th May and I hope that we will keep in our minds and hearts the truth that God is always bringing new life out of old. “Behold, I make all things new” we read in Revelation chapter 21, and as well telling us about God’s ultimate purpose for creation, I believe that these words are an encouragement for us to look for the new things God is doing in our own lives and in our Cathedral community.

And this is especially so as we prepare for some important endings. We now know that Dean Jonathan will be retiring after an immensely fruitful time leading our Cathedral community and after a mammoth 18 years as a Dean at Wakefield and Exeter. I hope that he and Pamela will enjoy their retirement as much as Tina and I have, so far. It will certainly be a new start for them and I pray a very fruitful and happy one. But we will be looking forward to a time of transition. What a blessing it is to have the Venerable Hilary Dawson with us as our interim Canon Chancellor. And we look forward to welcoming The Very Revd Stephen Waine as our interim Dean, as we enter a period of discernment before a new permanent Dean is appointed.

“Behold, I make all things new”. Through this time of change may we be made new by God’s grace in our lives, our faith and our Cathedral Community.

Nigel Guthrie

Next month’s edition

We hope to publish the next edition of *Cathedral News* on Sunday 31st May. Please send any articles or other information to any of the editorial team: Jenny Ellis, Rosemary Bethell or Heather Morgan at hmm53@tiscali.co.uk by **Tuesday 26th May 2026**.



In Conversation with Dr. Alison Grove on:

“Is it helpful to talk about Dying?”

Sunday 10th May 2026

6:30pm The Chapter House, Exeter Cathedral

(Refreshments served from 6.00pm)

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

Having this privileged experience made her appreciate the value for families, individuals and communities of discussions around older care, and end of life care. Having seen the benefit of informed decision-making, it has made her endeavour to create opportunities where those discussions can be gently approached.

Her intention during the conversation, is not to set herself up as an expert, but as someone who has been privileged to have witnessed, perhaps more than some, the complexities surrounding the end of our lives.

Her faith has always been, she hopes, at the core of her practice, and at the heart of her own decision making.

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



From the Company of Tapisers:

Last year the Dean asked if the Canvas group would make new kneelers for the altar rail in front of the High Altar. He wanted the present mustard-coloured carpet to be replaced with six kneelers which would match the cushions in the Quire.

The design for the cushions was taken from previous kneelers – with

the colour scheme reflecting the painted pillars in the Quire: gold, teal, red and blue. A variety of stitches has been used: long-arm cross stitch, brick stitch, eyelet stitch, mosaic stitch and cross stitch

Six Tapisers have been diligently working on these long kneelers for a few months now. Significant progress was made last week when the tapestry stitching on the first kneeler was completed. It now needs to be upholstered, of course.

All projects that we create for the Cathedral take time! We use canvas with 14 holes to every inch – and, for some stitches, it is necessary to put the needle through every hole!! Truly a labour of love!

Diana Symes, Chairman of The Company of Tapisers

For past and present Sunday “8 o’clockers”

The regular congregation at 8am on Sundays are meeting for lunch together with the Dean, Jonathan Greener on Saturday 6 June. If any occasional worshipper at that service would like to join us please email jgshayward@tiscali.co.uk

We are asking for donations towards lunch.

A date for your diary: Harvest Supper Friday 2nd October 2026

The social team of the Cathedral Community Committee has arranged to hold a Harvest Supper in the Medieval Hall on 2nd October 2026.

More details nearer the time. Meanwhile, please put the date in your diary.

Slow Book Group: *The Practice of the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence

The Slow Book Group is returning in May to explore and reflect together on *The Practice of the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence. This is a spiritual classic from a seventeenth-century French monk, which many people continue to find holds deep wisdom for living today. Brother Lawrence's spiritual insights have helped bring people closer to God for more than three centuries.

There are many different translations, and we have chosen to use the version published by the Revell division of Baker Publishing Group on 1 January 1999, ISBN10: 0800785991 / ISBN13: 978-0800785994, which includes the spiritual maxims as well as the letters and conversations. But if you already have a copy, please do bring that to the group.

Our meetings will be led by Clare Bryden and Canon Deborah. We will divide the book between the six Thursdays of 28 May, 25 Jun, 30 Jul, 24 Sep, 29 Oct, 26 Nov, with no meeting in August. The sessions will be online between 7.30 and 8.30pm. In our time together we will review what we have read, share our insights, seek answers to questions and, in silence, discern how God's Spirit is calling us to deepen our faith.

We warmly encourage new participants. If you would like to sign up or if you have any questions about whether this group may be for you please email Canon Deborah at deborah.parsons@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

Contemplative Prayer Group

"Come and see" (John 1.39)

Contemplative praying is simply a way of perceiving the Godhead with the heart, rather than with the mind, the latter of which is our usual *modus operandi* for most of our daily waking hours.

The only skill that is required is the ability to sit still for a while.

The group meets in the St. Gabriel Chapel (to the right of the Lady Chapel) on **the first Tuesday of every month from 12 noon to 1pm** so please "come and see."

Judith Yeo

Cathedral Community Committee (CCC)

The next meeting of the CCC will be on 5th May. Please send any suggestions, comments or agenda items to Ann Barwood amb@exeter-cathedral.org.uk or to Heather Morgan hmm53@tiscali.co.uk



From Hilary Dawson, Interim Canon Treasurer

I am delighted to have been appointed to this role at Exeter Cathedral. Having been born and brought up in Devon, this is my 'home' Cathedral and it is good to be back. My childhood and most of my working life has been spent in Devon. I taught in a number of schools prior

to ordination, and served as Lay Chaplain here at the Cathedral School. I was ordained in Exeter Cathedral and served in parochial ministry in this diocese before moving to Gloucestershire.

I have spent the last seven years serving as Archdeacon of Gloucester and Residentiary Canon of Gloucester Cathedral. As Archdeacon, I exercised ministry across a varied geographical area, leading worship, pastorally supporting communities, ministers, and congregations, working alongside diocesan colleagues. Part of my role included involvement with buildings, both vicarages and churches, legal matters and finance. In the Cathedral, I regularly led worship, preached and served on Chapter. It was a wonderful combination of roles, and being part of the Cathedral community in Gloucester was a joy - a still centre and 'home' in the itinerant life of an Archdeacon! Both roles, Diocesan and Cathedral, were very much team roles, and I look forward to being part of the team here. Whilst I recognise there is much for me to learn, I hope my experience will be helpful here at Exeter, particularly as I take on responsibility for Cathedral projects in my role as Canon Treasurer.

In my spare time I very much enjoy walking, gardening, reading, playing the piano, singing and making quilts (slowly!). It's good to be back in this beautiful county, reconnecting with old friends and making new ones. Thank you for the welcome I have already received and I look forward to the months ahead.

Hilary is seen above with her installers Canon Cate Edmonds and Lay Canon Teresa Turner in the Chapter House after her installation. Thanks to Nigel Guthrie for the photograph.

Updates from Deanery Synod

On Tuesday 21st April, Caitlin, Heather and I attended the last meeting of the Christianity Deanery (Exeter) for this Synod Triennium, which was chaired by Ed Hodges in his new role as City Dean.

The meeting opened with updates from numerous local parishes, who spoke about initiatives such as family events, courses, and hospitality continuing to strengthen connections amid pastoral challenges and shortages of resource. There is mission work in areas with expanding parishes due to vast housebuilding, especially in the Alphington area, which, supported by recent funding, is enabling volunteer teams to build relationships with increasingly diverse communities. All the updates we heard from reflected on growing community through simple acts of fellowship, prayer, and outreach.

On city-wide initiatives, we heard positive updates from Christians Together Across Exeter (CTAX) about recent events they have facilitated, including the Good Friday service, and the upcoming Thy Kingdom Come, to be held here in the Cathedral on Sunday 17th May. We were reminded that the Deanery still has grant money available to fund similar activities to grow community, fellowship and outreach should we have ideas we wish to submit.

At a wider level, we received updates from Diocesan and General Synod highlighting ongoing financial pressures, the “Pray, Grow, Serve” vision, and significant developments in safeguarding set in motion by Archbishop Sarah in her new ministry. Although the Living in Love and Faith process is expected to formally conclude in July, questions remain about next steps after several years of work which seem to have reached no tangible conclusion.

As this was our last meeting, there will shortly be elections for the next Triennium in the coming weeks. If you wish to stand or vote, you will need to be on the Cathedral’s Community roll, notices about which have already started to be published throughout the weekly sheets.

As usual, if you would like to hear any more about discussions from our meeting, or about what your current Deanery Synod reps have been doing, please do find one of us over coffee after the Sunday 10am service, or get in touch via Ann Barwood, the Clerk to the Cathedral Community: amb@exeter-cathedral.org.uk.

Jake Hibberd

Volunteer Celebration: 9th July

We are looking forward to hosting a special celebration of our Volunteers on 9 July. More details are to follow – in the meantime, do please save the date for what will be a wonderful event.



Demelza Henderson writes: In May, I will be cycling about 1150 miles from Land's End to John O'Groats in aid of the *Association for Promoting Retreats* (APR), a national charity that promotes prayer and Christian spirituality especially through retreats.

I first completed the 'End-to-End challenge' as a young, fit twenty-something in 1998, and have always wanted to do it again – but somehow life circumstances have got in the way until now. Last time, I remember being amazed at how the landscape changes every single day, and how the country is completely linked by a web of picturesque lanes. I also remember enjoying a huge variety of flora and fauna: watching a family of badgers playing in a garden in Somerset, and seeing golden eagles soaring in the Scottish Highlands must be the highlights. This time, I will be taking a considerably longer route, which will meander across the country connecting twenty different APR member retreat houses and retreat leaders. It will be an opportunity to support them in their work, and to see some of the wealth of peaceful places of retreat that the UK has to offer. You will be able to follow my progress on the APR Facebook page, [@promoting.retreats](https://www.facebook.com/promoting.retreats).

In 2013, the *Association for Promoting Retreats* established a Bursary Fund to help finance retreats for people who might otherwise not be able to afford the

full cost themselves. Since then, it has contributed to more than 350 retreats at 30+ different retreat houses, and continues to support another 60-70 people every year. In 2024, the APR extended the scheme to offer no-questions-asked bursaries for retreats for teachers and welfare staff at Church of England schools. You can find out more about all of these on the APR website, promotingretreats.org/bursary.

With rises in the cost of living, there is even more need for financial assistance for people of all walks of life to take time apart for retreat; for rest, refreshment, stillness and prayer. I hope to raise at least £5000 from my bike ride, which would support an extra 50+ retreats this year for those who need them most. Will you support me?



You can contribute online (and pay via Paypal) through the QR code, which will take you to promotingretreats.org/cycling-fundraiser, or I am happy to collect cash or cheques (made out to the 'Association for Promoting Retreats'), which can also be left with Catrina in the Cathedral shop, if that is easier. Every donation, however small, will make a difference to someone who urgently needs time to step aside from daily life for a while to take stock and/or pray. Thank you.

From the Cathedral Flower Arrangers

There is very limited news to bring you this month other than a plea!

We are desperately short of arrangers at the moment. We have six or seven ladies unavailable for personal reasons from Easter to July. This is causing us a real headache trying to best use those available and covering the holes in the rota.

Do you know anyone who has some experience, can work with the team and is available on Friday mornings fortnightly. We make 10 regular arrangements and sometimes extras such as the Paschal candle. We are happy to have an informal chat before anyone commits either in person over a delicious coffee in the Chapter House or over the phone.

I attended the Volunteer Fair recently and did take some enquiries but sadly not from anyone with experience of flower arranging.

Please think if you might know someone who might fit the bill.

Flick Evans, Chair Exeter Cathedral Flower Arrangers

Contemplating the Beatitudes: When Faithfulness Meets Resistance

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Matthew 5.10-12)

In the beatitude immediately before this one, Jesus blesses those who are drawn into the work of making peace (not simply keeping it). God's peace, we discovered, has a way of unsettling what lies beneath the surface, bringing into the light things that are easier to ignore. When that happens, the response is not always one of gratitude; sometimes it is resistance.

In this penultimate article in our series, we consider what Jesus means when declaring that those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake are blessed. Persecution can be understood as the cruel treatment of a person or group, especially because of their religious or political beliefs, or their identity. It may take many different forms. For example, it could be experienced as being misunderstood or misrepresented, as bullying or exclusion. And, sadly, all too many Christians still face physical attacks, imprisonment, and sometimes death on account of faith.

So there may be a personal cost to faith in Christ. The manner of Jesus' proclamation makes this clear because it differs structurally from those immediately preceding it. First, Jesus pronounces God's blessing on God's people in the way in which we have now expect, that is, in the third person (*blessed are those...*). However, he then not only amplifies what he has said but chooses to speak directly to those around him (*blessed are you...*). Doing so, he brings all those to whom he is speaking directly into view, and, so, by implication you and me. None of the beatitudes are solely for 'those' in Jesus' day, but for each of us.

And if this beatitude applies to us, then there are at least two misunderstandings we can find ourselves bumping up against. On the one hand, we can romanticise suffering, as though it were a spiritual achievement to be sought after, a kind of premier league holiness, available only to those who open themselves to suffering and remain unflinchingly steadfast. We see this sometimes in the hagiographies written about some of the saints. We can be left with the impression that suffering is almost to be desired for its own sake. On the other hand, we can risk diminishing its meaning by leaping to the word whenever we experience minor inconveniences, embarrassments, disagreements, or upsets

with others. We may, sometimes, be all too ready to take a mental short cut and say to ourselves: “it’s because I’m a Christian that they treat me this way.” Whilst this could well be true, without discernment we may be overlooking an important opportunity for deeper reflection of our own behaviours and motives.

To help to avoid both of these misunderstandings, we need to remind ourselves what Jesus means by righteousness. We encountered it when we explored the fourth beatitude: *blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness*. There, we discovered that righteousness is not a private virtue (it is not ‘self-righteousness’), but is seen in lives that begin to reflect God’s justice, mercy, and truth. Seen in this light, Jesus is not speaking about suffering in general, but about what happens when *people seek God’s righteousness*.

We might, naturally, hesitate to name our own experiences as persecution for righteousness’ sake. That may be wise, because not every difficulty we encounter in life will be so. And, on the other hand, being persecuted does not, in itself, mean that our response will be one which is faithful to Christ’s teaching. Faithfulness, in such moments, is marked out by the kind of life I have been trying to sketch out in these reflections: lives shaped by God’s blessing and marked by meekness, by mercy, by purity of heart, by making peace.

The Beatitudes are not a programme provided to us by Jesus for a spiritual self-improvement. Nor should they be seen as a ladder of virtues to be climbed in order to attain God’s forgiveness and love. Those are not conditional on anything we may do. Rather, each Beatitude brings us, again and again, to a recognition of our dependence on God, and to the promise of his presence with us. This last one may do so in a particular way. When we find ourselves resisted, misrepresented, judged or even rejected on account of our love for God and our desire for his will to be done on earth, we may discover again how little we control. And so, almost without noticing, we find ourselves back where we began: *Blessed are the poor in spirit...*

*Beloved Lord Jesus,
when troubles come my way
on account of my love for you,
open my heart
that I may know again my need of you,
and so rejoice to find you waiting there for me,
my strength, and my redeemer.
Amen*

Phil Wales, Priest Vicar

Exciting Developments!

Sound System Appeal

I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to everyone who has supported the Community Committee initiative to raise much-needed funds for the new sound system, your donations have truly made a difference.

The first phase saw the installation of new speakers, microphones and the purchase all the 'master control box of equipment' in the East End with the aim of extending the new system to the Nave. As you all know well our existing sound system has been dire and unreliable on an ever growing number of occasions. I am pleased to be able to report that you kindly gave, and raised through events, just over £51,000. A truly remarkable sum – thank you. This money allowed us to finish off the Quire installation and do all the technical work needed to get to the second phase in the Nave.

The Friends have kindly and very generously stepped in to fund the delivery of this work this year.

It is always exciting when a project gets moving and we can see (and in this can hear) the benefits but it belies the amount of preparation work that has to go before it. Without your generosity to get it all moving the plans would not come off the page.

Cathedral Abseil – Saturday 9th May

Following Anne Eyre's lead we are having a second abseil on Saturday 9 May. If there are some intrepid readers who would like to give this a go there are still some places available please do get in touch on abseil@exeter-cathedral.org.uk. You can of course 'rope in' a family member or friends and colleagues to do it with you.

If, like me, you are happy to keep your feet on firmer ground but admire those brave enough to climb the steps, clamber over the North Tower parapet and descend to the grass below in the cause of the cathedral development appeal then please do kindly consider making a donation on our Justgiving site. [Exeter Cathedral Abseil Adventure 2026 - JustGiving](#) There are a number of brave Volunteers, Staff members and Bishop Mike on our page and all would be glad of a boost towards their fundraising target. If you would prefer to give a cheque please mark the envelope Abseil and for my attention and hand in, or post, to 1 The Cloisters, EX1 1HS, cheque to be made out to 'Dean and Chapter of Exeter'.

Saturday 9 May is an ideal opportunity to open our doors to the public as we did last time. We will be encouraging visitors to give us their views on our new plans

for the next phase of the 'Investing in our Welcome' project which includes the re-ordering of the Medieval Hall and the Cloister buildings (Church House, Serge Market and Nos 1 & 2). We aim to provide better appointed rooms for a wide range of activities, for meetings and to include better accommodation together with a long-term home for a new café. We will be asking people what type of activities they would like to see. While we are a long way off starting the Cloister work it is good to ask a wide range of people for their opinions in the early stages to help shape our plans.

If you are a volunteer and feel you can help on the day I am sure we would be pleased for your help, please see Sean. If you would like to come and cheer on the abseil participants and give your views as part of the consultation please do join us on the day. All being well the independent market will also be on the Green. We hope the weather will be kind!

While the sound and lighting scheme is being installed in the Nave this year, development work also continues. We are working on plans to improve the rather special grade 1 listed Medieval Hall across the Green. The funding we raise will improve the facilities by removing the dividing wall, installing new underfloor heating from an air source heat pump (and thus help reduce our carbon footprint), creating new loos, servery and a lobby as well as undertaking conservation of the important fabric of the building which has been much neglected. The aim is to make it a welcoming community space for activities, functions, learning and meetings. It will be a great asset to have space that is warm, accessible and hospitable, especially while the Chapter House is functioning as our café. The Abseil funds will help us to make this exciting project a reality. If you have not yet been in to see the Medieval Hall, we aim to be open on Saturday 9th May.

Thank you for your support for this wonderful event, and indeed all the support you give to help our development plans become a reality, it is appreciated.

Jill Taylor, Director of Development

A new memorial

Chris Sampson, Clerk of Works, has recently completed and installed a hand-carved memorial stone in St Paul's Chapel dedicated to our former Canon Treasurer, Arthur Mawson, and his wife, Pamela.

Arthur served as Canon Treasurer from 1979 to 1998, leaving a lasting impact on the Cathedral Community especially in contribution to pastoral care, hospitality and preaching. His memorial is now in place for all to see.

Thy Kingdom Come: From Generation to Generation

17th May 2026 at 6pm

Join us at a landmark gathering of worship, reflection and intercession as part of the global [Thy Kingdom Come](#) movement. This year, our focus turns to the prophetic power of young voices. Inspired by Mary's Song- the revolutionary response of a young girl to a loving God who transforms the world- we will explore how we can better understand our faith through the perspectives of the emerging generation.

With keynote speaker Rachel Gardner, Director of Partnerships at Youthscape, an intergenerational panel and worship from Andy Flanagan, this will be an evening with dedicated space to pray for our friends, families and communities. [Click here](#) to book your free ticket.

There are free resources available for Thy Kingdom Come this year including the Novena and Prayer Journals. If you would like to collect some free resources for your church, we have a number available in the reception of the Old Deanery Offices in Exeter, EX1 1HS.

Cathedral Choir Association Ceilidh

Saturday 16th May 7pm

Do come along, bring your family and friends, and enjoy an evening of laughter and fun with The Lucy Lastic Band as we raise vital funds for the Cathedral Choir Tour.

[BOOK YOUR TICKETS >](#)

Bikers' Service 10th May

On 10th May at 4pm, we shall be holding what we believe to be the first Bikers' Service in the Cathedral. This has been organised in conjunction with The Revd Matthew Cashmore, and aimed specifically at motorbike aficionados. Father Matthew has apparently ridden motorbikes across Europe, Russia, North Africa, America and Australia. Bishop Mike is preaching for this service and will go outside onto the West Front of the Cathedral to bless the bikes and their riders.

From CTax (Christians Together Across Exeter)

A group from St Thomas Baptist Church knit blankets for Moldova and Ukraine, sending them out by Christian Aid to Eastern Europe.

They ask if any of us or anyone we know has any wool, for example tucked away in drawers, which they can put to good use to keep people warm, and if any knitters would like to join their team.

If you can help, either with wool or with knitting, please contact Sandra on 07989550391 or 01392 682396.

Cathedral Quiz Night

As requested by many who completed the recent Quiz Sheets, there will be a Cathedral Quiz night in June. Please look out for information about the date which we will advertise as soon as possible.

Thank you, welcome and farewell

After 23 years, Marion Gilpin has decided to step down from the task of compiling the rota of readers and intercessors. This is no easy task and we are hugely grateful to her for her patient and devoted service.

Chris Brathwaite has kindly agreed to take on this task in addition to coordinating the rota for Eucharistic Assistants. We are very grateful to Chris for all the work she does to ensure that worship in the Cathedral runs smoothly.

Thanks also, and welcome, to two new members of the Pastoral Care Team-Alison Perham and Vicky Sully, to two new Eucharistic Assistants-Alison Whiting and Barbara Appleby and to Tina Guthrie and Matt Cann who have joined the team of readers at the 10am Choral Eucharist.

Thank you and farewell to Lisa Gordon who leaves her post as Education Officer to take up another professional opportunity.

Welcome to Mike Brewer who takes up his post as the Cathedral Safeguarding Officer in May.



A PRAYER BOOK SOCIETY

QUIET DAY

BLACK HALL, AVONWICK, SOUTH BRENT, TQ10 9ND

THURSDAY 23 APRIL 2026

Conducted by the Reverend Dr Steven Martin, Rector of the Holyford Mission Community, this Quiet Day offers space to rest in the familiar rhythms of Prayer Book worship, to think more deeply about the prayers that have shaped Anglican devotion for centuries, and to be encouraged in the life of prayer. Whether you are long-committed to the Prayer Book, or simply curious to learn more, this will be a day to nourish both heart and mind.

PROGRAMME

Tea and coffee on arrival from 10am

10.30am Matins with a short address:

The Shape of the Collect – Prayer in miniature.

12 noon Holy Communion with a short address:

The Collect as doorway into the Scriptures.

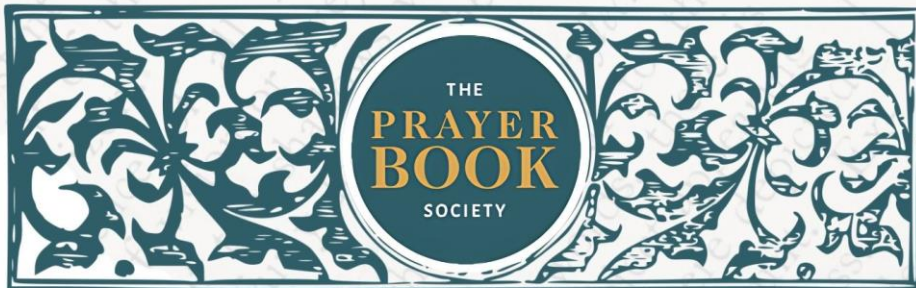
3pm Evening Prayer with a short address:

Living with the Collects: Daily prayer for the Christian life.

There is no charge, but **donations will be welcome**. If you wish to attend, please let Mrs Marigold Seager-Berry know by Friday 10th April (details below). **Please bring a packed lunch**. Tea and coffee will be available throughout the day.

✉ marymarigold@talktalk.net

☎ 01364 72149



What's on in May

Motown By Candlelight

1 May

Motown by Candlelight is coming to Exeter Cathedral and is guaranteed to have you dancing in the street.

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

Craft Workshop at Exeter Cathedral Café

1 May

We are delighted to be hosting alongside Bunyip Craft a series of craft workshops inside the inspiring space of Exeter Cathedral Café.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/craft-workshop-at-exeter-cathedral-cafe/>

The Music of ABBA By Candlelight

2 May

Join us for an incredible night of ABBA anthems, performed live at the beautiful Exeter Cathedral, by candlelight.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/the-music-of-abba-by-candlelight/>

In the Library With Gerard's Herball

7 May

Continuing our series, 'In the Library with ...', join the Cathedral Librarian for a unique opportunity to experience John Gerard's magnificent Herball or General Historie of Plantes.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/in-the-library-with-herball/>

Exeter Cathedral Abseil

9 May

A group of brave individuals will be abseiling down the 140-foot (43 metres) Norman North Tower of Exeter Cathedral to raise funds for the continued conservation of this wonderful historic building.

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

Exeter Independent Market

9 May

Discover the best of Exeter and the South West at the Exeter Independent Market on Cathedral Green <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/exeter-independent-market/>

In Conversation with Dr. Alison Grove: Is it helpful to talk about Dying?

10 May

We will be joined by Dr Alison Perham for our May 'In Conversation with' event. Alison will be discussing the question: Is it helpful to talk about dying?

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/in-conversation-with-dr-alison-perham/>

Lunchtime Recital with Gresley Male Voice Choir

11 May

Enjoy a delightful lunchtime recital with Gresley Male Voice Choir.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/lunchtime-recital-with-gresley-male-voice-choir/>

The Icon Tour

11 May

Discover the process of icon making, what the images depict and from where the Dean's collected pieces have originated.

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

Medicine in the Making

12 May

Join us to discover key moments of medical development in the Library and Archives and to take a closer look at monuments to Exeter's medical history within the Cathedral building.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/medicine-in-the-making/>

A Night at the Opera by Candlelight

15 May

A sensational evening at the opera with an array of the finest opera arias and overtures.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/a-night-at-the-opera-by-candlelight/>

Lunchtime Recital with Devon County Junior Choir and Cornwall County Junior Choir

16 May

Enjoy a wonderful lunchtime performance with the talented County Junior Choirs from Devon and Cornwall.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/lunchtime-recital-with-devon-county-junior-choir-and-cornwall-county-junior-choir/>

Exeter Cathedral Choir Association Ceilidh

16 May

Enjoy an evening of laughter and fun with The Lucy Lastic Band as we raise vital funds for the Cathedral Choir Tour.

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

Thy Kingdom Come

17 May

This year's Thy Kingdom Come is all about the presence of God through His spirit.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/thy-kingdom-come/>

A Friendly Introduction to Palaeography: Reading 17th & 18th Century Apprenticeship Indentures

20 May

Based exclusively on records in the Cathedral Library & Archives, this beginner's workshop is a chance to learn about the Cathedral's historical apprenticeship records and have a go at reading and transcribing some of them.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/a-friendly-introduction-to-palaeography-reading-17th-18th-century-apprenticeship-indentures/>

Library & Archives In Focus: Hatch, Match and Dispatch, the Cathedral's registers of baptisms, marriages and burials

21 May

The Cathedral Library & Archives holds the registers which record baptisms, marriages and burials at the Cathedral from the 1590s onwards. From royalty to the music hall, join us for this exploration of just a few of the stories behind people who appear in those registers.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/library-archives-in-focus-hatch-match-and-dispatch-the-cathedrals-registers-of-baptisms-marriages-and-burials/>

Iryna Ilnytska Lunchtime Concert

22 May

Iryna will be performing arias by G. Rossini, G. Verdi, G. Bizet and R. Wagner, as well as spectacular piano solos.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/iry-na-ilnytska-lunchtime-concert/>

Wonder, Wander and Walk the Labyrinth

23 May

A labyrinth is a journey to the centre, a winding pilgrim path that is walked prayerfully and reflectively. There is no one way to use the labyrinth; each person experiences this pilgrimage in a different way.

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

May Half Term Family Activities

25-29 May

Join us for our May Half Term Family Activities including making willow shapes and nature-themed crafts. An activity will take place each day during the holidays, each for a small charge.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/may-half-term-family-activities/>

Hands on History – Medieval History

27 May

Join us in the Cathedral Library & Archives for a unique hands-on session exploring original documents and manuscripts from the medieval period.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/hands-on-history-medieval-history/>

Deanery Synod Elections

The election of three lay representatives on Deanery Synod will take place during May. If you worship regularly at the Cathedral and wish to receive notice of the election, stand for election or vote in the elections, you need to be on the Cathedral Community Roll. Application forms are on the Cathedral Community table and on the Cathedral website.

Advance Notice: In Conversation with Jake Lloyd on: The Word Made Paint

Sunday 14th June 2026 6:30pm in the Chapter House

Jake Lloyd is a former BBC journalist, turned writer & speaker about art & faith. A churchgoer his whole life, and an art fan since he first picked up a crayon, over time he discovered he was learning as much about God in art galleries as in church. He now writes, talks and leads retreats to help people explore [what great art and artists have to say about life's big questions](#). He finds that this work connects with a variety of people, often those on the fringes of faith (lapsed Catholics, curious agnostics, and people dragged along to church against their will).