



Exeter  
Cathedral

# Cathedral News

September 2016 – No. 655



**From Timothy Noon  
Director of Music:**

## **A New Song**

The Cathedral Choir's academic year begins on Sunday 11 September with the Ordination Service in the morning, followed by a jam-packed Choral Evensong at 4pm, which will include, as the anthem, Sir James MacMillan's atmospheric setting of Psalm 96: *O sing unto the Lord a new song.*

The 38 boy and girl choristers, including three new probationers, will be joined by the seven lay vicars on the back row, and five new choral scholars, as well as the new Assistant Director of Music, Timothy Parsons, and the new Organ Scholar, Dr Ed Jones. During the service, the new adult members of the Foundation will be installed in an ancient ceremony, which follows the anthem. There will be a chance then to meet and welcome them informally in the Chapter House over tea.

The Choral Scholars include two current Exeter University students, Rose Spencer and Alex Gordon, who are no strangers to Exeter Cathedral, having sung for the past two years in the University Chapel Choir, which regularly performs here. They will be joined by two 'gap' year students, Matthew Jeffrey, from Southsea, and Sophie-Dominique Waddie from Lincoln, where she used to be a chorister in the Cathedral Choir. The fifth scholar is Sean Fitzpatrick, who comes to us with a wide range of Cathedral experience, and who will be concurrently filling the roles of Chorister Tutor and Musician in Residence at Exeter Cathedral School.

The new Assistant Director of Music, Timothy Parsons joins us from Winchester Cathedral, where he has been Organ Scholar since September 2014. He was a chorister at Guildford Cathedral (one of the last to be appointed by Andrew



[www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk](http://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk)

Millington!) and was educated at Charterhouse, where he studied the organ with Mark Blatchly. He subsequently held the organ scholarships at Hereford Cathedral and then at Selwyn College, Cambridge. He graduated with a starred first in Music in 2014, being awarded the Tony Bland and George Roe prizes for outstanding academic and instrumental performance. Whilst at Selwyn, he accompanied the chapel choir in various tours, concerts and recordings under the direction of Sarah MacDonald. During his time at Cambridge, Timothy also held the organ scholarship for King's Voices, the mixed-voice choir of King's College chapel.



He currently studies the organ with Stephen Farr and obtained his FRCO in 2013. He has given organ recitals across the UK in venues including the cathedrals of Gloucester, Hereford, Ely and St David's (as part of the 2011 St David's Cathedral Festival), Ludlow Parish Church, and St John's College, Cambridge. In August 2013 he was awarded Second Prize in the Northern Ireland International Organ Competition, and the following summer was Organ Scholar for the Charles Wood Festival and Summer School in Armagh, directed by David Hill, during which he played for a broadcast of choral Matins on BBC Radio Ulster. He is a keen and active composer, and his choral music is published by Encore Publications.

In his own biographical note, Tim writes that he is *"looking forward immensely to contributing to cathedral life here in Exeter. Tim has a range of enthusiasms outside the musical world. He confesses to an interest in railways, but his main hobby is walking in the countryside, and he is looking forward to exploring Dartmoor and the South Coast Path. He is also hoping to become a slightly more proficient cook"*.

The new Organ Scholar, Ed Jones, is also a composer, having completed his PhD in choral composition from the University of Aberdeen in 2015 under the supervision of Prof. Paul Mealor and Dr Phillip Cooke. Of this period, Ed writes of himself that *"He wasn't entirely content with leaving education, so Professor Mealor enticed him with another few years to study for a PhD in Choral*

*Composition. In March 2015, Ed finally got round to doing some work, and completed his magnum opus. The result was The Arctic Elogy, an hour-long work, composed to mark the end of his PhD, and to commemorate the lives lost in the Franklin Expedition of 1845. This was performed by the University of Aberdeen Chamber Orchestra, Chamber Choir and Choral Society in March 2015.*



Ed was Organ Scholar of Blackburn Cathedral last year, and was Assistant Organist to St Andrew's Cathedral, Aberdeen, whilst a student. Ed graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree with First Class Honours from the University of Aberdeen in 2011. During his time as an undergraduate, he was awarded the Ogston Music-Making Award, the Chris Cadwur James Composition Award and he is the only music student to be awarded the Aberdeen City Quincentenary Prize. As a conductor, Ed worked with a wide variety of groups from the choir at St Andrew's Cathedral in Aberdeen, being chorus master to Con Anima Chamber Choir, and musical director to fully-staged operas within the University.

*In his own words, Ed adds "Ed comes from Aberdeen originally where the dulcet tones of a counter-tenor inspired him to join a choir (Cathedral Church of St Andrew's, Aberdeen), and shortly after a priest asking "Do you want to learn the organ?" made him start doing that..... Ed is continuing his search for El Dorado, where he will take up the post of Organ Scholar in Exeter. Besides his musical life, Ed enjoys travelling on trains, is a keen distance runner, does Amerindian wood-carving, and likes beer".*

The choristers have had a few days to get their singing back 'up to speed', and, this year, have taken part in a pre-term Choir Camp at Buckfast Abbey, where, in unparalleled surroundings, they have rehearsed together, performed at a service, played games, shared stories, and generally built up the team spirit, so as to be in the best possible shape for the first cathedral services.

**Timothy Noon**

## **From the Chapter : Canon John Searle**

After two years as a valued Chapter member John has decided to step down this autumn. John is looking forward to serving the Cathedral community as a member of the congregation. The Dean and Chapter are delighted that he is not going far and are most grateful for all that he has brought to the Governance of the Cathedral during his time.



## **The Start Course – A six week course introducing Christianity to beginners**

### **When?**

**Tuesday evenings from 27<sup>th</sup> September – 1<sup>st</sup> November (x6 Sessions) 7.30 – 9pm.**

### **What is START?**

START! introduces Christianity through six DVD-based interactive, small-group sessions. The Start! course makes no assumptions about participants' background, or experience or knowledge of Christianity, or the Church. It really does start from scratch.

Each session lasts about 90 minutes and is based around short, lively DVD programmes - two per session. Down-to-earth interviews, time to chat, interactive exercises and space for reflection - all in a style that aims to be honest and enjoyable.

### **Who is START for?**

Anyone who wants to visit the very basics of the Christian faith (doubters and searchers welcome) or is considering Confirmation.

We have 10 places on the START course – if you are interested please contact Canon Anna for further details:

**[chancellor@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:chancellor@exeter-cathedral.org.uk)**



## Happy First Birthday to Sundays@7

On the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2015, we launched a brand new Sunday evening service 'Sundays@7'. This month we celebrate its one-year anniversary. Gathering in the Chapter House, with music led from the grand piano and clarinet, the worship has a simple relaxed feel and

creates space for stillness and prayer at the end of the weekend. We celebrate Communion together, and ensure that the liturgy is accessible, especially to those unfamiliar with it. We now have a good-sized regular worshipping community of 30 – 40 people, many of whom are younger adults. There is a growing number enjoying a post-service trip to the pub, and new friendships have been born. One couple have recently celebrated their wedding at the Cathedral, four are presently exploring vocation, and one is heading off to theological college next autumn, all of which is so encouraging!

Thank you to all the clergy team, who have been hugely supportive of this new service, often returning after preaching at the 10am Eucharist with their message from the morning. Thank you also to the wider Cathedral Community for your interest, prayers and support of our 7pm Service; it has made a huge difference.

**Canon Anna**

## The Wednesday Café is launched!

On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, our SOAR & Friday Night Café teams joined forces to become The Wednesday Café, and it has been a wonderful success. Throughout August we have had a full house, serving up to 60 hot suppers and providing hot drinks and takeaway picnic bags for our rough sleepers, and those in hostel accommodation in the city. The Chapter House is a lovely venue, and our guests appreciate the opportunity to sit at tables and enjoy one another's company over a coffee, and a slice of cake after supper. Our two volunteer teams have blended seamlessly, with the 'South Street Ladies' serving up jacket spuds with extraordinary efficiency and the former 'Friday Folk' serving hot drinks and washing up. As the colder weather draws in, it will be especially good to provide a warm dry space for our guests.

We also have six dates in the Diary when our friends from Exeter Mosque will join us with their gift of a giant Biryani for the supper!

We are so grateful to the Cathedral Community for their ongoing support of our work with the homeless. Some donate delicious cake, some volunteer on our teams and others have given generous gifts of warm clothing, toiletries and money. It is all hugely appreciated – Thank you!

The following items are always needed!

- Sleeping bags or blankets.
- Toiletries – shower gel / shampoo / toothbrushes / toothpaste.
- New socks and underwear.
- Second hand winter coats, jumpers and trousers.

For further information contact:

**Canon Anna:** [chancellor@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:chancellor@exeter-cathedral.org.uk)

## **Outward Giving : Balloons**

As a cathedral community we donate 10% of our weekly giving to external charities. The cathedral “outward giving committee” decide who to give this money to, and how much to give and we had a meeting in August to share out the money (around £9800 this year).

One of the organisations we donated to last year was a local organisation called “Bereavement And Loss LOoking ONwardS”, known as “BALLOONS” for short. This charity works with pre- and post- bereaved children, young people and their families in Exeter, Mid and East Devon.

If you would like to know more about their valuable work the website is [balloonscharity.co.uk.gridhosted.co.uk](http://balloonscharity.co.uk.gridhosted.co.uk)

Jo Overton-Pitts, an Admin support worker and finance officer at Balloons sent us a letter thanking us for the £500 we donated: “...To give you an example of how this will be used; it costs approximately £400 for the charity to train a Grief Support Worker. These volunteers then go on to work with and support children and young people who have experienced a significant bereavement. Being a free service, we rely heavily on donations and we really appreciate your help and support. Many thanks again”

**Martin Bowles – Cathedral Outward Giving Committee.**



**Focus:**

**Hannah Flowerday,  
Education Officer**

*'I shall light a candle of understanding in thine heart, which shall not be put out.'*

Second Book of Esdras Ch. 14 v.25

*Hannah in one of her many costumes*

There is little doubt in my mind that Hannah is a very bright candle in our midst; a young woman whose passion for opening children's minds is quite magical, especially in these days of dominating internet facilities.

Not only is she delightful, but has the charming surname of Flowerday, which is not an unusual one in the county of Norfolk.

*'My grandparents thought it had evolved from Fleur de Dieu as it was known as Flowerdew until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. I like to think I'm descended from a Norman Princess!'*

Hannah was born and raised in a closely bonded family. She is the eldest child, having two sisters and one brother.

*'I was born in Epsom, but I've never been to the racecourse! I was definitely The Boss over my siblings, having a nine year gap between me and my youngest sister!'*

She attended the primary school in Bookham, and then went to the Howard of Effingham School, leaving after taking her A Level examinations.

*'I loved school. I had an amazing Classical Civilisation teacher, from whom we learned about life through the Classics, the theatre and a Greek Cruise, which this teacher organised privately for us.'*

This teacher was obviously quite a strong character. She had a bag of hats.....

*'You will wear a hat! I don't care whether you're hot! You'll wear it!'*

Having 'bagged' her A levels, Hannah obtained a place to read Archaeology at the University of Exeter, concentrating on Roman Britain and Mediaeval Architecture. She was a conscientious student, and after three years was awarded a First in her B.A. Hons in Archaeology. For her dissertation, she chose to concentrate on this Cathedral, and in particular, the changing perceptions of the Cathedral and its heritage.

*'Throughout the Cathedral's history, and certainly in former centuries, it has been a place of worship and pilgrimage; now it appears to be a place of worship and tourism. Are they really very different? Were all those ancient pilgrims worshippers? Are none of today's tourists pilgrims?'*

Hannah's family worshipped at a conservative, fundamental and evangelical free church. Hannah found it very restrictive, and became rebellious in her teen years because of the lack of encouragement for women in leadership, teetotalism, and the required mode of modesty in dress. She ceased attending the services when she was sixteen.

When she arrived in Exeter, she decided to come to a service in the Cathedral.

*'I was terrified! I'd never been to an Anglican church. But the music was so divine, and I remember thinking "This must be like Heaven!" I had sat next to Margaret Williams, and she must have sensed this, for at the end of the service she came up to me and gave me a big hug, saying, "Welcome. I like young people". She introduced me to other people, and persuaded me to go to the then Nightchurch, which has, since, evolved into Holy Ground and then Night Cafe. I also began stewarding one day a week, and soon became a leader at the Sunday School (Cloister Club) too.'*

It was difficult to find a job post graduation, and she wanted to work in heritage education, so, to support herself, she worked in several museums, which widened her knowledge base, and then applied for, and obtained a place on the Post Graduate Certificate in Education Course at Luke's College in Exeter, a year-long course. For this, because of her First Class Degree, she received funding from Devon County Council.

*'I found it quite difficult and frustrating. Not the teaching part, but the bureaucracy associated with that teaching. I carried out teaching practice sessions at the Beacon School in Exmouth and Colyton Primary School. It was a tough year, but I definitely learned a lot, and met some wonderful children along the way.'*

Having survived all of the above, Hannah, not unreasonably, felt quite proud of herself. (I can remember that feeling, too, only too well!) But her dilemma was whether to stay in Exeter or return to Guildford. She had come to love Exeter, stayed here, did some supply-teaching and a few nanny-type jobs.

*'It was hard work! In supply-teaching, and as a nanny, you can be, and are, exposed to a wide and varied population of children. It was a great experience. Then I saw the advert for Education Officer at the Cathedral, so I applied for it and was interviewed. I did not get the job, so I went back to Surrey. However, I later received a telephone call from the Cathedral asking me if I'd like the job! "Yes please!" I said.'*

So in March 2015, a very excited Hannah returned to Exeter, got a flat and started work. Her love for Exeter and the Cathedral can be seen on her ankle, in the form of a crossed-keys tattoo! Could it be that she is setting a trend?

Hannah's objectives are clear to her.

*'I want to bring more and more children into the Cathedral, and endeavour to stimulate an enthusiasm for, and about it, in them. With all the children who visit, whether they be with their school or with their family, I try to share God's love with them, so that they understand that Christianity is all about love. I love seeing the looks on their faces when they come into the building for the first time. Awe and wonder, and even in the naughty ones!*

*We, also, deal with the Big Stuff; a granny or granddad has died or is very ill, or maybe a deeply loved pet has been lost or has died. They can write a prayer, or place a pebble on the 'cairn' sited in the Chantry Chapel in the North Quire Aisle.'*

Unlike the manner with which history was mainly taught in my school days, today's children have TV, films, as well as wonderful books telling them about our, and others, history: for example The Horrible History Series..... 'lovely, gory, creepy, scary stuff!

*'They love the Golden Gates. REAL GOLD! Why is St. Peter naked at the top of the Cathedral? A few giggles here! The organ's casing is popular, too. It looks like the Big Gruffalo's face!'*

I asked Hannah if she could repeat any particularly amusing answer to any of her questions.

*'Yes, when talking about the Nativity in December, one of the guides asked if anyone knew what gifts the Magi had brought and given to Jesus. One child answered, "Yes. They brought gold, common sense and myrrh!" Wonderful!'*

You will have gathered, I hope, that Hannah puts a huge amount of time-consuming thought and effort into her responsibilities here. To replenish her resources she loves going onto a beach, lying in the sun in Summer-time; reading; she is a keen surfer at Saunton Sands Beach in North Devon; likes to attend gigs played by local bands in Exeter, and, of course, listen to the fantastic music we hear in the Cathedral week-by-week.

What is the best thing for her in the Cathedral?

*'Apart from that which I have already said, I absolutely love dressing-up to take the children, and perhaps accompanying adults, on a journey around and through the Cathedral, so that they are left with the feeling that they are welcomed and will want to return. All my birthday and Christmas presents are new costumes to add to the twenty-five medieval costumes I've already got in my collection!'*

What is the worst thing?

*'I just don't want it to ever end!'*

Neither do I! What better investment in the future could there be other than providing a warm welcome to families, schools, and inspiring their children through our history, fabulous heritage buildings, the Sunday School (Cloister Club) and the Education Department? Our participation in the development of their aspirations, and the catering for their spiritual needs, must surely be paramount.

Thank you, Hannah. You are a breath of fresh air!

**Rosemary Bethell**

## **Tales from the Foodbank No. 17 Benefit Sanctions**

From General Synod's Debate in February

"Camilla Homes (Diocese of West Yorkshire & the Dales) said that the people being sanctioned (i.e. being excluded from benefits) were among the most "chaotic and marginalised" in society, [who are] vulnerable and needing help. The foodbanks have seen a huge rise in the number of people who had been sanctioned; the punishments were unfair and unhelpful, and their impact was severe. The Church must urge a fairer system."

**The next Foodbank Collection will be on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September.**

**Felicity Cawthra.**

## **Cathedral Community Committee**

The next meeting of the CCC will be on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm. If any member of the congregation or the wider Cathedral Community has any item for the agenda, please contact Heather Morgan at [hmm53@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:hmm53@tiscali.co.uk), before 1<sup>st</sup> September if possible.

## News from the Flower Arrangers

On 20 July, The Flower Arrangers held our 'Fun with Foliage' afternoon, an informal social occasion in the Chapter House attended by around 35 ladies.



This year, our aim was to show how beautiful and unusual arrangements can be created without using flowers.

Many churches have a limited budget and people were most interested to see what could be achieved without spending any or only very little money.

We ourselves have at least two 'foliage only' arranging dates during the year. This began as a cost-cutting exercise for us but our arrangers enjoy the challenge.

We had a variety of leaves and branches and demonstrated many different techniques, including plaiting, twisting, wiring, pinning and stapling.

Our visitors enjoyed seeing how these could be included in small arrangements and larger pedestals.

Thank you to the committee, and everyone who helped make the afternoon a great success, including demonstrators, cake bakers, tea makers, floor managers....

Our next event will be the Christmas Workshop on 15 December.

**Sylvia Bush, Chairman**



## Val Hawkins

*Val died on 27<sup>th</sup> May. She was a much loved figure in the life of the Cathedral and the Diocese. This was captured wonderfully by Bishop Richard in the addresses he gave, at both the funeral and the memorial service. We are grateful to him for this article, based on his words on those occasions.*



Val was born in Bristol, but her father's job brought the family to Exeter when she was a child; and they lived first in the St Thomas area of the city, west of the river. There she went to Cowick Street School. The family went to church in St Thomas. In due course she went to The Maynard School; and, typically, kept friends from St Thomas and from The Maynard for the rest of her life.

In 1965, having succeeded in her 'A' levels, Val gained a place at Margaret Macmillan Teacher Training College in Bradford. She'd chosen that rather distant location because the college offered a specialism in the teaching of Infant & Junior age children – which had long been Val's interest. But when she got there, it was to find that the specialism had been scrapped without warning. She was devastated: she saw out the term, but her heart was no longer in it, and at Christmas she withdrew - not knowing quite what she was going to do next. By this time there had grown an understanding between Val and Richard, whom she had met as a curate at St Thomas. At the end of 1965 he was just moving on from his curacy to become a team vicar in a team ministry just outside Exeter. As circumstances had changed for both of them, they decided to get married: which they did in the autumn of 1966, in his church at Clyst St Mary. They didn't quite make their Golden Wedding - by four months.

In 1967, Val had her first child, Simon. Alas, he was born with a defective heart, was rushed to Bristol Children's Hospital, but died at three days' old. One can imagine what that meant to her – but, in 1968, to her great joy and relief, Becky was born, safe and well. In 1972, Val had premature twins, Sarah and Caroline – as she often said herself, in telling the story – on the Vicarage bathroom floor. One was stillborn, the other died a few hours' old. She couldn't help remembering that after Simon's death, a well-meaning parishioner had said to

her, “Lightning never strikes twice in the same place.” In 1973, again to her joy and relief, Dan was born, safe and well. All her life, she was so thankful for Becky & Dan, and rejoiced in her relationship with them.

By this time, understandably, Val was beginning to feel that life was apt to pull the rug from under her feet, and Becky & Dan were hugely important to her, not least as proof that things did go right, sometimes; but she resolved that the only way to cope with the setbacks was to press on. It simply made her determined to give the best care she could to the children she had got, and never to take for granted what might be going on in other people’s lives; and it reinforced her special interest in the care of young children. She made herself something of an expert in the field of children and bereavement, in the days when there wasn’t a lot about it around; and she always looked out for the disadvantaged children, the shy, the slow learners, those with any kind of handicap. As soon as she could, she worked part-time in family centres and schools, always on the look-out for the vulnerable, for those needing one-on-one attention – and after her death Richard had a number of tributes from different teachers she worked with about just how brilliant she was with such children.

When the opportunity came, she studied for and gained the Advanced Diploma in Childcare and Education. She rarely mentioned the qualification as such, only what she’d learned in doing it: she wasn’t interested in the letters after her name - all that mattered to her was how it might improve her practice and, skills with children, and the understanding she could bring to them. And the children she worked with remembered her: many a time she would be hailed in the street or the supermarket by youngsters up to their teens – “Mrs Hawkins, Mrs Hawkins, I remember you: you...” – and there would be some story about the support Val had given when they were struggling in primary school. And then they would measure themselves up against her, to see if they were taller than she was – or how much taller: every child she ever looked after did it...

And when it wasn’t children, it was just – people. People mattered to her – and she cared. She just loved meeting people, talking to people, listening to people. She had a fantastic gift for loitering, just casually drifting around, but always with an eye open for anyone who seemed to be on their own, or who looked out of sorts. Her short stature was itself a bit disarming; and she always reckoned that someone her size and shape could never dress to kill; so as long as she had something to wear, she wasn’t really bothered about looking particularly smart. At one bun-fight, a woman actually said to her, on discovering who she was, “Well, you don’t look like a bishop’s wife.” Whatever that means – no, she hoped she didn’t – but the result was that people would freely chat to her, and she listened because she was genuinely interested, whoever they were.

It was always about people. And if someone had a conversation with her, she listened – and she remembered. The next time she met them, she would recall something from the first conversation. And when it wasn't talking and listening, it was writing – letters, and cards (which she made herself, always). The letters were always handwritten, in her large distinctive script, covering every millimetre of the page. It was a permanent, endless, activity – with her our dining-room table covered with all that the activity required. Her address book had over 300 entries. And if it was a card she was sending, she would always spend time carefully matching the card to the person she was sending it to – every card, every letter, went with thought and love.

She served for some time on the Old Maynardians' Committee, and was for a while the Magazine Secretary. Val served for a number of years as a Trustee for the Society of Mary & Martha, that marvellous lay community at Sheldon, whose core activity is the care of clergy and ministers and their families in times of stress. She supported the Society whole-heartedly, because it was about people – and about people when they were vulnerable.

And when it wasn't people – it was gardening. Where she lived for the last nine years, there was just a pocket handkerchief, back and front – but both filled with plants, flowers, shrubs, small trees, vegetables, soft fruit. She would go to coffee mornings and plant sales, in the hope of picking up a bargain: and always, always, on the way back she would say, "I don't know where I'm going to put these." A great challenge was plants not doing their stuff – but Val treated under-performing plants like she did under-achieving children: she just never gave up.

Val certainly had her setbacks and disappointment, but happily, her last years were crowned with tremendous joy, in the arrival of her two grandsons, Harry and Alfie. About them, she thought all the time, helping to care for them in the present, anticipating and thinking ahead as to how she could encourage, enable, support them in their different stages, activities, and interests. All that she had learned professionally she combined with her own innate skills, and devoted to them. They brought her immense joy – as well as the occasional challenge – and she was just so, so, thankful for them.

Following Val's death, Richard received well over 200 cards and letters: and the striking thing is that so many of them say exactly the same things about her. At Val's Thanksgiving Service, Richard quoted from a letter written to him from someone who'd known them both for years, and who was ordained and became a parish priest in mid-life. The letter ended: "Our lives are all the richer for having known Val – kind, empathetic, encouraging, funny, compassionate, thoughtful, family-loving, card-making Val – a really lovely friend to so many of us."

Indeed she was – may she rest in peace.



## **Matt the Holy Duster**

Matt Mahoney, Volunteer Manager, is slowly working his way round the many volunteer groups in the Cathedral to gain understanding of as many roles as possible.

This month, it was the turn of the Holy Dusters.

Where next?

## **Giving in Worship – Our Duty and Delight as Disciples**

This year, as we approach Harvest (in late October) we will be turning our thoughts to how we give as part of our worship. As we thank God for all He has given to us, we want to respond and give back to Him.

In his second letter to the church in Corinth, Paul encourages the believers to do this not reluctantly or with compulsion, but on the basis of what each has decided upon in their hearts (2 Cor 9:7 ESV). After all, giving back to God should be a delightful experience should it not?!

During October we want to share and celebrate with you some of the wonderful achievements that your giving (along with the generous support of others too) has helped accomplish in recent years, as well as share some of the real costs of maintaining the worshipping life and ministry of Exeter Cathedral (we think you might be surprised at some of the figures!).

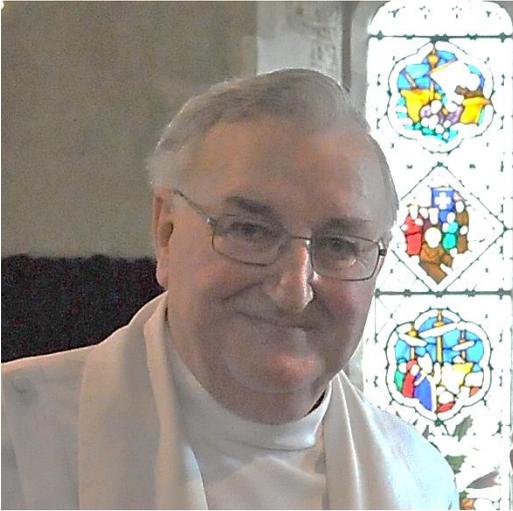
We hope that this will both challenge and inspire you to reflect on the level and nature of your giving as part of your discipleship and as an active member of the Cathedral Community. Again in the New Testament, we are encouraged in the Book of James diligently to pray and seek God's wisdom in the matter of participating in tithing and/or how much to give (James 1:5).

We hope you will join with us in this journey to pray, reflect and respond to God's love and grace, as we seek to sustain our worship here in this place.

For now, thank you again for your continued generosity.

**Paul Courtney, Development Director; Ian Morter, Canon Pastor**

## Richard Gilpin



Richard died on 1<sup>st</sup> May after a lifetime of service to this Diocese, culminating in his ministry as Archdeacon of Totnes from 1996-2005.

He had a long association with the Cathedral; Richard and Marian worshipped regularly here after they moved to Exeter in 1990 on his appointment as Director of Ordinands and Adviser in Vocations. He was a Prebendary of the Cathedral. For a time, he was also Sub Dean, and he undertook the duties of Canon in Residence.

This enabled the Cathedral congregation to enjoy his preaching, his pastoral gifts, and his great sense of humour. With Bishop Hewlett Thompson, we can only *“overflow with thanks that such a calm, efficient and humble man was raised up for the work given him. Anglican spirituality and pastoral sensitivity were seen in one of their best manifestations in Richard Gilpin.”*

Canon Kenneth Parry preached at Richard’s memorial service in the Cathedral on 6<sup>th</sup> June, and we are grateful to him for allowing us to print part of what he said.

*Richard had always known that he wanted to be ordained. From Prep School in Bude he grew up nursing this vocation and later, following a year at Durham and three years at Lichfield Theological College, he was ordained by Robert Mortimer in 1963 to serve his title in Whipton. This curacy gave him early experience of clerical life and the rich bonus of gaining the hand in marriage of the Rector’s daughter. It was a wonderful and happy marriage. More than that, Marian supported Richard in every aspect of his ministry as she brought up her family and followed her own vocation as a fine teacher.*

*Bearing in mind his strong sense of vocation from childhood, Richard was to become a powerful aid and support to others who felt they had been called to the ministry.*

*He trained eleven curates at Tavistock and they will tell you that they felt well trained by him...for he was wise, generous, patient and humorous.*

*Richard took his preaching ministry seriously and prepared carefully, he knew words have meaning whether we mean that meaning, or not, so choosing words is important.*

*A successful ministry in Tavistock was followed by Bishop Hewlett's decision to appoint Richard as Director of Ordinands and Advisor in Vocations. It was a demanding task, to encourage and assist candidates to discern their true vocation. To help and support those recommended for training and just as important, to counsel and guide those not recommended. As Bishop Hewlett wrote to Marian, "There must have been much electric light used on those evenings."*

*As an Archdeacon, he was well equipped to understand the hopes, the triumphs and disappointments of the parish priest. He knew how many longed for the ability to fill their churches and meet the needs of their people.*

*He had such pleasure in serving and listening to Church Wardens. On one occasion, two spinster ladies, Churchwardens of a country church, made their 'confession' to their Archdeacon. They had recently employed two painters to decorate the church vestry, "nice young men". However, they noticed that the bottle of Communion wine was much depleted on the Sunday. So they set a cunning trap. They said nothing, opened a new bottle, drained out a quantity of wine and poured in a copious draught of Syrup of Figs.*

*"What happened"?* asked Richard. *"Well, they finished the work very abruptly on the Monday and we never saw them again.....Did we do wrong Archdeacon"?* *"Not at all" said Richard as he struggled to arrange his face as seriously as he could.*

*As you would expect, Richard's behaviour was rooted in his Anglican spirituality. He was the kind of Anglican who refused to separate the sacred from the secular, the heart from the head, the individual from the community, the protestant from the catholic, or the Word from the Sacrament.*

*His pastoral sensibility was great. He could absorb the opposition of the narrow minded and the hostility of those whose position was deeply entrenched.*

*Richard loved this place... 'in whose blent air all our compulsions meet' (Larkin)*

*As I think of him now, I see that quizzical eye and that quiet smile, and I remind myself that when Richard was priested the Bishop asked him "Will you maintain and set forward, as much as lieth in you, quietness, peace and love among all Christian people, and especially among them that are, or shall be, committed to your charge?"*

*He answered "I will so do, the Lord being my helper". He said "I will". And I believe he did.*

## **Audacious Generosity!**

This summer I had the great privilege of taking my family to 'Creation Fest' – a wonderful Christian Festival staged at the Royal Cornwall Show Ground. There were bands, talks, seminars, children's groups, skate parks, sports, cafes and much more besides. And it was all free!

In addition to it all being free, there were an army of American volunteers who had come over to work at the event and did so out of a sense of duty in discipleship. They each paid \$3,200 to do so, but gave it willingly because as they said to me 'we are so blessed by what we witness here, we see God's heart for people and we want to be part of it!'

As I sat in the sunshine reading the programme for the event I was further struck by the fact that 71% of the £200,000 required to stage the event was given by churches and individuals in America. Many of those giving would not get to see what happened with their money, but they gave, knowing that it was building God's kingdom. This audacious generosity overwhelmed and challenged me.

I want to be audacious in my generosity for God – with my time, my talents **and** my treasures. Because, regardless of whether I see it or not, my faith tells me that I will be building the Kingdom too.

**Paul Courtney, Development Director**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Courtney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'P' and a long horizontal flourish at the bottom.

## **John Grant**

We were very sorry to hear of the death of John Grant, who was a very loyal member of the Cathedral Voluntary Choir for a great number of years. He sang bass, and also served as Treasurer. His funeral will be at St Thomas Parish Church, Exeter, on 2<sup>nd</sup> September at 2.30pm.

## **Dates for the Diary**

### **Devon Historic Churches Trust Walk & Deanery Prayer Walk 10<sup>th</sup> September**

Please be generous in sponsoring our walkers/cyclists as they seek to visit and pray in as many churches in the Deanery of Christianity as possible, or join them at the Cathedral c10am for prayers and refreshments.

### **Fellowship Visit to Ugbrooke 12.30-5.15pm 15<sup>th</sup> September**

Details are on the Community Noticeboard and lists to sign are available at coffee on Sunday morning. Please join us! A tour of this historic house is booked for 2pm

## **Exhibition: Reflecting Nature**

**Thursday 1st to Friday 30th September 2016 in the Chapter House**

This is an exhibition in the Chapter House that brings together art and science to explore how we respond to natural and artificial stimuli (created by award-winning multimedia artist Mark Ware and psychologist Dr Nichola Street.)

Admission to the exhibition is FREE.

3D banners created by Mark Ware as part of the Cathedra900 project will also be on display in the Nave.

## **Recital: Stephen Beville**

**Saturday 24th September 2016 at 19.30 in the Chapter House (doors 19.00)**

Beethoven - Sonata in D, Op 28 'Pastoral'

Beville - Scenes from Dreams (5 Pieces for Piano)

Schumann - Krieslerianna, Op 16.

**Ticket information.** Tickets £10, available on the door.

## **Heritage Open Days 2016**

Exeter Cathedral is set to offer a limited number of FREE-entry specialist tours as part of this year's Heritage Open Days. The tours, which take place at set times between 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> September 2016, cover a range of topics relating to the Cathedral including stained glass and the historic 'misericords' – carved seats which date back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

Some tours also include free admission to the Cathedral for a more general guided tour of the building, video introduction to the Cathedral's history and free audio tour. **Booking is essential – call 01392 285983 (10.00-16.00 Monday-Friday from 1<sup>st</sup> September).**

For full details please see the Cathedral website.

## **Congratulations!**

More good news of our young people; Hannah Francis had excellent results in her A Levels and is off to Birmingham University to read English and French. She hopes to continue as a serving clerk and working in the Cathedral Café during the holidays. Milly Cohen took her A/S Level Maths a year early and in the two papers achieved marks of 98% and 97%. Many congratulations to them and to their proud parents and grandparents: Alice and Pete, and Clive and June respectively.

## What's On in September

*This is a selection of events in the diary for September. For full details, please see the Cathedral website*

- 1<sup>st</sup> Fabric Advisory Committee
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 2pm Memorial Service for Rachel Partridge
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Exeter Green Fair
- 8<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Matthew Locke Society AGM (chorister parents)
- 10<sup>th</sup> Full Peal of bells  
Devon Community Foundation 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations
- 11<sup>th</sup> 10am Ordination of Deacons; Prison Prayer & Support Group  
4pm Evensong & Installation of Cathedral Musicians  
7pm Holy Ground
- 12<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm Julian Prayer Group in St John Baptist Chapel
- 13<sup>th</sup> 5.30pm Evensong of thanksgiving for the Nave Sanctuary Furniture
- 14<sup>th</sup> *Holy Cross Day*  
5.30pm Solemn Eucharist  
7pm Cathedral Community Committee meeting
- 15<sup>th</sup> 9am Chapter Meeting
- 18<sup>th</sup> 11.30am Morning Prayer and ceremony to mark the anniversary of the  
Battle of Britain  
4pm Evensong and Installation of St Edward's Canons
- 21<sup>st</sup> *Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist*  
5.30pm Solemn Eucharist
- 22<sup>nd</sup> 2.30pm Cathedral Council
- 24<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Piano Recital – Stephen Breville
- 28<sup>th</sup> 2pm Chapter Finance Meeting
- 29<sup>th</sup> *Michael & All Angels*  
5.30pm Solemn Eucharist
- 30<sup>th</sup> 12noon Mothers Union Prayers in the Lady Chapel

**Next Month:** Please send material for the October edition by **Tuesday September 20<sup>th</sup>** to Heather Morgan (01392 877623) [hmm53@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:hmm53@tiscali.co.uk), and Sheila Atkinson [sm.a@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:sm.a@blueyonder.co.uk). The other members of the editorial team are the Venerable Clive Cohen, Rosemary Bethell and Laurence Blyth.