



From Jeremy Rawlings, Ordinand

Any change in one's life, whether through one's own choice or through circumstances which are beyond our own control often comes with a series of emotional responses. The body and mind can be affected, and we can feel anything from a sense of overwhelming deep sadness to sheer elation and joy – often somewhere in-between. As I get ever closer to the date of my ordination to the diaconate, I have had my fair share of those emotional responses. I consider myself very fortunate that God 'tapped me on the shoulder' as

a member of the Cathedral Community. Yes, I now know through a period of serious discernment that I have been tapped before, but on those occasions, I have rather rudely rebuffed the Lord with the oft said 'surely not me!' or 'not now!'.

I say I am fortunate being here at the Cathedral, because as I have journeyed through discernment and commenced my training as an ordinand I have been blessed with the support, encouragement and friendship of so many people both lay and ordained, Cathedral clergy and those who attend our many varied services. That support has been unwavering and provided me a very positive environment in which to grow and begin to develop my ministerial attributes. As a result of such support, I have rather naively sailed through much that I have met in the past couple of years with little in the way of serious doubt or emotional upheaval.

So, I was completely unready for the emotional response my body and mind generated when I moved to the curate's house in Cridton on 22nd May in readiness to commence my title on 28th June. The initial excitement of being that one step closer to starting my curacy and moving into a newer, nicely decorated and carpeted home together with Steve, soon dissipated to what I can only describe as a desert of desolation. I felt bereft, lost, emotionally upset and wondering what on earth have I done! Steve, was, as always, wonderfully supportive and understanding, especially considering he had experienced the

same upheaval of moving home. However, we quickly determined what I was suffering from was grief; loss of the family home in Topsham (since 1936 – not me, I hasten to add!), the loss of my previous career, and the impending loss of the Cathedral Community.

I was completely taken aback at how visceral these emotions were, and I began to see afresh the wildernesses described in scripture. It was our Canon Chancellor who sat with me on Pentecost Sunday and named the grief and described the ‘shedding’ that was ongoing which put my emotions into perspective. I felt able once again to put my trust in the Lord and know that he ‘has got this’. It was a salutary lesson in never letting go of that hope in the Lord, which is so well described in the psalms for instance *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea."* (Psalm 46:1-2). However, also a recognition that it is OK to feel that way and seek support in finding the way back.

I will end with a thank you, to everyone who has offered a kind word, a word of wisdom or a prayer for me over the past few years. I shall miss the Cathedral and you all immensely, but I am also very much looking forward to becoming part of a new community. The Dean suggested a few weeks ago that he wanted you all to help send me to Crediton the best I can be. I sincerely hope I can be that person and your efforts haven't been in vain.

Jeremy Rawlings

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



The Exeter Chapter of the Company of Servers

On Saturday 23rd May the Companions of the Exeter Chapter of the Company of Servers held their AGM at St James in Exeter. Grateful thanks to Father Henry and Carol for making us feel so welcome in their church.

Chairperson Emma White stood down from her role after giving several years of much valued service to the Exeter Chapter. The Chapter wish her well with her move to Scotland. Chryssa Turner was re elected as treasurer. Jess Hibberd was re elected as secretary, and Jackie Morant was elected as chairperson.

We all robed up for the procession into the church for our Eucharist service, with our chaplain David Gunn Johnson presiding. During the service Anabel Olmedo Gonzalez , Daniel Harpwood , both from the Cathedral, and Roger Williams from Brixham were welcomed as companions into the Exeter Chapter.

The ministry of servers is a quiet one, and often goes unnoticed, but it makes an enormous contribution to worship, whether in a tiny village church or our great Cathedral. The Exeter Chapter of Servers is open to all Anglican servers in the Diocese of Exeter.

The Company of Servers hopes to raise not only understanding of the hows and whys of serving, but also encourage those who serve already to continue and to feel valued.

We are currently mounting a campaign to reach out into all areas of this rural diocese to encourage more servers to join their Chapter of Exeter.

Through raising awareness of the ministry of those who serve at the altar it is hoped that others will begin to explore this essential role in the service of God and his Church.

Jackie Morant

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.

Next month’s edition

We hope to publish the next edition of *Cathedral News* on Sunday 5th July. 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 30th June 2026**.

The Dean’s Retirement

The Cathedral Community and those from further afield in the city, diocese and county will mark the retirement of Jonathan Greener as Dean of Exeter on 5th July 2026.

On that day, we will make a presentation to Jonathan and Pamela as a tangible expression of our gratitude for their ministry here. If you would like to contribute, please send a donation towards a thank you gift either to the Finance Department, Cathedral Office, 1 The Cloisters, Exeter EX1 1HS, or donate via BACS. The bank details are – Dean and Chapter of Exeter, Sort Code: 56-00-49 Account Number: 00708526, using the reference Greener. If you send a donation by post, please mark the envelope ‘Dean Gift’ and make cheques payable to ‘The Dean and Chapter of Exeter.’

On 5th July, all are welcome to the Choral Eucharist at 10am followed by a hog roast, and to Evensong at 4pm.

And don’t forget the Dean’s Retirement Sale 9th-11th July in the Medieval Hall.



Demelza's Land's End to John O'Groats Challenge

At the time of writing this, we have just reached the Highlands of Scotland, having cycled more than 900 miles, and climbed more than 30,000 feet of hills. It has been the most fantastic adventure, and despite a few mechanical challenges and 'adverse weather conditions' along the way, I've loved every minute. I'm so pleased I had the courage to make it happen!

We started with a beautiful blessing from Revd Adam Thomas at Land's End, after an open-air Ascension Day service there, and set off with the 40mph wind/gale (thankfully) at our backs! We've cycled through beautiful lush green valleys, along disused railway lines, over exposed moorland, and up the sides of many canals. We've been soaked through in torrential rain storms, pelted with hail, and most recently, warmed with beautiful sunshine too; we even saw snow on the tops of the Cairngorm mountains this afternoon.

Part of the rationale for embarking on the bike ride was to visit Christian Retreat Houses the length and breadth of the country – so far we have called into or stayed at 17 different retreat houses (having a very comfortable night at Sheldon on Dartmoor on Day 3), and met 3 other retreat leaders too...



Highlights so far include crossing Bodmin Moor, some beautiful stretches of canal in the Midlands (we cycled up almost 30 miles of canal towpath right through the centre of Birmingham, passing right under the Aston Villa Victory Parade that was taking place at 'ground level'), lunch at Shallowford Retreat House in the Midlands, the Pennines (*left*), breakfast on Hadrian's Wall and climbing some magnificent mountain passes.

Most recently, our route has included visits to a couple of Scottish distilleries.



It's still not too late to sponsor me if you would like to contribute to the work of the Association for Promoting Retreats –just visit promotingretreats.org/cycling-fundraiser

or do follow my regular updates on the APR Facebook page, @promoting.retreats.

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 14th July. Please send any suggestions, comments or agenda items to Ann Barwood amb@exeter-cathedral.org.uk or to Heather Morgan hmm53@tiscali.co.uk

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.

From the Cathedral Flower Arrangers

We continue with fresh flowers this month which all our arrangers are enjoying. For some it is the first time they have been able to do this in the Cathedral as we have used silks for so long! The ladies are a talented bunch(!) if you stop and look at what they have achieved. Our biggest problem is that the foliage appears not to be in the usual time cycle, but weak from the sunshine and therefore not lasting for the required two full weeks.

With the planning for the new sound and light works in the Nave, we are going to have to be flexible, as the pillars will be used for channelling wiring etc. We are putting our heads together to make a plan.

We also have a plan for the Dean's final and last weekend to send him off in style. Jonathan has been very supportive of ECFA in his time here and encouraging too. We shall miss all he has done for us. We are hoping the interim Dean likes flowers as well!

Flick Evans, Chair Exeter Cathedral Flower Arrangers

Cathedral Quiz Night 22nd July

As requested by many who completed the recent Quiz Sheets, there will be a Cathedral Quiz night on 22nd July at 7pm in the Chapter House. We are hoping that this will also be an occasion when we can welcome the interim Dean so please put the date in your diary! Please look out for ticketing information which we will advertise as soon as possible.

Cathedral Community Committee 5th May

At the meeting in May, we expressed thanks to all who had helped with Easter Eggs and the Easter Day breakfast. We discussed planning for Christian Aid Week, the Quiz Night, Deanery Synod elections, the revision of the Cathedral Community Roll and the process for the appointment of the next Dean.

We agreed to return to the practice of including reports from Deanery, Diocesan and General Synod on the CCC agenda. We discussed ways in which we can engage new members of the congregations, a subject to which we shall return.

We welcomed the appointment of Mike Brewer as Cathedral Safeguarding Officer and agreed to invite him to a future meeting.

We ended with heartfelt thanks to Jonathan, at this his last meeting of the CCC, for his support of the CCC, thanks which will be amplified on 5th July.

Heather Morgan, Chair CCC

What's on in June

The Sixteen: Choral Pilgrimage 2026

11 June

The Sixteen return to Exeter Cathedral with a programme exploring music from the Spanish Renaissance alongside works from James MacMillan and Kerensa Briggs.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/the-sixteen-choral-pilgrimage-2026/>

In Conversation with Jake Lloyd: The Word Made Paint

14 June

Jake Lloyd is a former BBC journalist turned writer & speaker about art and 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.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/in-conversation-with-jake-lloyd-the-word-made-paint/>

A Friendly Introduction to Palaeography: Reading 16th-19th Century Registers of Baptisms, Marriages & Burials

17 June

Based exclusively on records in the Cathedral Library & Archives, this beginner's workshop is a chance to learn about the Cathedral's Registers of Baptisms, Marriages & Burials.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/a-friendly-introduction-to-palaeography-reading-16th-19th-century-registers-of-baptisms-marriages-burials/>

Library & Archives In Focus: The Four Seasons

18 June

Explore how the changing seasons have been captured, interpreted and imagined.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/library-archives-in-focus-the-four-seasons/>

The Seven Sins of Tango

26 June

The Seven Sins of Tango is the powerful and exciting new show for 2026, bringing the smouldering soundworld of Argentine tango vividly to life. Performed by a 12-piece ensemble from the world-renowned London Concertante, the programme brings the art of tango to life in all its raw, unbridled intensity, with fresh colours from Buenos Aires filling the space with sound.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/the-seven-sins-of-tango/>

Congratulations Pennie!

On 6th June, Pennie Hunt will be made a Companion of St Boniface and receive her medal. This is an award made to lay people in the Diocese of Exeter who have made a significant contribution to their church community.

This recognition is richly deserved. Pennie has served the Cathedral Community faithfully for many years. Pennie was a member of the Voluntary Choir, and was one of the first to join when women were admitted. More recently she has ensured that cards and greetings have been sent to members of the congregation who are sick, bereaved or in need of encouragement.

Our warmest thanks and congratulations to Pennie. We hope to have some photos of her big day in next month's News.

Bishop Hewlett Thompson RIP

There will be a Service of Thanksgiving for the life and ministry of Geoffrey Hewlett Thompson, 69th Bishop of Exeter (1985-1999) on Friday 12th July 2026 in the Quire at 11am, followed by the interment of his ashes in St Gabriel's Chapel. All member of the Cathedral Community and the Diocesan Community are most welcome to attend.

Congratulations

Many congratulations to Bob Mills who has been elected chair of the House of Laity in the Diocesan Synod. A former printer, Bob has served for many years on the Diocesan Board of Finance and as a school governor. Prebendary Mike Partridge continues as chair of the House of Clergy. We wish them both well in their roles.

In Conversation with Jake Lloyd on: The Word Made Paint
Sunday 14thth June 2026 6:30pm The Chapter House
(Refreshments served from 6.00pm)



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).

Jake is an experienced communicator, having spent 10+ years in BBC news and 10+ years in 'Head of Comms' roles). He`s a BA in Music Production from Leeds College of Music, and an MA in Religion and Politics from the University of Manchester.

He plays bass in a church band. And his friend once turned down the chance to interview Al Pacino so that he could hang out with him instead.

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

Congratulations..

...to those confirmed in the Cathedral on 17th May.

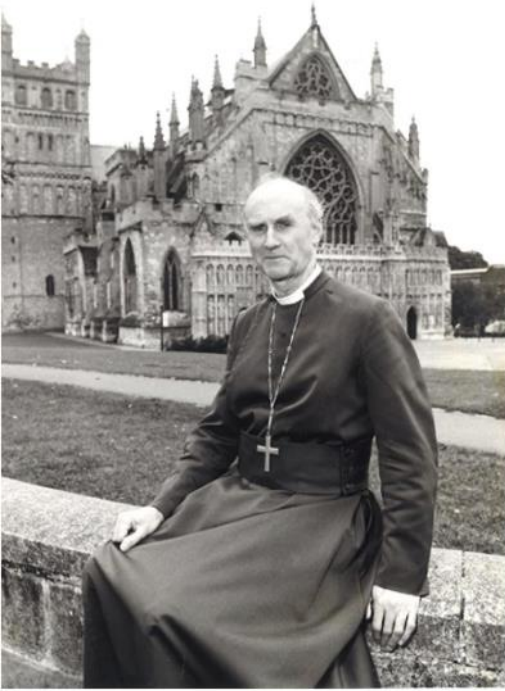
Presented by the Revd Canon Deborah Parsons: Harvey, Le Min, William, Molly, Archie, Benjamin.

Presented by the Revd Preb Nigel Guthrie: Shawn, Molly, William, Harry.

...to Exeter Cathedral Flower Arranger, Helen, who was recently awarded 'Best In Show' at the 2026 Devon County Show

....to the 46 brave individuals who abseiled off the North Tower on 9th May. Thank you to their many supporters who helped to fundraise over £26,000 in donations so far.

Bishop Hewlett Thompson



Bishop Hewlett died on 13th May 1995 at the age 95.

Named after Hewlett Johnson, the “Red Dean” of Canterbury, Bishop Hewlett was educated at Aldenham School, Trinity Hall, Cambridge, and Cuddesdon Theological College. He was ordained priest in 1955. His curacy was at St Matthew’s Northampton after which he was Vicar of St Augustine’s, Wisbech and then St Saviour’s, Folkestone. In 1974, he was consecrated by Archbishop Michael Ramsey to be Suffragan Bishop of Willesden in the diocese of London. He became the 69th Bishop of Exeter in 1985, where he served until his retirement in 1999.

One of the principal themes of Bishop Hewlett’s episcopate was enabling and strengthening the

parish church to serve as the people of God in that place at that time. He was firm in his belief that the Church of England’s three key tasks of worship, pastoral care and mission were the ministry of both clergy and laity, He was astute enough to realise that this was not only a theological imperative but also that, in due time, it would become a necessity as human and financial resources dwindled. Collaborative leadership, lay training, and due process featured large in the diocesan vocabulary, and he began the important process of organising the diocese and its structures to be sustainable in the long term.

Hewlett was bishop during the difficult times of the debates about the ordination of women, which he supported. He was measured and pastoral in his approach to those who disagreed and preferred to engage 1:1 rather than in public debate.

On first impression, Bishop Hewlett seemed to some to be aloof and forbidding, not helped by his deafness in one ear, which he was reluctant to disclose. It paid to be on the side of his “good ear” in conversation. In fact, he was genial, had a pastoral heart, a dry humour, a great sense of fun, and a twinkle in his eye. He worked hard and gave his best, and expected others to do likewise. To receive

praise from him was rare but all the more affirming when it came. Many of us learnt and great deal from him. Stories abound of the pastoral care he gave to clergy, their families and to lay people in the diocese when in need, and of his warmth and support more generally.

A clergy colleague remembers “He asked if I could lead an ordination retreat. That year we had only one priest to be ordained and a number of deacons. Such a privilege! However, it was after the ordination, he in characteristic fashion having left me to get on with it, that the key memory was formed. I and my family, wife and two small daughters, were invited for lunch with Bishop Hewlett and Joy and the Chaplain and his wife. Lunch was a pleasant affair at a small table set in a corner of the drawing room; simple and homely in a splendid setting. That alone speaks of the man. After lunch our daughters became the centre of attention and there was Bishop Hewlett, sprawled out on the hearthrug in front of that ornate fireplace, explaining to small children why he had a collection of little owls on the hearth. ‘You see’, he said, ‘the French word for little owl is just the same as my name – Hewlett; but say it without the H’.”

Bishop Hewlett was a distinctive figure in the Close, often to be seen walking in his flat cap, sports jacket or raincoat, sometimes with trousers tucked into his socks. He much enjoyed worshipping in the Cathedral and signalled his warm approval of the Viennese settings for Choral Eucharist-hence the regular appearances of Mozart, Haydn and Schubert at the great festivals.

Hewlett was married to Joy, a psychotherapist for over 70 years. In their time in Exeter, they, with others, devised Western Approaches, a course focusing on healthy relationships. Joy, a keen gardener, did much to create and improve the Bishop’s Palace Garden. They were excellent hosts, and their Christmas Day drinks parties for the Cathedral Community were memorable and much enjoyed.

In retirement in Cumbria, where he was assistant bishop in the diocese of Carlisle, Hewlett and Joy continued their love of walking, reading and gardening. He continued to take an interest in Exeter and its people, and his letters, in a very distinctive hand, were much valued.

To Joy, their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren we send our prayers and best wishes.

Bishop Hewlett is remembered by many in the Cathedral and Diocese with respect, affection and gratitude. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Heather Morgan