



Exeter
Cathedral

Cathedral News

September 2026 – No. 768



From the Canon Treasurer

September always brings with it a sense of change and new beginnings. The different rhythm of August has passed, and children are returning to school. For some there is the challenge of a new routine or responsibility. For others a renewed sense of the familiar. For many there are personal changes which come with every season – weddings, births, house moves, illness, grief and loss.

The Cathedral community is not immune to new beginnings or change. In this next season we will see the start of a new choir term, the return of Cloister club and a continued commitment to our shared life of ministry and

mission. The daily life of the Cathedral continues as the community works together to support the daily pattern of prayer, worship, events, outreach and visiting. In the midst of all this, we are deeply aware of the financial pressures facing our Cathedral and the very real anxiety felt, especially by our dedicated staff team.

As we begin this new season together, we enter Creationtide. Against the backdrop of a hot summer of drought and devastating floods and wildfires across the world, we are ever more conscious of the urgency of our actions and our prayers. As we try to walk more lightly on this precious earth, we remember our interconnectedness and our dependence on the God of the Trinity, the God of relationship. In times of hope and anxiety, joy and despair, stability and change, our most powerful and profound response is to choose to be a community of kindness, friendship and generosity holding one another, and our neighbours near and far, in love.



A prayer for Creationtide

Living God, have mercy on us

For the times we forget that we belong to each other.

You call us to be still, to hear the whisper of our Sister Wind,

to feel the radiance of our Brother Sun, to be nourished by our Mother Earth.

Renew us in your healing love. Inspire us to water the earth,

and nurture one another, so all may flourish.

Together, as one family, may we always sing your praise,

through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Rachel McCarthy/Cafod)

Hilary Dawson –Interim Canon Treasurer

Cathedral Music Trust Gathering at Exeter 9th -11th October

We look forward to welcoming to Exeter supporters of Cathedral Music Trust who will gather at the Cathedral from 9th -11th October. Exeter is proving to be a very popular destination and already over 80 supporters of the Trust have booked to attend. They will come to Evensong on all three days, and also the Sunday 10am Choral Eucharist.

Please do come along to one or more of the services over that weekend to welcome our guests. There will be musical treats to enjoy, including a newly commissioned motet, and a number of opportunities to learn more about the Trust and the ways in which it supports and promotes cathedral music.

Quiet Morning in Lympstone 23rd September

Demelza Henderson will be leading a Quiet Morning in Lympstone Parish Church (EX8 5JU) from 10am until 1pm on Wednesday 23rd September. This will be part of the National Retreat Week initiative (renewall.org.uk). The morning will include times of worship, short meditations and ideas for prayer; refreshments will be available. There is no charge, but donations are invited to offset costs. To register your interest, or book a place, please email quietdaysindevon@gmail.com.

Harvest Supper 2nd October

We have arranged to have a Harvest Supper on Friday 2nd October in the Medieval Hall. As this is a smaller venue, numbers will be limited so please put the date in your diary and book early. Keep a lookout for more information about tickets nearer the time.



**From the
Company of
Tapisers**

**Opus
Anglicanum
Embroidery
– the next
step**

Well over a
year ago, we
formed a new
group of
stitchers to

learn the Medieval 'Opus Anglicanum' embroidery skills. This enabled us to complete two panels for a unique project, the Circle of Life, sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Upholders.

When our former Dean, Jonathan Greener, saw the finished work he said it was a pity that, after all our efforts (1,225 hours, to be exact!) – Exeter Cathedral doesn't have any Opus Anglicanum work of its own ... and it should! So, he commissioned the Opus Anglicanum group to create a funeral Pall: the Cathedral does not have one of its own. This Pall will feature an image of the Cathedral's patron saint, St Peter, created by using Opus Anglicanum techniques.

Once finished, the Pall will be available for the use of whole Cathedral Community; and, as such, we would like to offer the Cathedral Community an opportunity to donate towards this unique piece of embroidery.

If you feel this venture is something you would like to support, you can do so by either cash or cheque (made payable to 'The Company of Tapisers, Exeter Cathedral') to

The Rev Ian Morter at 1, The Close, Exeter, EX1 1HS

OR by Bank Transfer to NatWest Bank:

Account: Exeter Cathedral Company of Tapisers 2

Sort Code: 56 – 00 – 49

Account No: 00783447

Thank you – any contribution, large or small, will be most appreciated.

Diana Symes, Chairman of the Company of Tapisers

What's On in September

Organ Recital: Michael Stephens-Jones

10 September

Michael Stephens-Jones, Assistant Director of Music here at Exeter Cathedral, will be performing a delightful seasonal concert as part of our Summer Organ Recitals Series.

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

Medieval Mysteries: The Story of Exeter Cathedral's Votives

11 - 19 September

A free tour to discover what votives are, why they were used, and see a real life votive inside our Treasures Exhibition.

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

Martin Kemp – Back to the 80s

12 September

80s icon, actor, and Spandau Ballet star Martin Kemp is taking us Back to the 80s! Get ready for an unforgettable night packed with the biggest anthems of the decade.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/martin-kemp-back-to-the-80s/>

In Conversation with Rosie Jackson: 'Love Leans Over the Table'

13 September

Hear Rosie Jackson share her work, respond to your questions and discuss how faith can find its voice in poetry.

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

Leading Ladies: Stories of Ordinary & Extraordinary Women

15 September

Celebrate women through history and discover their stories at this special tour of Exeter Cathedral and its Library.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/leading-ladies-stories-of-ordinary-extraordinary-women/>

Library & Archives: Looking at Letters (Free Drop-In Event)

16 September

Discover the everyday stories hidden within letters from the Cathedral's Archives during this free drop-in event. <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/library-archives-looking-at-letters/>

The Music of Oasis by Candlelight

17 September

The Music Of Oasis By Candlelight is finally here and guaranteed to be ELECTRIC
<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/the-music-of-oasis-by-candlelight/>

A Night at the Opera

18 September

Featuring four soloists, each singing solo arias as well as duets, trios and quartets, accompanied by a live orchestra, this programme takes you on a journey through some of opera's greatest showstoppers.

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

Library & Archives In Focus – The West Front

22 September

Come along to this pop-up exhibition to explore some of the stories behind these time-worn carvings of kings, saints, angels and more.

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

The Merry Wives of Windsor

23 - 26 September

Cathedral Players are back with a most enjoyable evening featuring outrageous French accents, plenty of laughs and a touch of the ridiculous!

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/the-merry-wives-of-windsor/>

Art of the Book: 1000 Years of Bookbinding

24 September

Take a closer look at some of the Cathedral's most beautiful bindings, from medieval tawed sheepskin to gorgeous gold-tooled goatskin and polished tree-stained calf.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/art-of-the-book-1000-years-of-bookbinding/>

Spotlight on... The Exeter Book

28 September

Discover the oldest book of English literature in the world! This exclusive curator-led tour of the Treasures Exhibition centres on the Exeter Book.

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

Diocesan Week of Prayer 13th-19th September 2026

One of the core parts of the diocesan vision is to 'grow in prayer'.

A Diocesan Intercessors Group has recently been formed for those who are the intercessors in our church communities. [You can find out more about it here.](#)

The diocese is going to have four weeks each year where we invite people to pray more often, more intentionally or simply more. They will be:

- the first week of Lent;
- the week leading up to Pentecost Sunday
- the first week of Advent
- the second complete week in September.

The first week of prayer begins on **Sunday 13th September**, which is Education Sunday. We hope that the Cathedral Community will join in this time of prayer across the diocese.

The Diocesan Prayer Diary is always a great resource, and this is displayed on the Cathedral Community Notice Board, but you might also like to use the following daily themes to focus your prayers in this week of prayer:

Sunday – Education – pray for schools, colleges and universities

Monday – Missional Leadership – pray for clergy and lay leaders in our churches

Tuesday – Missional DNA – pray for church members that we would be missionary disciples, living out our faith wherever we may be

Wednesday – Vocations – pray that each one of us would know how and where God is calling us to use our gifts and passions

Thursday – Children and Young People – pray that as churches we will meet children and young people where they are and help them to discover God's transforming love and power

Friday – Mixed Ecology- pray for creative and pioneering ways to engage people in worship who wouldn't otherwise connect with church and as well as chaplaincies.

Saturday – Grow in Prayer – pray for individuals and churches to see prayers answered as they pray more and with more boldness for God's kingdom to come.

Next month's edition

We hope to publish the next edition of *Cathedral News* on Sunday 4th October. 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 29th September 2026**.



Welcome!

A very warm welcome to new members of the back row of the Cathedral Choir: Aedín Ferguson (Alto), Hugh Chippington (Bass) and Wilf Astin-Cooke.

And to our new organ scholar Max Toth (pictured left), who joins us from New Zealand, where he was sub-organist of Wellington Cathedral.

One for EXETER Education
Hub invites you to

EDUCATION SUNDAY

TAKING TIME TO PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE
AND PLACES SHAPING EDUCATION
ACROSS OUR CITY.

Sunday 13th September
18.00-19.30

 Unlimited Church, Mary
Arches Street, Exeter,
EX4 3BA

Cathedral Community Committee (CCC)

The Cathedral Community Committee met on Tuesday 18th August. The Interim Dean, Charles Curnock (Deanery Synod) and Tina Guthrie (co-opted) were welcomed to their first meeting. We recorded thanks to Caitlin Moran, who had not sought re-election to Deanery Synod, for her contribution to the CCC.

Thanks were expressed to Jake Hibberd and all who made the Quiz Night such a success. Overall, the last three parties had made a profit which will go into the fund from which we buy flowers and cards for members of the Cathedral Community at times of joy, sadness or ill-health.

The Dean briefed the Committee further on the Cathedral's financial difficulties. Two members of the Cathedral Community had suggested that volunteers might forego the free tea and coffee enjoyed when on duty, thus saving at least some Chapter funds. While being grateful for an imaginative and generous idea, the Committee concluded that this was not the time for such a suggestion, not least because it was much valued by volunteers, especially those who travelled long distances to contribute to the work of the Cathedral.

We discussed arrangements for the Harvest Supper on 2nd October and for the Ride and Stride event for Devon Historic Churches Trust on 12th September.

The Committee had been made aware of considerable strength of feeling expressed by a number of members of the Cathedral Community about the withdrawal of four parking spaces adjacent to the West Front so that the banner advertising the Cathedral Shop and Café could be seen more easily. The spaces are available on Sundays. The chair reported that she had emailed the Cathedral Chief Operating Officer on behalf of those who had raised the issue. There was considerable discussion, mindful of the context. Members of the Committee were in no doubt that the strength of feeling was deeply felt prompted by varied reasons and had not abated over time. This matter had raised underlying concerns, including process and communication with some volunteers. In accordance with the role of the CCC to advise Chapter, the Committee made the salient points to the Interim Dean.

The Committee was delighted to hear very positive and glowing reports about the consultation sessions organised by Lis Spencer and Ella concerning the development project, past, present and future. We look forward to hearing more about their work at a future meeting. The open and comprehensive process of consultation was commended as an excellent model.

Tina Guthrie offered to co-ordinate the preparation of Christingles for the service in November. Warm thanks were expressed to her predecessor, Shelagh Orrell.

The Chair thanked all members for their measured and thoughtful contributions to a constructive and good-humoured meeting.

Heather Morgan, Chair CCC

Recipe for a Retreat



Take 16 people from Exeter Cathedral.

Marinate for 12 months in prayer, plans and preparation.

Add a generous amount of fellowship, friendship and sunshine. Sprinkle freely with teaching, silence and prayer and you have the recipe for a wonderful retreat.

On 14th July 2026 a group from Exeter Cathedral embarked on a 3 night retreat to Hilfield Friary in Dorset, and one member of the group, who was unable to travel at the last minute for medical reasons, undertook the retreat from home.

Hilfield Friary is a Community House of the Anglican Society of St Francis of Assisi, which was founded in the 1920's.

The Friary is set in 43 acres on the edge of the Dorset Downs, overlooking the beautiful Blackmore Vale.

Visitors to Hilfield are invited to take part in the prayer life of the four resident Franciscan brothers, and to share meals in the refectory with the whole community, including volunteers and residents.

Our group was led by Canon Deborah Parsons, who managed to devise a programme that gave us the freedom to relax into the rhythm of the Friary and at the same time participate in a timetable of teaching, prayer and silent periods of contemplation.

Over a series of talks she took us deeper into Christ's teaching on "The Kingdom of God is ..." by expanding and explaining the messages beneath the surface of some well-known parables.

In our quiet space at Juniper House, she gently guided us on a journey through prayer, music, parables and thoughtful artistic displays towards a deeper awareness of our individual, spiritual needs.

Our closing prayer was:

Lord Jesus

You are the Pearl of Great Price, the treasure beyond all treasures.

Give us the courage to choose You above all else and to follow You with generous hearts. May what we have received here bear fruit in our daily lives. Amen.

Thank you Canon Deborah.

Thank you Canon Cate, for the walks and prayers and appreciation of nature.

Thank you Jackie for organising the logistics and accommodation.

We all feel blessed by our shared experience and strengthened corporately and individually.

New September Festival of Creation in Christ

Alongside the publication of Hope for All Creation, General Synod recently gave final approval to a new annual Festival of Creation in Christ, to be celebrated in Church of England churches on the first Sunday in September. The new Festival is one of the fruits of a growing ecumenical movement across churches worldwide and offers an opportunity for Christians to give thanks for God's creation and redemption of the world, reflect on humanity's responsibility to care for the natural world and pray for its renewal.

The title "Creation in Christ" emphasises that creation is understood through the person and work of Jesus Christ: created through him, sustained in him and destined for renewal in him. The new liturgical resources include prayers, readings and other material centred on creation, stewardship and hope, drawing Christians through worship and prayer toward playing their part in the Church's mission to "safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth".

Christianity Deanery Synod

Following the recent election, Charles Curnock, Jake Hibberd and Heather Morgan have been elected to the House of Laity of Christianity Deanery Synod. In addition to working with clergy and lay members of the synod to build up the church in Exeter and its surrounding areas, they will be eligible to vote in the forthcoming elections for General Synod. Thank you to them for being willing to serve in this way, and please pray for them as they begin their work.

Thank you

Demelza Henderson would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who sponsored her or supported her Land's End to John O'Groats bike ride in May/June. She raised just over £7,000 for the Association for Promoting Retreats - more than she ever dreamed possible. Thank you all! (and if you haven't read all about it, you can read a short reflection on promotingretreats.org/cycling-reflection).



In Conversation with Rosie Jackson on: Love Leans Over the Table Sunday 13th September 2026 6:30pm The Chapter House, Exeter Cathedral

(Refreshments served from 6.00pm)

Dr Rosie Jackson has a background in education and therapy, but her primary love work-wise for the last decade has been writing and teaching poetry. Her poems are widely published in journals and anthologies and her most recent collection, *Love Leans*

over the Table (2023), has been acclaimed for its exploration and celebration of mystical life.

Celebrating both divine and human love, her poems move through personal loss and trauma to spiritual awakening and epiphany, finding echoes in the imagined lives of mystics such as Julian of Norwich and other English anchorites, St John of the Cross, John Donne, George Fox, Simone Weil and many more. She will share some of her work, respond to questions and discuss how spiritual experience and faith can find their voice in poetry.

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

Thank you Simon

A huge thank-you to Simon Aston, our Health, Safety & Security Manager, who is moving to Somerset. Simon came to the Cathedral as one of the first floor managers. He also served for several years as a member of the Cathedral Council.

Simon told us “I have valued my time at Exeter Cathedral. An event of note was the Clarence Hotel fire (October 2016), and I would never have thought I’d leave after ten years and still find it a hollow shell. Much else has happened of course and I leave with a sense of gratitude. I will be moving soon to Somerset with my family to continue life’s journey. As our late Queen Elizabeth II reminded us “We are all visitors to this place. We are just passing through. Our purpose here is to observe, to learn, to grow, to love...and then return home.” Above all, look after yourselves and each other, wherever life takes you.”

And as we say thank you and farewell to Simon, a very warm welcome to Terry Pyle as he transitions into his new role as Facilities Manager.

Devon Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride 12th September

It’s Ride and Stride time again. We may not have Canon Chris to ride his bike this year, but Fiona Moffat and the Revd Phil Wales will be leading us in walking to, and praying in, the churches that comprise the Parish of Central Exeter. We may venture a little further up Queen Street to St David’s.

Please join us. We will leave the Cathedral West Front at 10.30am on Saturday 12th September.

We hope that many will be undertaking their own riding and striding challenges Whether you are walking, cycling or using public transport, or just supporting prayerfully from a comfy chair, please do give generously to this very important fund-raising day. The proceeds of the donations from the Cathedral Community will be shared equally between Devon Historic Churches Trust and the Cathedral.

Fiona will be pleased to accept donations after the Choral Eucharist for the next few Sundays and there will also be a link to donate on the Cathedral website.

The Cathedral Players present *The Merry Wives of Windsor* 23rd to 26th September 2026 7.30pm to 10pm

The Cathedral players are delighted to present Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor*-four performances that promise to be a most enjoyable evening with outrageous French accents, plenty of laughs and a touch of the ridiculous!

Legend has it that this play was commissioned by Queen Elizabeth 1 because she enjoyed the character Falstaff but wanted to see him in a comedic "love" situation.

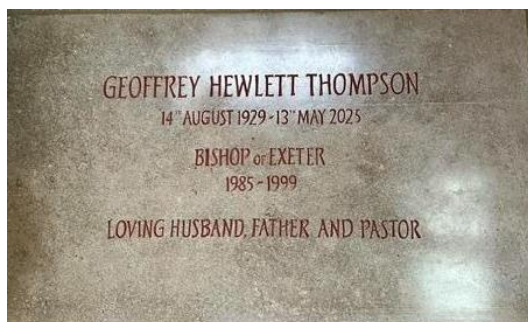
Here Sir John Falstaff, still an excessive toper and rogue, attempts to seduce not one, but two wives of Windsor. The ensuing mayhem is further exacerbated by a subplot in which the daughter of one of the wives, Anne Page, is assailed by several unsuitable suitors. The climax takes place in the countryside outside Windsor Castle with Falstaff convinced he is being tormented by a troupe of fairies, at the end of which several people have learned valuable lessons, not all of them pleasant.

2026 Posbury St Francis Trust Annual Lecture Monday 5th October (time and location to be confirmed)

Professor Mark Hill KC: *Freedom of Religion in a Secular World*

In the 2026 Posbury St Francis Trust lecture, Professor Mark Hill KC will examine the importance of freedom of religion in the current age.

Professor Mark Hill KC practices at the Bar in London and for the past eight years has been Vice President of the International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies. His publications include: *Islam, Religious Liberty and Constitutionalism in Europe* (2024); *Religion and Law in the United Kingdom* (2021); *Christianity and Criminal Law* (2020) and *Magna Carta, Religion and the Rule of Law* (2015).



Bishop Hewlett's Memorial

The memorial stone for Bishop Hewlett Thompson, Bishop of Exeter (1985-1999), whose ashes were interred in June, is now in place in the Chapel of St. Gabriel. The memorial was crafted by Chris Sampson, the Cathedral's Clerk of Works.



Advent Series by Reverend Professor Christopher Bryan on

The Lord's Prayer

*We are all familiar with the Lord's Prayer. It is, in a sense, quite ordinary for Christians. Yet that very familiarity can lead us to overlook the fact that it is also **extraordinary**. Utterly of Israel, the Lord's Prayer is also profoundly Christian. Essentially a family prayer, it is also universal. Always for the present moment, it is also for eternity. In two sessions, I hope to explore these thoughts a little.*

This two-session course will take place on Sunday 29th November 2026 and Sunday 13th December 2026 from 11.45 am – 12.30 pm in the Medieval Hall (The Old Law Library)

To book a place on the course or for more information, please contact Chris on: cbryan90@icloud.com

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!



Summer Organ Recital: Thursday 10th September at 7pm

Michael Stephens-Jones

Don't miss this opportunity to hear our Assistant Director of Music, Michael Stephens-Jones in a programme that will include music by Bach and Wesley. Tickets £4-£10 from bit.ly/ec-organ-recitals

Saint of the Month: Wilson Carlile, Founder of the Church Army, 1942 Commemoration 26th September

Wilson Carlile was born in Brixton on 14th January 1847. His education was hampered by a spinal weakness. Having been sent to school in France at the age of 14, he became proficient in French at an early age, and later in life in German and Italian.

In the slump of 1873, which continued into the 1890s his grandfather's cloth importing business, which he had joined as a teenager, crashed. Carlile had built up a prosperous firm and its failure led to a period of physical and mental ill-health.

During one such episode, he began to explore faith more intently, first with the Plymouth Brethren and later, in 1875, with the American evangelist Dwight D Moody, who attracted very large crowds. Carlile had played the piano from an early age, and he played the harmonium to accompany the hymns at these rallies under the musical direction of Ira D Sankey.

In 1880, Carlile was ordained Deacon in St Paul's Cathedral and became curate at St Mary Abbots, Kensington. He was troubled by the apparent alienation from the church of ordinary working people, and those who were poor, who were reluctant to come to services. Undaunted, he decided to preach outdoors, where he attracted large numbers. Eventually, Carlile resigned his curacy to work in the deprived areas and among the poor and marginalised, with the intention of recruiting working people to evangelise among their peers. Out of this work, he founded the Church Army in 1872. From 1873 onwards he began to train evangelists to serve, with the consent of the incumbent, in the parishes of the Church of England.

After initial resistance from the church hierarchy, the Church Army gradually gained support and approval. By 1925, it was the largest home mission society in the Church of England. In 1926, Carlile was made a Companion of Honour.

Wilson Carlile carried on working for the Church Army until a few weeks before his death on 26th September 1942. It is on the anniversary of his death that he is commemorated and celebrated in the Church of England calendar.

From the Editorial Team

We are sorry that the August edition of the *News* did not appear in print. It was truly for reasons beyond our control—a fault with the office photocopier that took a while to repair. We have printed some articles again this month for those who may not have seen the copy on the Cathedral website.

Charles Wood (1866-1926)

1926 was a memorable year; the birth of Queen Elizabeth II, the General Strike, England won the Ashes by beating Australia in the 5th Test Match, and AA Milne wrote Winnie the Pooh (of which perhaps more in October), to name but some of the anniversaries to note.

For church musicians and all who love cathedral music, we can add to that list of centenaries the death of Charles Wood on 12th July 1926.

Born in Armagh on 15th June 1886, Charles Wood attended the Cathedral Choir School there. He studied at the Royal College of Music before continuing his education at Selwyn College, Cambridge. He was a renowned teacher of harmony, counterpoint and composition. From 1889 he taught at Gonville and Caius College, where, from 1894, he was the first Director of Music and organist. In 1924, he succeeded Stanford as Professor of Music at Cambridge but sadly died only two years later. His premature death meant that Wood never heard a performance of some of his most famous and lasting compositions.

As a pupil of Stanford and Parry, and teacher of Vaughan Williams and Howells, Charles Wood is central in the line of succession of the most eminent composers of church music.

When I was a student, new to the cathedrals and their music, I was puzzled by references to “Wood in the Fridge”, discovering, eventually, that this was an irreverent reference to his setting of the *Communion Service in the Phrygian Mode*. We don’t hear that piece very often these days, in common with the *St Mark Passion*, which was at one time very popular. His settings of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis and many anthems, however, remain a staple of the cathedral choir repertoire.

Wood’s output was very varied-including chamber music and large-scale choral works- tuneful and accessible. For good parish choirs, works such as the Evening Service in E flat (“No 2”) and anthems such as *O Thou the Central Orb*, and not forgetting *This Joyful Eastertide*, are manageable. The glorious and complex works for double choir including the *Evening Service in F “Collegium Regale”* and anthems such as *Hail Gladdening Light* and *’Tis the Day of Resurrection* are majestic pieces for cathedral choirs.

But it’s the unaccompanied motet *Oculi Omnium* (The eyes of all wait upon thee O Lord) that is my personal favourite, indeed it’s a “Desert Island” favourite; beautiful in its quiet simplicity.

In his home city of Armagh, there is an annual Charles Wood Festival in August with a summer school for singers, organists and choral directors. The artistic director is David Hill. The BBC recorded Choral Evensong from the Festival on 19th August for broadcast on Radio 3 on Wednesday 9th September.