



From the Dean

I've attended a large number of ordination services over the years. As Bishop's Chaplain in Truro, I used to run the rehearsal and then assist the Bishop during the service, and with all the priests being ordained in their home parish, that added up to at least 15 ordinations each summer - with a similar number of run-throughs by way of preparation. So my heart is generally pretty unyielding on these occasions; but not this year. The ordination of

deacons was special, particularly when our Cathedral Ordinand, Jeremy Rawlings, came up to me during the Peace with a touch of emotion in his eyes - and it had a similar effect on me.

A number of factors were at play. First, I think all of us at the Cathedral are chuffed that Jeremy has now reached the point of ordination. He's been a really committed and hard-working member of the Cathedral Community, and it was certainly a huge privilege, and a first for me, in October 2024 to conduct a public blessing of his partnership with Steve during Evensong.

Then of course there's no escaping the fact that this is my final ordination as Dean of Exeter; and witnessing Jeremy's emotion evoked something of my own experience in Southwark Cathedral all those years ago in June 1991. I clearly remember walking out of the Cathedral firm in the conviction that all things are possible with God, as I suspect most of the ordinands did this week from Exeter. I also have fond memories of a Chrism Mass in Chichester, at which the Bishop, not normally remembered for his preaching, spoke compellingly to the assembled clergy of the need to recapture that initial fervour from the time of our deaconing. This morning, I knew just what he meant as I tapped into the jumbled emotions of joy, anticipation and unworthiness that inevitably sweep over you as you kneel before the Bishop awaiting the laying on of hands.

A further consideration: a real sense of passing on the baton. The age profile of clergy means a lot of us are retiring about now, and there is inevitably a tiny niggle of concern at leaving the Church in the lurch. So I am delighted that we at the Cathedral have managed to produce a new ordinand, and indeed that 20

deacons have been ordained this year: considerably more than any other year during my time as Dean. They won't be in a position to backfill my role straight away, since Canon Law requires all candidates to have been ordained for six years before being eligible. But, praise God, there's a new pool of enthusiastic talent joining the ranks of ordained ministry here in Devon, and that allows me to disappear quietly, confident that the younger model I've frequently referred to won't be far behind.

Jonathan Greener



The Cathedral Community said farewell to the Revd Jeremy Rawlings on 21st June when he received an icon and a white stole made by the Cathedral Tapisers. Below right we see Jeremy wearing the stole after his ordination as Deacon. We send Jeremy our love and prayers for his new ministry and his curacy at Crediton.





From the Company of Tapisers:

Latest Update from the Opus Anglicanum Team

It seems a very long time ago that I was first contacted by a member of The Worshipful Company of Upholders to ask if we'd be prepared to take part in their Circle of Life Project

... and we are now approaching the culmination of all our efforts.

On the 9th July the six members of the Opus Anglicanum Team – Rhoda, Arran, Kathryn, Jane, Frances and myself – will attend the Unveiling of the 'Circle of Life' installation at London's Guildhall.

Twelve Cathedrals formed teams to learn Opus Anglicanum stitching techniques before creating the panels which will form the final artwork. No-one will have seen the completed work until the grand 'Unveiling' – so we are excited that we'll be amongst the first to see it. (When it can be arranged, it is hoped that the artwork will come to be displayed at Exeter Cathedral for everyone to see.)

As a result of this project the Team – having finished the original work – have received two commissions: burse and veil sets (covers for the chalice and paten at the Eucharist) for the Bishop, and a funeral Pall from the Dean. So, we'll be kept busy for some time to come!

The initial intention of this project was not only to learn the Medieval stitching techniques, which made England famous throughout Europe, but to use and pass on these skills – which is exactly what we are doing!

Later, in the autumn, we shall be planning some workshops so that more people can have the opportunity to learn these skills – so look out for posters advertising them!

Diana Symes, Chairman of The Company of Tapisers



Congratulations Demelza!

From mid-May to mid-June, Demelza Henderson and her partner cycled from Land's End to John O'Groats. They completed their 1180-mile journey in 23 days, following a meandering route through the country. Demelza is the Administrator of the 'Association for Promoting Retreats' (APR), a Christian charity that promotes the work of retreat houses across the UK, and part of their challenge was to visit as many retreat houses and retreat leaders as they could. In the event, they stayed at 10 different houses, from small garden hermitages to grand secluded Edwardian houses, and visited another 10 houses and leaders *en route*.

Demelza writes, 'Doubly-blessed before we left (both by Canon James Mustard in Exeter Cathedral, and Revd Adam Thomas at Land's End), the bike ride has been one of the most enjoyable and memorable things I've ever done! Travelling mostly along small country lanes, disused railway lines and canal towpaths, I particularly enjoyed watching the geology, geography, flora, fauna and industrial heritage of the country change as we travelled north – and it was a joy and a huge privilege to be able to combine this with a kind of personal pilgrimage connecting a network of retreat houses and leaders across the country, whose unfailingly warm welcomes (and hot showers!) were the highlights of many of our days. Some stretches were hilly too, and over the course of the 3½ weeks, we effectively climbed the height of Mount Everest – twice!

'We experienced every kind of weather along the way as well – leaving Land's End in bitterly cold 40mph winds, and then cycling through cloud, drizzle, showers, relentless rain and hail, as well as bright sunshine and a three-day 30°C heatwave. To complete the litany, we even saw snow in the Cairngorms! Mostly, however, the weather was cool and cloudy, with a gentle to moderate tailwind – just perfect, in fact, for a long bike ride!'

Demelza was raising money for the APR's Bursary Fund, which helps to support people (anyone - not just clergy!) to go on retreat when they might not otherwise be able to afford the full cost themselves. Her target was £5000 – that's another 50 bursaries – and she is well on their way to raising considerably more than this! It's not too late to support her - just visit promotingretreats.org/cycling-reflection to make your donation, where you'll also find a fuller account of her adventures, and even more photos!

News from the Cloister Club

Cloister Club are having a lively summer term. We have nearly 30 children on our books and see 12-20 most Sunday mornings.



Thanks to our friends at the Diocese, we can use the Old Deanery garden for stories, games, music and craft on sunny Sundays, and we have our own raised bed there - the veg the children planted a few weeks ago is growing very well, as you can see in the photo.

We have also played parachute games, did some drama and games about Jesus' disciples, and harvested our first fruits - a mini cucumber that was shared at biscuit time.

We also got excited about Ascensiontide and learned about St Boniface, travelling back in time to tell his story in Cloister Garth, including how he learned about Jesus in just

that same place and at the same age as the children.

We now sometimes split the group by age, and the older ones have had some great sessions with Revd Morwenna learning about communion, and Revd Nigel learning about priests, as well as doing some cooking in the West Wing kitchen.

Thanks to all those who volunteer with Cloister Club to make all these activities possible.

Alastair Endersby, Cloister Club Coordinator

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

Next month's edition

We hope to publish the next edition of *Cathedral News* on Sunday 2nd August. 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 28th July 2026**.

Welcome to the Interim Dean and Quiz Night 22nd July in the Chapter House at 6.30pm for 7pm

On 22nd July we will have a Quiz Night which will be an opportunity for an informal welcome to the Very Revd Stephen Waine, the Interim Dean, and to his wife, Lizzie. There will be food, drink, all the fun of the Quiz and good company. All are welcome.

Tickets are £10 and include quiche, salad and a glass of wine or soft drink. Additional glasses of wine may be purchased.

Tickets are available in hard copy from Sunday 28th June after Sunday Services and in the Cathedral Shop, or from the website.

Quiz teams will be of four people so make up a team and a team name in advance if possible. Don't worry if you don't have a team. Just come along and we will make teams up on the night.

From the Cathedral Flower Arrangers

It does not take much common sense to realise that flowers and hot weather are not a good mix! Arrangers and flowers and foliage are struggling; although the Cathedral itself is cool, getting everything there and cutting in the coolest part of the day is a problem! But we are adapting and because of the daylight hours being so long at the moment it does allow flexibility. Fortunately, our flowers come from a florist who knows how to keep and condition them.

We are supporting the Bishop's Open Marquee for two and half weeks by looking after the flowers, and trying to use a great deal of the material available on site. The Marquee is in full use almost the whole time, which allows a number of organisations to make the most of the beautiful garden. I am very grateful to our local ladies for supporting this and looking after the flowers every day on a rota.

We plan a specially "all singing all dancing" farewell weekend's arranging for Dean Jonathan to make it a memorable occasion for him. There cannot be many Deans who love as much bling and colour as possible, and we are so grateful to him for his genuine support for us since he first arrived in Exeter. He even recruited one of our ladies while a guest at a supper party. That is dedication to the cause of flower arrangers! We shall miss him!!

Flick Evans, Chair Exeter Cathedral Flower Arrangers

Volunteers Tea Party

To show our appreciation for the work they do at the Cathedral, we are delighted to invite those who volunteer at the Cathedral to Afternoon Tea on Thursday 9 July, at either 12 noon – 1:30pm or 2pm – 3:30pm, in The Bishops Palace Garden Marquee at the Bishop's Palace. We will be joined by Interim Dean Stephen Waine, and he looks forward to meeting us all. Please book your tickets by Monday 6 July to allow catering to be booked

BOOK YOUR TICKETS >

Congratulations, Heather and Simon!

Many congratulations to Heather Hagen, our Programme Manager, and Simon, who were married in Falmouth on 20th June. We send our best wishes for their future together.

Licensing of the Very Revd Stephen Waine

Tuesday 7th July

The Very Revd Stephen Waine will be licensed during Evensong on 7th July at 5.30pm. All are welcome. He will be installed as Interim Dean on 1st August.

We look forward to meeting Stephen and Lizzie and to welcoming them to the Cathedral Community.

Welcome David

The Revd Prebendary David Nixon was installed as a Priest Vicar during Evensong on 22nd June. David was formerly St Luke's Chaplain in the University of Exeter, and he is an honorary senior research fellow in the department of Theology and Religion. He recently retired as Vicar of St Thomas, Exeter having also served as Area Dean of Christianity.

Farewell and Thank you

Our thanks and best wishes to Caitlin Few, our events assistant as she leaves for pastures new. And all good wishes to Hanna our administrator whose baby is due in September.

What's on in July

Summer Organ Recital: Willeke Smits

2 July

Organist, Willeke Smits, will be performing a delightful seasonal concert as part of our Summer Concert Series, celebrating exceptional organ music in one of the country's most atmospheric and historic sacred spaces.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/summer-organ-recital-willeke-smits/>

The Music of Bowie By Candlelight

3 July

We are delighted to bring you Bowie by Candlelight, featuring 'David Live' The David Bowie Tribute Show.

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

The Music of Coldplay By Candlelight

4 July

Calling all Coldplay fans – the Music Of Coldplay By Candlelight is coming to Exeter Cathedral.

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

Farewell Eucharist and Hog Roast for The Dean

5 July

Join us for a special farewell Eucharist for The Dean in the Nave followed by a delicious hog roast.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/farewell-eucharist-dean/>

Farewell Evensong and Drinks Reception for The Dean

5 July

Join us for a special farewell Evensong and drinks reception for The Dean in the Nave.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/farewell-evensong-dean/>

Library & Archives In Focus: Through the Frontispiece

9 July

Step through the frontispiece, and discover how a single image can open the door to an entire narrative.

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

Exeter Festival Chorus: Monteverdi Vespers of 1610

11 July

Enjoy the monumental masterpiece of Monteverdi's Vespers of 1610 in Exeter Cathedral this July.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/exeter-festival-chorus-monteverdi-vespers-of-1610/>

Organ Recital: Timothy Noon

16 July

Listen to our Director of Music performing a collection of works from a 1970 LP that first inspired him to take up the organ forty years ago.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/organ-recital-timothy-noon/>

The Music of Bruce Springsteen by Candlelight

18 July

Get ready for a night filled with heart, soul, and legendary rock 'n' roll, as a world-class cast of vocalists and a powerhouse live band bring The Boss's greatest hits to life, like never before!

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

Summer Holiday Activities

20 July – 4 September

This summer, spend a day at Exeter's stunning Cathedral taking part in the wide variety of themed art and craft activities we have planned for you and your family!

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/summer-holiday-activities/>

Libera

23 July

Libera is an internationally renowned boys' vocal group whose distinctive sound blends the traditions of the English choral heritage with a contemporary musical language.

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

Wonder, Wander and Walk the Labyrinth – Special Workshop

25 July

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-workshop-july/>

Exeter Independent Market

25 July

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-july/>

Wonder, Wander and Walk the Labyrinth

25 July

Looking for a way to find your footing in a busy world? Join us at Exeter Cathedral to rediscover the ancient practice of the Labyrinth.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/wonder-wander-and-walk-the-labyrinth/>

Organ Recital: Michael D'Avanzo

30 July

Exeter Cathedral Organ Scholar, Michael D'Avanzo, will be performing a delightful seasonal concert as part of our Summer Concert Series.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/organ-recital-michael-davanzo/>

Thank you and farewell....

As always we say thank you and farewell to a number of our musicians at the end of term.

Our very best wishes to the departing choristers as they prepare to go to their new schools. We hope that they will return often to Old Chorister and other events.

Michael D'Avanzo, our organ scholar is moving to be organ scholar at St Albans Cathedral.

On the back row, we say farewell to Lucie Ireland, and to the following who are moving to pastures new:

Benjamin Irvine-Capel: to be a Lay Vicar at Westminster Cathedral.

Toby Hawkins: to be a choral scholar at Wells Cathedral.

Luke Henson-Baines: moving to London for work and to be a choral scholar at St Barnabas Church, Ealing.

Our prayers and very best wishes to them all.

Saint of the Month: Boniface (Wynfrith) of Crediton

Bishop, Apostle of Germany, Martyr, 754 Lesser Festival 5th June

Thank you to Canon Hilary Dawson for her sermon preached on Sunday 7th June.

It is said that the last region in England to be converted to Christianity was the Isle of Wight. It's a place which has special significance for our family. My mother-in-law grew up on the Island and every summer involves an extended family gathering where multiple generations of family and friends reunite. My husband Richard only missed two summer visits in his life – once when he was studying in America, and the other in 2020, when the world shut down.

Boniface, whose feast we celebrate today, is particularly significant for the Island, if not quite to the same extent as here in Crediton, in Exeter and in Devon, our patron saint since 2019. St Boniface Down, one of my favourite places, is the highest point on the Island. St Boniface Old Church, probably *the* oldest church on the Island, is a truly thin place. And legend has it that in the year 710 Boniface preached to the fishermen from Pulpit Rock overlooking the village of Bonchurch.

Born in Crediton to a noble family, he was originally named Wynfrith which means 'friend of peace.' Later, his name was changed to Boniface, 'doer of good'. Educated in the Benedictine abbey here in Exeter, he moved to the abbey at Nursling near Southampton. He became a gifted scholar and poet, later compiling the first Latin grammar written in England. Ordained in 701, he eventually left England to work as a missionary in Frisia, a region on the border of the Netherlands and Germany. Boniface made several journeys to Rome and was consecrated as a missionary bishop by Gregory 2nd, later becoming Archbishop of Mainz. Described by some as the first European, he is celebrated for his role in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ in Germany and more widely, for his commitment to building strong relationships between church and state, and for his devotion, courage and dedication. He was martyred in 754.

Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

This morning's gospel reading is short but salutary. These words of Jesus sum up much of what he has to say about his own death in John's gospel. They are precipitated by some Greeks approaching the disciples with this request – 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' On hearing this, Jesus tells his friends that his hour has come, the time of his death is drawing closer.

The ruling powers already see him as a destabilising threat, but now, with the spreading of that influence signalled by the arrival of Gentiles from across the sea, they step up their efforts to arrest him. Which leaves him with two choices

– to tone down the message and conform to the world, or to continue to his public ministry, knowing there will be a cost to bear. Yet in bearing that cost, he knows that it will be like the single grain of wheat that falls to the earth, dies, and bears much fruit. Jesus' death opens the way to resurrection. Jesus' death is the catalyst for a new community to form in his name. Jesus' death reframes suffering. Jesus' death tells the world that death does not have the last word.

The priest and writer Barbara Brown Taylor says this: *According to John, Jesus died to fill the world with wheat, with so many sons and daughters of God that no one would ever want for bread again. Only, in order to do that, the seed had to be planted. It had to die, or it would never grow.* If Jesus hadn't suffered and died, we would not be sitting here this morning. Brown Taylor again: *So here we sit, the local field of wheat who owe our lives to him. He has spoken to us about the way of life and the way of death, letting us know that there are only two choices and we cannot abstain. When the hour comes, each of us has a grain of wheat with which to cast our votes.*

When we contemplate Boniface, and all the saints, including those often unsung and little known people who've shaped our lives and faith, we see those who have cast their votes and chosen the way of life. Those, who despite their flaws, have not conformed to the superficial or transitory ways of this world. Those who have not chased safety or superiority, those who've not protected their own interests or thought only of their own needs. Those who've carried the death of Jesus inside them, so that the life of Jesus may be revealed, in times of abundance and in times of suffering.

And they, in their turn, inspire us, the local field of wheat, here in Devon, the Isle of Wight and to the ends of the earth, to cast our vote and choose the way of life, which will at times be costly for us too. But we have treasure to share which is beyond anything the world can offer. And in these uncertain, even chaotic times, we do not lose heart for it is only through our humanity, through using the gifts and character we've been given, through our weakness, and even through the cracks in our very being that God's light, love and hope will shine through.

A prayer attributed to Boniface

*Eternal God, the refuge and help of all your children,
we praise you for all you have given us, for all you have done for us,
for all that you are to us.
In our weakness, you are strength; in our darkness, you are light;
in our sorrow, you are comfort and peace.
We cannot number your blessings, we cannot declare your love:
For all your blessings we bless you.
May we live as in your presence, and love the things that you love,
and serve you in our daily lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*