



Exeter
Cathedral

Cathedral News

August 2016 – No. 654



From Chapter Canon Clive Cohen: August is as good as April

Geoffrey Chaucer wrote in the Prologue to the Canterbury Tales:

*Whan that Aprille with his shoures sote
The droghte of Marche has perced to the rote...
Then longen folk to goon on pilgrimages.*

Pilgrims probably picked April because, hopefully, by then the roads, dried by the drought of March, were again passable after the winter rains. Apart from a few potholes, it is not a problem that detains us, so August is as good as April. In fact, any month is as good as any other to make a pilgrimage.

My wife, June, and I made our pilgrimage to Lindisfarne, off the Northumbrian coast, earlier this summer. This Holy Island is a special place; my feet tingle as soon as they touch its sacred soil. Here, humble Aidan, whose saint's day falls on 31 August, and after whom we named one of our sons, founded a monastic community in AD 635. Here, some of the great saints of what are erroneously called the Dark Ages were educated. Here, Cuthbert was prior and bishop. Here, the incomparable Lindisfarne Gospels were inscribed and illustrated. Here, today, is a place drenched with 1,400 years of prayer, and here this summer potentially very exciting archaeological remains are being unearthed.

Holy Island is a tidal island. It is only safe to cross roughly three hours either side of low tide. It is a place that, therefore, imposes a rhythm on life. While the causeway is open, it is bustling with pilgrims and tourists. As the tide rises, the tourists leave, the shops shut, and a holy peace descends. It reminds us, twice a day, to be still in the presence of the Lord. It is a "thin place" – a place where heaven and earth meet. Here, like Jacob at Bethel, we might well exclaim, "How



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awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

Of course, Lindisfarne is far from the only place where our hearts may be strangely warmed by our experience of the presence of God. It is just the place that June and I find most special. What is important, I believe, is that we all, from time to time, find such a place, take the opportunity to pause, turn aside and see the extraordinary experiences that God offers us, for thereby we may find ourselves standing on holy ground. Making a pilgrimage is one way of doing this – and, for this, August is as good as April.

Clive Cohen, Chapter Canon

Marketing News

You will have noticed that Cathedral News looks a little different this month. From time to time, we review our ‘visual identity’ (the typefaces, colours and logos used in all our communications) to ensure that our requirements for accessibility and usability are met satisfactorily. The ‘old’ logo and font combination did present us with challenges in both of these areas, and I hope that the work to refresh and update will be received positively. Changes to all printed and digital material will happen over the coming months (this gradual change is deliberate and ensures that the transition requires no additional financial outlay).

If you are a user of Facebook, you will hopefully know that the Cathedral has its own page on that social network, regularly reaching far beyond its 4,000 subscribers (www.facebook.com/exetercathedral). Other pages that you may be interested in include:

www.facebook.com/groups/exeterdiocese/

www.facebook.com/ChristianAidWest

“Churches Together in Devon” also have a presence – do search to see if you can find them!

Finally, I am always on the lookout for interesting content, particularly photographs of Cathedral events, to use across a range of media. Do get in touch (laurence.blyth@exeter-cathedral.org.uk) if you have anything that we might be able to use.

Laurence Blyth, Marketing Manager

What’s On in August

Space does not permit our usual highlights from the Cathedral Diary this month. Please see the Cathedral website for details of all events.

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The Exeter Book

**Inscribed on the
Unesco UK
Memory of the
World
UK Register
on the 21 June
2016**



The Exeter Team with their certificate.

This award is a magnificent achievement for which Ann and the Library and Archive team deserve our congratulations and thanks. It is very exciting for the whole Cathedral Community and in this article Ann explains why it is so significant.

What is the UNESCO UK Memory of the World?

Many people will know of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The UNESCO Memory of the World Programme for documentary heritage is its equivalent, and was established in London in 1992. The programme vision is that the world's documentary heritage belongs to all, should be fully preserved and protected for all, and permanently accessible to all without hindrance. The seven new inscriptions in 2016 join the 50 already listed on the UK register. Elizabeth Oxborow-Cowan, Chair of the Memory of the World UK Committee, said; 'These remarkable documents showcase the incredibly rich documentary heritage in the UK, much of which is freely available to the public through archives, museums and libraries'.

The Exeter Book is an anthology of poetry in Old English, written down around 970, and is one of only four surviving poetic manuscripts in the world written in Anglo Saxon. Since it is the largest and probably the oldest, and since its Riddles are not found in any of the other manuscripts, it can claim to be the foundation volume of English literature, one of the world's principal cultural artefacts. It contains some forty poems of different lengths, types and ages, and nearly 100 poetic riddles. The poems include saints' lives, Advent lyrics, allegories, poems based on Biblical concepts, and a few more or less secular poems. The elegies such as the *Wanderer* and *Seafarer* are among its best known compositions.

Why is it called the Exeter Book? None of the poetry is about Exeter, but it has been here and in the Cathedral Library since at least the middle of the 11th century, and it belonged to Leofric, the first Bishop of Exeter. It was one of the 66 books he left to his Cathedral when he died in 1072, and yet it is only in the last 250 years that it has received any recognition. We receive visits from people from all over the world to study and see 'The Exeter Book', most recently, thirty-three 9-13 year olds from China on a 'Story of England' Tour.

What led to us nominating the Book? Some very learned people encouraged us to consider the nomination. Since 2011/2012 when all our collections, including the Archives, were moved into the West Wing, it has been a period of establishing a new culture and ways of working. After gaining our Accreditation at the end of 2013, and achieving our ambition to get our catalogues on line in December of 2015, the question was **what next?** It was not an easy decision to choose the Exeter Book as we have so many treasures and unique collections in the Library and Archives. We could, however, nominate only one item or collection, and we chose the Exeter Book, as we considered it was the treasure most people could connect to.

In January 2016 work began. We only had four weeks before nominations had to be registered, so the team came together and each took a lead on certain sections of the form-filling. Peter Thomas as Cathedral Librarian, our local expert, with many years of caring and working with the book, took the lead in writing about the significance of the poetry to the world. Referees were contacted, consultation with other organisations and people took place, and then all the information was inserted into the on-line application form. Once submitted, the waiting began – news came through in the middle of May with an invitation to attend the award ceremony, but this news was embargoed until the 21st June, the day of the ceremony. Thanks to Laurence Blyth and Rebecca Pavey, we were able to prepare the press release on the previous day, and both the BBC and ITV did interviews for broadcasting. Professor Emma Caley, our colleague from Exeter University, supported us with the academic perspective.

The Award Ceremony – took place at the Senedd in Cardiff (home of the Welsh Assembly). It is a striking building overlooking Cardiff Bay – well worth a visit if you have not been. The awards were presented by the First Minister for Wales, Carwyn Jones. It was a select gathering, just the representatives of the seven new inscriptions, and the two UK inscriptions, which have been inscribed onto the International Register, together with members of the awards committee. The Dean and his wife, Maggie Draper, joined Peter Thomas, Ellie Jones and me, and we enjoyed the opportunity to meet and talk with others whose documents have joined the 50 others already listed. The first Minister presented the awards and Peter received the Certificate listing 'The Exeter Book'.

Is this the end of the story? Certainly not! Our Exeter Book afternoons for the public continue between April and September. We have an additional one planned for August on a Saturday, when we are working with the Cathedral Education Department to provide children and family activities, while adults come to see and learn about the book. We also have lectures planned for the Autumn. With colleagues at Exeter, Stanford and Glasgow Universities we are in the process of applying for funding to create an App of the Exeter Book, which we hope will be available in a couple of years time.

If you would like further information please do not hesitate to contact us on 01392 421423.

Ann Barwood and the Library and Archive Team.

From the Friends of the Cathedral

The Friends Council was due to meet on 26 July, when we would have welcomed three new Council members, Fiona Thompson, Diana Symes and Jonathan Walker, as well as electing a Chairman and Deputy for the coming year.

Bookings for future events are still arriving, and all are very well subscribed but, apart from John Allan's Walks which are long since sold out, we still have some places available. The Domesday Book Study Day, which does not take place until Jan 2017, already has over 75 members booked to attend. Don't delay if you are considering attending any of our events.

Despite it being the middle of summer, we now have stocks of Friends Christmas cards available from the office, and the orders, that we have been holding whilst we awaited delivery of one of the designs, will be despatched as soon as possible.

If you would like more information about our events, cards, or the books that we are able to sell to members at an attractive discount price, please contact our office on 01392 423931.

Pete Privett, Friends Office Manager

From Bishop Richard

A heartfelt thank you to the Cathedral Community Committee and to members of the Cathedral congregation from myself and the family for such wonderful support during Val's illness and after her death; to the Dean and Chapter for their care in providing for her Funeral and for the Thanksgiving Service; and to say how delighted we are to report that the retiring collections from the two services raised over £1200 for Hospiscare.

From the Clerk of Works

Unfortunately for us in the Works Department, and also for all others who have had the pleasure of working with him; Oliver, who has been a valuable member of our stonemasonry team for the last 14 months, has decided to move on from Exeter and will be joining the masonry team at Gloucester Cathedral. He has been offered a great position there to further his career. I commend him for that.

His official last day is Friday 12th August, and I am sure all of you will join me in wishing him well as he furthers his knowledge and experience with them. It has been a delight having his enthusiasm and passion for his work amongst us, and he has achieved a great deal whilst here.

Our loss is their gain. We are already advertising for his replacement, and we will hopefully find someone soon to fill his place. Thanks and best wishes to Oliver.

You will notice, and have probably heard, that more scaffolding is going up on the building, this time on the South Quire Clerestory. This is for our next phase of planned project work, which is to address the masonry, glass and rainwater goods in the bays, including the flying buttresses and pinnacles above. This work is due to start around November 2016 after a period of inspection and evaluation, and will be on-going in three phases until 2018. This work is being undertaken thanks to the generous and greatly appreciated support being given by The Friends of the Cathedral, without which this essential work would not be happening so quickly. All the stonemasonry work will be being undertaken by our own team of skilled stonemasons.

Once completed, the roofs below can then be looked at and re-covered, with confidence that all work above them will last a lifetime.

Chris Sampson

Welcoming Children to the Cathedral

Chapter have approved guidelines to be followed by all who welcome, encounter, or engage with children who are visiting the Cathedral. These guidelines are now available from the Volunteers' portal on the website <http://exeter-cathedral.org.uk/volunteer>

Holiday Activities 2016

The Cathedral Education Department has organised a spectacular array of activities for children and families for the school summer holidays. For full details, please see the Cathedral website or look out for printed listings around the Cathedral.

General Synod July 2016

On July 7th, I journeyed to York to attend the General Synod, which is held each year on the University Campus. This year the Synod took a slightly different form, in that we were due to engage in Synodical business for just a day and half and then proceed into 48 hours of ‘shared conversations’ around the subject of same sex relationships.

There was, therefore, an understandable sense of anticipation, and not a little anxiety in the air.

The main reports due to be debated and discussed were: the agenda for our Church Schools, a new programme now in place for developing future senior leadership in the church, and our ongoing work of Renewal and Reform. There were also some changes in legislation to be debated around clergy robing policy, and the wording relating to funeral provision following suicide.

We also received the Church Commissioners annual report and budget.

EU Referendum

The Archbishops used their presidential powers to alter the agenda so that we would spend some time of the first day in discussion about the recent EU Referendum, and in particular the impact it has had on public expressions of racial hatred. The Synod was wholeheartedly in support of churches being places of safety and welcome to all those affected personally by the present situation, and has asked that each Diocese identifies a ‘champion’ who will assess what more the church can do, and make recommendations for creating stronger links in our Parishes to assist in their engagement with issues which arise as a result of our withdrawal from the EU.

Synod then turned its attention to the agenda and I would like to highlight the **three main reports**, which were warmly received by Synod, with each attracting a range of questions from the floor.

Church Schools

There continues to be a recognition among the Synod that our Church Schools serve as a valuable mission opportunity. However, there was some dissatisfaction that the report watered down the need for them to have a ‘distinctive’ Christian character. The concern was that the report spoke of ‘deep Christian ethos’ without being bold enough about what that looked like in real terms. The question being – what therefore makes a church school any different from a community school? The Synod took note of the report.

Senior Leadership

The report regarding a new leadership programme for those identified as future ‘senior leaders’ was warmly received. The programme replaces previous models of selection, with each Diocesan Bishop being invited to select people

from their Diocese, who they feel will assume such posts within the next ten years. The programme runs over five years and draws from the experience of established MBA programmes. There were concerns from the floor of Synod about the importance of developing leadership skills across the church, and not just for those who have been 'selected by their Bishop', and questions raised about how some who have all the skills necessary may nevertheless fail to get past the gatekeepers! The Synod took note of the report.

Renewal & Reform

The report regarding the agenda for renewal and reform was warmly received. The Synod recognises the pressing need for the church to adapt to the fast changing context in which we are called to minister. There were challenging contributions from the floor about investment in both rural and urban churches, engaging with children and young people, and all those in minority groups in our society, as well as the ongoing need to simplify many of our processes in order to release energy for mission locally.

'Shared Conversations'

On Sunday afternoon we began our shared conversations about issues of human sexuality. Each of us was allocated a medium-sized group with a trained facilitator. We were given strict protocols to follow to ensure that everyone present felt safe to share their thinking and experience within the safety and confidentiality of the group. Our time was spent between listening to a range of speakers addressing the whole Synod on the Bible, the perspective of the wider Anglican Communion, and the experience of LGBTI people themselves. We then broke down into our groups to discuss what we had heard, what we were thinking, and reflect on our own experiences.

My own group was diverse, and it was a privilege to hear such a breadth of view expressed candidly, but with kindness and mutual respect. We modelled 'good disagreement' well and I hope that perhaps it was a similar story in the other 23 groups! Perhaps Synod has taken the first steps towards finding an acceptable solution to what has become an impasse in recent years, and one which has failed to serve the pastoral needs of many in our communities. The House of Bishops meets in September and will be discussing the 'what next' question, which will come to Synod in February.

I, for one, am hopeful.

Canon Anna Norman-Walker (House of Clergy)

Devon Historic Churches Trust Walk/Stride: Deanery Prayer Walk Saturday, 10th September 2016

How time flies! Once again it is time for the Devon Historic Churches Trust Sponsored Walk and the Deanery Prayer Walk. The Chairman of our Deanery Synod will be leading a walk that aims to visit and pray in as many churches in Christianity Deanery as is possible. This walk will start at 8.00 am at St Michael's, Mount Dinham, and end at 5.30 pm at St James's. Not many of us are likely to achieve the whole day, but a good starting point will be the Cathedral Chapter House at 10.00 am, where hot and cold refreshments will be available, and Canon Ian Morter will lead the prayers. The walk will then visit the city centre churches, then to St Matthew's, St Leonard's, along the river to St Luke's Countess Wear, back to the Hospice and Hospital, up to Beacon Heath, and finally to St James's. A copy of the full timetable is available on our Community Noticeboard.

In past years the Cathedral community has sponsored this event very generously, and once again we hope for the same support please! The sponsorship money is divided equally between the Devon Historic Churches Trust and a church chosen by the walker. We usually support the Cathedral Preservation Trust, which is restricted to the buildings aspect of the Cathedral. Last year the Cathedral received £250.

Sponsorship forms are now available, and we will be looking for support during coffee time after the Eucharist on a Sunday, and at other times. You do not have to join the walk, but you may like to follow the example of others who have used a bus pass to visit as many churches as possible, or perhaps you would like to organise a coffee morning or cream tea. If you do not feel able to take such an active part, please sponsor those of us on the walk. Most of all please make it a fun day, and thank you all very much for your generosity.

Diane Coombes

Outward Giving Committee

The Outward Giving Committee will meet on 18th August 2016 to consider which charities and good causes will benefit from the 10% of Planned Giving that the Cathedral Community gives away. Our policy is to support charities of a predominantly Christian character, both local and national. If you have any suggestions please contact Heather Morgan hmm53@tiscali.co.uk

Next Month: Please send material for the September edition by **Tuesday August 16th** to Heather Morgan (01392 877623) hmm53@tiscali.co.uk, and Sheila Atkinson sm.a@blueyonder.co.uk.

Fellowship Outing to Ugbrooke House open from 12.30 – 5.15 pm Thursday, 15th September

Plans have now been finalised for this Outing and a list for signing is either on our Community Notice Board during the week, or on a table near to where coffee is served on a Sunday morning. We have been given some leaflets and a beautiful Guide Book which will be available for anyone to look at on a Sunday. Ugbrooke House is a magnificent building dating back to Tudor times and was once occupied by the Precentor of the Cathedral! The present house was remodelled in the 1760's by Robert Adam. Ugbrooke Park is designed by Capability Brown and set in a Devoncombe, with glimpses of the Devon landscape, and is unique amongst Brown landscapes. So hopefully there is something for everyone. Of particular interest to many of us is likely to be the Chapel dedicated to St Cyprian which was designed and executed to Robert Adam's design. The Italianate Lady Chapel was added by the 8th Lord Clifford in Victorian times. Mass has been said here since 1673 and the Chapel is said to be the oldest Catholic Parish Church in the south west of England.

We hope to make this outing as simple and relaxed as possible, with a timetable of your own choosing. Please make your own travel arrangements. We will try to help anyone who cannot find a lift. Ugbrooke need to know numbers, especially with regard to the tour of the house, so we are asking you to 'sign up'. When you are signing up, please indicate if you have a spare seat and the time you plan to arrive.

Ugbrooke is open from 12.30 pm. The 2.00 pm tour of the house has been booked for us as a private party, and that is the only fixed time we have arranged. The cost of entry for a tour of the House and access to the Gardens is £8.80 or £7.80 (concessions). There is a tea room where lunches and/or afternoon tea is available and this is open from 12.30 to 5.15 pm. So please make up your 'parties' and have a lovely time.

We look forward to seeing you there. Any queries please contact Diane Coombes 01626-862339.

From Stephen Tanner

Thank you so much for the most generous gift that I received at the Orchestral Eucharist on 3 July following Heather Morgan's most eloquent words. I leave the Cathedral with huge sadness, but also with gratitude at having been able to found and direct the girls' choir, and to make music in this amazing Cathedral. The gift will be put towards the purchase of a portable piano, as I look forward to a new phase of my career as a freelance musician.



Focus:
Antoinette (Anne) Foreman,
nee Mazurek- immigrant or refugee?

'They are glad, because they are at rest: and so he bringeth them unto the haven where they would be.'

Book of Common Prayer Psalm 107 verse 30

This article was completed before the result of the EU referendum was known, and also before the sad death of Peter, Anne's husband. We send Anne and her family our sympathy, our love and our prayers. Ed.

By the time you read this Focus, the nation's decision concerning our relationship with Europe will have been cast. Many contrasting viewpoints have been expounded, fears and feelings aroused, and one fine woman's life was taken from her. How will history look back on 2016?

I did not know, when I arranged to meet and talk with Anne, that her own story could fit so appropriately into our times.

Anne's mother, a Cornish girl, was called-up in the years of WW2 for National Service in the WAAF (Women's' Auxiliary Air Force). She met, and married a handsome Czech aeroplane pilot, Karel Mazurek, who alongside other young Czechs, came to serve in the RAF Czech Squadron 311 via the Foreign Legion (Yes really!) and the Free French Air Force. He went on to be awarded both the Croix de Guerre and the Distinguished Flying Medal. In 1943, Antoinette (Anne) was born, shortly followed by her sister Yana (Jane). When the war ended, the family went to live in Veltrusy, near Prague, Czechoslovakia.

Czech was Anne's first language, but, life became far from comfortable and happy. The Communists were in government, and because her father had fought and flown alongside the Allied Forces, he was not given, to say the least, a warm welcome. They fled back to the UK, and stayed with various members of her mother's family in the West Country, and finally in Shaldon.

'I soon lost all my Czech language! But, I do remember the overwhelming feelings of safety.'

Anne went to the local primary school, passed her eleven plus examination and spent the teen years at Teignmouth Grammar School. The family worshipped at St. Peter's Church in Shaldon.

'I'd been baptised a Roman Catholic, became an Anglican by accident, but by a real sense of conviction was confirmed as an Anglican in St. James's Church, Teignmouth.'

Did she like school?

'I did not enjoy school! I was quite sporty, holding the record for running the 100m race! Little stimulus was given to aspiration! I was quite naughty, and particularly hated Domestic Science. The punishment for naughtiness in "Domi Sci" was to knit dishcloths with string. I held the record for the number of dishcloths so knitted! I loved English Literature, read voraciously, and that holds still! I loved drama, music and movement, especially ballet, which I continued to study until adulthood. But, the staff just did not welcome being challenged! My father was a good violinist and my mother was an excellent reader, especially of Bible stories; she knew her Bible well, loved reading it aloud to us.'

As soon as she got her O levels (after repeating her O level year as a consequence of bad behaviour), Anne went to work in various situations in London - a department store, the Pan American Airlines Agency, where her father had become an administrator, and at the National Coal Board. It was at the latter where she developed her interest in Trade Unions, becoming, in time, a negotiator for the Community and Youth Workers' Union.

In 1964, Anne re-met Peter (she had known who he was at school but had not really got to know him properly until they were both living in London), and they were married in 1964 at St. Michael's Church, Teignmouth. Sadly, over the years her parents' marriage broke down, but her father gave her away at their wedding, and following the Dubcek era and the 1968 Prague Spring, they were able to go back to Prague and re-establish contact with relatives. Anne's mother was tragically killed in a traffic accident in Scotland, where she was living with her husband number 5 (!). Her father, following his death some years ago from a heart attack, is buried with other Czech comrades in the Czech section of Brookwood Cemetery.

Anne and Peter came to live for a while in Teignmouth, with Anne initially working at the then Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in Starcross, then at Barclays Bank in Tavistock. Matthew was born in 1968, and Mary some four years later. The family then started to move around, first to Bristol, then Bradford, where Anne began her association, as a volunteer worker, with the National Pre- School Play Groups Association, which led-on to her enrolling on to the Community Youth Work Course (now a degree course) at Bradford College.

'I loved it! Discovered I had a bit of a talent for writing, and was able later to contribute to some books concerned with community work, concentrating on

educational and emotional development through informal education. I was appointed the full-time Youth Worker for the London Borough of Sutton - their first woman in such a post! I then went on to a more senior post in the London Borough of Kingston, before returning to Sutton as their Principal Youth Officer, responsible for the training of staff and the management of the Youth Service. I learned such a lot there dealing with both the statutory and voluntary sectors. Meanwhile, Peter was an underwriter in the City of London, and we lived in Guildford.'

After a while, on seeing an advertisement for applicants for the post of National Youth Officer at Church House, Westminster, Anne applied for and was appointed into the post. By this time, their children had completed their scholastic education in Surrey. They now both work in London. Matthew is married to Denise, and they have two children, Freddie (14) and Isabella(12), who are for their parents and grandparents: 'A real joy!'

The year 2001, brought massive changes into their lives! Anne became very ill following a pulmonary embolism.

'It stopped me in my tracks! I resigned from being the National Youth Officer. I felt in despair at the loss of my dream job, and slow recovery. But the Lord had other plans for me... "For I know the plans I have for you" says the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11. So, after what felt like a couple of years of being in the slough of despond, I became more involved in church life, and recent years have been the happiest, most rewarding and fruitful of my life and faith. God is good!

We bought a home on Dartmoor, near Hittisleigh. It took Peter quite a while to slow down his walking pace!

We began to worship at St. Andrew's Church, and in time I became the Lay Chair of the Okehampton Deanery. I'm a firm believer in people standing-down to allow others in! I became involved with WATCH (Women and the Church). Though WATCH has seen and rejoiced in the reality of women priests and now bishops, it is still active, and necessary to ensure the flourishing of ordained women within the structures. There are still some hurdles to overcome!'

Peter and Anne came to live in Exeter, where her involvement with the Cathedral and the Diocese developed further when she was elected as one of Exeter's Representatives at General Synod.

'Love It! It looks like a bureaucratic structure but, it's a place where you can ask any question of the bishops, or anyone else. I've been elected by the Lay Members to the Business Committee, and we are to improve communication, ensure the Agenda is more responsive and make Synod just more user friendly. It's not a place for shrinking violets! Though General Synod has legislative and liturgical functions, it is also a reconciling body that honours the different

expressions of faith that exist within the Church of England. My mantra throughout the whole debate about Women Bishops was - "let us live with our differences, not legislate for them" - we were born to love one another, not necessarily to always agree.'

This lady holds a broad portfolio of other responsibilities, too. She is a Bishop's Adviser on the panel which recommend candidates for ordination training.

'I serve on a Panel two or three times each year; I'm in my third five year term. It's demanding, but a huge privilege to meet the amazing people who are coming forward at present; though there is an increasing number of young people, somehow we need and must find a way to encourage men and women from more diverse backgrounds.'

She is, also, the elected Chair of the Vacancy in See Committee; the committee that is always there, but only swings into action when the search for a new bishop begins, as happened here three years ago.

'It was a very good experience, which involved the writing-up of a profile of the Diocese for the Crown Nominations Commission, together with a statement of its needs, and the characteristics and qualities hoped for in our new bishop. The vacancy is published in the church press with an invitation to submit names to Lambeth Palace; and so a long list becomes a short list, and after a series of meetings with members of the CNC, the six Diocesan Representatives, the Prime Minister's Appointments Secretary and the Archbishop's Appointments Secretary, the final recommendation goes from the Prime Minister's Office and is placed before Her Majesty the Queen.' And my goodness, aren't we blessed with having Bishop Robert as our Diocesan Bishop!

Closer to home, Anne feels privileged to have been made a Eucharistic Minister by Bishop Bob, the former Bishop of Crediton, and she leads intercessions.

'It is a special pleasure and a real privilege to serve in both of these roles.'

Anne shares her husband's love of opera; those by Mozart, Verdi and Wagner - we've now experienced four complete Ring Cycles - and especially Dvorak's Rosulka. Anne is a fan of proper tap-dancing musicals, and has a soft spot for Bob Marley and Don MacLean! They are both interested in art having wide tastes, though possess a special attraction to the Newlyn School; they are strong supporters of the Penlee Gallery in Penzance. She has an eclectic choice when reading books, from those novels by Elizabeth von Armin (especially *Enchanted April*, and *Elizabeth and her German Garden*), Angela Carter, Barbara Pym, Katharine Mansfield, Jane Austen, the great Russian novelists through to the writings of Jonathan Sacks, the former Chief Rabbi.

Thackeray's *Vanity Fair* would definitely be on her desert island! Peter and Anne enjoy spending time with their family in London, as well as visiting previously mentioned places.

The final question in these Focus 'chats' is always about the person's view on the best and worse things about the Cathedral.

'I love the new Nave furniture, and the clearing of the space in the Nave is a real bonus; the high standard of preaching, the glorious music and the nature of worship. It is so good to see the Cathedral becoming a more welcoming place.

But, I'm saddened by the lack of real involvement by members of the congregations, in spite of invitations to participate. It's so difficult with the "little boxes" that surround the different services on Sundays and through the week. It would/could be so useful and constructive if people felt more able and willing to express their fears, hopes, and views, with the accompanying reassurance that they would get, as far as possible, answers. This would in turn bring about more openness and truth and hence a reduction in the damage caused by the Chinese Whispers. As a Christian Community we should be above this!'

Thank you, Anne for all the time, energy and thought you expend on our behalf within the Cathedral, the Diocese, and elsewhere.

Rosemary Bethell

News from the Pews

On Friday 15th July **Thomas Pavelle** graduated from the Peninsula Medical School, Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery. He starts life as a Junior Doctor in General Surgery at Plymouth Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust on 26th July. On the same day,

Sophia Pavelle graduated from Bristol University with a First Class Honours in Zoology. Following adventures in Costa Rica, the United States and Canada this summer, she is undertaking a Masters degree in Science Communication at the University of the West of England in Bristol.

Jamie Draper has gained a Masters Degree (cum laude), from the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands in Applied Ethics. He has been awarded a Leverhulme Doctoral Fellowship to study for a PhD in Climate Justice at the University of Reading, and has recently found it fascinating to visit the European Parliament, as a Youth Ambassador for the European Network on Statelessness.

Congratulations to Thomas, Sophia and Jamie, and to their proud parents!

From David Davies

As he prepares to leave Exeter Cathedral, some final thoughts from David Davies, Assistant Director of Music.

Several people have asked me what the next step will be following my departure, and so it is probably easier to share that in writing! Simply, I will be creating a new career, using many of the skills I've been fortunate to acquire over the years, based mostly in music, yet hopefully offering some other things as well. This is also a time when I will be looking at further academic study, possibly in the USA. If Mr Trump is elected President, I hope that his immigration policy will not be so sudden or draconian to be an issue, but, as has been so clearly thrust forward in the wake of our referendum, it's hard to know quite which way is up on the global stage right now. All that aside, and at the risk of being diffuse, I do feel that this is the right time for me to consider life beyond the wonderful world of Anglican choral music. I've been really struck by the words of Dr Sarah Jane Boss, a Marian theologian, who said that we are all 'wayfarers on a journey', and I guess I'd like my journey to have a bit of the unknown about it. That means stepping outside the cloistered world of Cathedral life, and, I suppose, turning my back on some of its glories and its challenges. It sounds a little arch to say I'm embarking on a kind of pilgrimage, but I've always been fascinated by the meditative life of many religions, from Sufism to Buddhism, and I find that, poor as my Christianity is, it is actually helped, shaped and clarified by reference to other religions. I wonder whether I've a period in an ashram ahead of me!

The closest I have ever come to being on an official pilgrimage was last year when I was invited to give the tenth anniversary concert of the organ at the Benedictine Kloster Andechs, about an hour west of Munich, whose beautiful pilgrimage church (*Wallfahrtskirche*) sits atop the so-called 'holy mountain' (*heilige Berg*) high above the Ammersee, looking towards the Bavarian alps. In blazing sunshine this pristine landscape has a fairy-tale quality; the hard slog up the hill is the final, gasping stretch for the pilgrim, and the goal of reaching the abbey church in its sumptuous Rococo splendour is worth all the effort. The church radiates, from its architectural bones, the mystery and the outward love of the Eucharist, and one is greeted by a matchless marriage of elegance and grandeur, of sign and symbol, and of light and hope rising from these sacred walls.

Bavarians prefer it if you don't confuse the Baroque with the Rococo. The distinctions aren't always as clear as we might like them to be but, above all, the religious Rococo is the greatest and last flourish of the *theatrum sacrum*, the design of sacred space intended to engage our visceral emotions, and this as a way into our meditative and devotional life. There is, of course, a statement in this about the Church, its power, its message, but I preferred to

dwell on the aesthetic, rather than on the political. At Andechs, as at the great churches of Ottobeuren and Dießen an Ammersee, Christian salvation history is depicted in the elaborate painting upon the various levels of the church. Heaven and earth mirror each other: 'all the world's a stage' whose players here are not just the graven images but we, the pilgrims, who become one with the unfolding drama around us. In her book *Anamnesis and the Eucharist*, Dr Julie Gittoes reminds us of the continuum in which we engage ourselves as communicant Christians: the *theatrum sacrum* enshrined in architecture embraces that living continuum. 'Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face', as Horatius Bonar's words invite us so lovingly.

St Rasso of Andechs had brought relics back from Rome, among them three hosts, two of which had allegedly been consecrated by two popes. In 953, three years after Rasso's death, the relics were brought to Andechs to avoid the grip of the Magyars, and consequent miracles were said to have taken place. Even Nicolaus Cusanus, the great Renaissance Humanist who was normally cautious of such claims, granted - in his capacity as Cardinal - his endorsement of the miraculous powers. Getting close to physical things that are holy and blessed, and thinking, in turn, about their 'power' over other things, plays a fascinating role in the continuum of faith. Every year each of us has an opportunity to venerate the cross on Good Friday, and every posture is observed, from those who pray at a distance to those who embrace and kiss the cross, giving rise to that dynamic of what is highly personal act taking place in a highly public space. The Eucharist engages that same dynamic, and, at Andechs, the pilgrim receiving communion is invited into that dimension not dissimilar to that which we encounter on Good Friday. The symbolism of the building leads us through the Anaphora, the *theatrum sacrum* of the liturgical journey to the altar happening all around the pilgrim. Immovable objects and images in stone, plaster, paint and gold leaf portray the living continuum, the theological alpha and omega of all that was and is to come, confronting us with the obvious but nagging question: is the object sacred *per se*, is it somehow made sacred by proximity, or is it merely another metaphorical tool to help us along the way? Perhaps such symbolism can help us begin to think about God being outside of time (which, for me, as a post-Freudian egotist allows me to understand something of the medieval concept of our place in the world, and, even as a lover of the Enlightenment, I find that a rather comforting, grounding concept. Carl Orff is buried at Andechs, so I couldn't help thinking a lot about medievalism in the context of his *Carmina Burana*, and specifically how the Church has taught about human behaviour from - in the context of that particular piece - the eleventh century onwards. And, let's face it, how utterly destructive some of that teaching has been.)

Many of us will have been enchanted by Neil MacGregor's book and series '*The History of the World in a Hundred Objects*'. It is a resource I find myself revisiting time and again as he voices so eloquently something about the timelessness of human relationships with 'things' and, by extension, the space they occupy. His voice speaks to a timelessness that - as has often been said - is potentially eroded (or, at least masked) by the immediacy of the media age. So, too, the way that we think about objects of religious reflection has changed over time: if we look at smears of the real blood of Christ mixed with ointment in a tiny reliquary up on high within some Italian altar, where angels catching the drops of blood at the crucifixion are caught in the frozen music of some wonderful Renaissance sculpture, we might attempt to match that up with a contemporary experience of living a life "in" Christ. How, in 2016, might one relate to such an image if, like me, (in a typically Anglican way) one cannot *quite* come to the point of consigning it all to the Room 101 of superstition? Is metaphor enough? These are some of the things I'll enjoy taking time to ponder.

I sometimes tell the story of my first Sunday at Exeter Cathedral where I almost forgot to play the organ at one point because I was so mesmerised by the beauty of the building. The organ bench is one of the best seats in the house, because you get a sense of the scale of the building and all its architectural detail. My companions in the loft have been the carvings of images of Roger the Master Mason and Catherine of Alexandria. In one sweep one can see the East end of the Lady Chapel altar and the great West window. What a privilege it has been to call such an edifice one's office.

It has been a joy to be a part of the Cathedral community for these six years - a drop in the ocean in the grand scheme of things, but so valued. I think of those members of the community for whose funerals I have played, and one or two particularly special weddings, baptisms and confirmations too. One of the things I have loved about working in different Cathedrals and church communities is that each leaves an imprint on one's life - people you met who change the way you think, working with musicians who do it differently from you and who really make you think about your art, getting better about not throwing the computer out of the window when things go wrong, and putting life into perspective. I'm so very grateful for my 'stop along the way' at Exeter, and would like to thank all those who have been such a big part of that.

David Davies, Assistant Director of Music

Organ Recitals 2016

10th August - Jeff Howard

31st August - David Davies (Assistant Director of Music).

All at 7.30pm. Tickets for each recital are just £8 for adults, with discounted admission for students (£5) and free entry for under 18s. For more information please call 01392 285983 or visit the online box office.

Walk or Cycle to the Turf Hotel: Saturday 6th August

The Fellowship Committee and Cloister Club have arranged a gathering at the Turf Hotel on 6th August. You can choose just to enjoy a drink with friends, or maybe have lunch, something you can decide on the day. It isn't possible to take our own food to the Turf.

We have organised meeting points and times to reach the Turf along the Exe Estuary Trail as follows.

1. Countess Wear swing bridge - approx 2-2 ½ miles, meeting at 11.15am
2. Car Park adjacent to the Swans Nest, Exminster- approx 1-1½ miles, meeting at 11.45am
3. Powderham Church car park - approx ¾ mile to 1 mile, meeting at 11.30am

Car sharing is advised as there is limited parking.

This is a great opportunity for a good day out with fellow members of the Cathedral Community of all ages. No need to book. Just turn up. All welcome.

From David Davies

What a wonderful send off!! Many thanks indeed to all the members of the Cathedral congregation and community who contributed so generously in so many ways to make the last official "choir Sunday" so special. I will be putting the financial gift towards musical ends, and I remain somewhat stunned by the amount given. Thank you so much. We are all very grateful to Heather for her beautifully crafted words, and to all those who made the whole day a social highlight by organising and providing lunch and refreshments. I will still be working at the Cathedral until August 31.

Foodbank Collection

Thank you to all for the continuing support for the Foodbank. The next Foodbank Collection will be on **Sunday 28th August**. A list of recommended items is on the Community Noticeboard. The box for donated items is at the West End of the Nave. Please ask the Sidesmen if you are unsure of its location.

Christianity Deanery Synod

There was a meeting of the Christianity Deanery Synod at St Michael's and All Angels, Heavitree, on Wednesday, 25th May.

After the opening prayer and welcome, there was a short act of worship remembering the feast of St Bede the Venerable conducted by the Area Dean, Robin Eastoe.

There followed a presentation by Gill Luckings, Communications Manager of St Petrock's, on their work with the homeless in the city. Gill talked about the work that the St Petrock's Centre does, and explained how many people come to be homeless. Exeter has had a high homelessness population since the 1990s, a recent audit showing that 49 people sleep rough in Exeter, which is the highest number in an urban area in Devon and Cornwall. Hidden homelessness is also a problem – sofa surfing for example. Causes of homelessness include: poverty, job loss, changes to benefits, high housing costs, relationship breakdown plus other underlying risk factors that make people more vulnerable: leaving school without qualifications, mental health issues, addiction needs and an offending history. However, in the experience of St Petrock's, anyone could become homeless. St Petrock's aims to minimise the time anyone has to sleep rough by helping people off the streets and into decent, affordable accommodation. They aim to provide individualised help for people, enabling them to become independent again. St Petrock's annual income is £500,000 with no government subsidy and is grateful for the support of the churches of Exeter.

The other main item on the agenda was a further presentation, this one by Gill Ford and Mike Todd, from the Children's Society, on their work with vulnerable young people in the SW. Some 130 years on from being founded, the Children's Society is known for Christingle services (which will be celebrating their 50th anniversary in 2018) and collecting boxes, both of which generate a lot of revenue. However, they want to become more integrated with parishes, and raise awareness of particular issues such as Child Sexual Exploitation. Their vision is a country where children are free from disadvantage. £116,000 was given by Exeter Diocese last year to the Children's Society. Over the years, they have developed a lot of great resources to help our country's neediest children. The Children's Society aims to be a national charity delivering local services to local communities while speaking on behalf of the people who most need a voice, by people campaigning in parliament. The Free School Meals campaign was fought and won by them. If you are interested to learn more do look at their website, where there are free Youth Resources available, all of which are faith-based and easy to download.

Nick Horton