



From the Chair of Chapter

Questions are the answer. In seeking to understand, we should ask good questions. Too often, we can rush to answers without choosing to live with the silence of unanswered questions. Too often, we can assume that our answer is correct, and others are wrong.

We live in a world where we are bombarded with information and news. Seeking certainty amid information overload is a natural human response.

Making sense of events in our world can be a complex process.

The Bible is full of stories of people seeking to make sense of their relationship with God, and with others. The events of Easter raise questions for us as individuals, as a Cathedral Church, as a society, and as a country set in a global community.

What does the passion, death and resurrection of Christ mean to you, and to us? We each need to ponder that question as we live through Holy Week. It is through God's grace, and our practice of prayer, worship, and the study of God's word that we can wrestle with the questions raised by Christ's passion, death and resurrection.

We are not alone in seeking answers. Christians over the centuries have pondered the meaning of the resurrection. Our Bible, prayers and liturgy are testament to their reflections on God's love, hope and compassion, expressed through the events of Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Day. May God give you fresh hope this Easter Day.

Revd Canon Dr Mike D Williams

The Reverend Canon Dr Mike Williams

Canon Mike Williams is the Chair of Chapter, while Dean Jonathan is on sabbatical prior to his retirement in August.

Mike is an experienced leader in the NHS, Church of England and the charitable sector.

Mike has been a Director and Chief Executive in hospitals in Exeter, Taunton and Oxford and held other senior regional positions. Most recently he was a non-executive director in Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust (finished Sept 2016) where he led on quality and patient safety having completed a PhD in patient safety in 2011. He started his career in 1976 as an officer in the Royal Marines leaving the Corp in 1983 to study theology. He joined the NHS in 1986.

He was ordained in 1992 after two years full-time training at Ripon College, Cuddesdon in Oxford. He has a BA and MA in Theology and Christian Spirituality respectively. During a period of stipendiary ministry, he helped design and deliver a leadership development programme for clergy in the Oxford Diocese. He trained in coaching and organisational consulting with Ashridge College. More recently, he has assisted the senior staff in the Diocese of Exeter in the areas human resources for clergy, financial management, and strategic planning. He is a mentor and coach within the Diocese. His theological interests are in holiness, Christian spirituality, and how Christianity can make sense in our society.

Living in Oxford in 1999 – 2004, he took on the role of founding Chair of SeeSaw, a child bereavement charity. In 2005 -2012, he became a national trustee for the British Legion and a trustee of the National Memorial Arboretum. He was a member of the Parole Board for a short period. Currently, he is a trustee of Exeter Network Church.

Most of Mike's ministry has been self-supporting whilst working in the NHS, or, more recently, as an academic at Exeter University, where he taught on organisational leadership and patient safety. He has served in the Topsham and Wear Mission Community for nine years, and in 2015 moved to Budleigh Salterton. Bishop Robert appointed Mike to be a non-resident self-supporting Residentiary Canon of the Cathedral in November 2016.

Mike is married to Gilly, whom he met when he was in the Royal Marines. They have two children, Jason and Hannah, who live locally, and three grandchildren, with another due at the end of April.

Chapter Bulletin March 2017

1. Moving forward

Chapter agreed four priority areas for us to focus on over the next 6 – 9 months.

- Business as usual as much as possible;
- Working with our staff to set objectives, provide support and leadership;
- Create opportunities for our congregations and volunteers to reflect on God's trust, hope and compassion through times of prayer, discussion and listening;
- Completing the requirements of the Bishop's Charge.

Discussions about the how we take these priorities forward will take place through staff meetings, volunteer gatherings, the Cathedral Community Committee and the Cathedral Council.

2. Chapter changes

With regret Chapter noted the planned retirement of the Dean and the resignation of the Canon Precentor. Chapter Canon Dame Suzi Leather has decided that her recent appointment as the Chair of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education means that she no longer has the time to commit to Chapter and has resigned. The skills and input of all three members will be missed.

Canon Ian Morter attended his final Chapter meeting. His great knowledge and compassion will be a real loss to us all. His final service will be on the 7th May at 10am with a farewell afterwards in the Chapter House.

Canon Dr Mike Williams was elected to be Chair of Chapter whilst the Dean is on sabbatical and until other arrangements are put in place. Bishop Martin Shaw now attends Chapter in his role as Acting Precentor.

John Endacott, head of tax at South West based chartered accountancy firm PKF Francis Clark, has been appointed by Bishop Robert as a Chapter Canon. John has been a member of the Cathedral congregation for the last two years since re-locating from Truro to Exeter. Previously he was Churchwarden and Treasurer of St George the Martyr in the Diocese of Truro.

Preb Becky Totterdell, who will be known to many of you as the Diocesan Director of Ordinands, has been appointed by Bishop Robert to also serve as a Residentiary Canon.

Both these roles are voluntary. A date for their installation will be announced shortly.

3. Staff changes

The overspend in our operational budget and the requirements of the Bishops Charge led Chapter to decide in February to make some posts at risk of redundancy and to offer voluntary redundancy to staff. The outcome of that process is that Paul Courtney, the Development Director and Matt Mahoney, the Volunteer Manager and Steve Robey the Facilities Manager have taken redundancy. Consultations continue with two other members of staff. We are grateful to them for their work and dedication to the Cathedral and express our regret that their posts have been made redundant.

Chapter wishes to make clear that we are not planning to make further redundancies.

4. Financial position

The accounts for 2016 are nearly complete. They show that our core operational budget overspent by over £300K (having discounted legacies and revaluation of investments). As set out last month, legacies should be used for one off investments in our future rather than plugging a hole in the budget. Actions taken in holding posts and the redundancies will reduce our costs and allow us to achieve a sustainable position for 2018.

The impact on individuals is not underestimated and we are sorry that such actions have been necessary. It is recognised that we cannot maintain our previous ways of working with reduced staffing. We will be working with staff and volunteers to find ways forward.

5. Grants for 2017

We are extremely grateful for the ongoing support from The Friends of Exeter Cathedral who are making available funds of over £300K and the Music Foundation are providing over £140K. The Exeter Cathedral Preservation Trust is making a grant of £23K. Their generous support is very much appreciated.

6. Re-accreditation of the Library and Archive

Canon Ann Barwood and her dedicated team have achieved the reaccreditation of the Library and Archive from the National Archives. This is great news and a substantial achievement and is testament to their hard work. Exeter is the only Cathedral in the UK to hold Accredited Archive status.

<http://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/content/homepage-news/announcement-of-accredited-archive-status-renewal.ashx>

7. Health and Safety

The Cathedral has appointed the Nat West Mentor scheme to provide us with Health and Safety advice. There remains considerable work to be done as noted in the recent independent Audit Report of our Health and Safety performance. We all need to be aware of our individual and collective responsibilities and to act where appropriate to reduce risks or draw them to the attention of a manager.

8. Safeguarding

Chapter received the monthly report and approved the policy for the safer recruitment of choir substitutes and occasional musicians.

Rev Canon Dr Mike D Williams, Chair of Chapter

Elizabeth Searle is running the London Marathon – again!

Elizabeth writes,

For the last 5 years I have run marathons for Hospiscare, and once again this year I have a 'good for age' place (74 years!) in the London Marathon. The total for my five marathons is £31,719. This year is a bit special as I will be running the Marathon on April 23rd, the day after our 50th wedding anniversary. John and I agreed that I would still run and postpone the celebrations so that Hospiscare would still benefit! If you are able to help I would be so grateful.

You can donate on line to Hospiscare at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Liz-Searle2017. If you would rather give by cash or a cheque please ask me or John for a sponsorship form. Thank you so much.

Cathedral Community Roll-urgent!

If you worship or work as a volunteer regularly in the Cathedral, or are a parent of a student at Exeter Cathedral School, you are eligible to be on the Cathedral Community Roll. If you are not yet on the Roll, please act quickly in order to participate in the imminent elections to the Cathedral Council, Cathedral Community Committee, and Christianity Deanery Synod. Forms are available from the Cathedral Office, or from the entry desk in the Cathedral.

Welcome!

John Endacott : Chapter Canon



John heads up the tax practice at PKF Francis Clark and has particular expertise in owner managed businesses. He principally advises business owners and private individuals in respect of their financial and tax affairs. John is a national expert and one of the most qualified accountants and tax advisers in the South West.

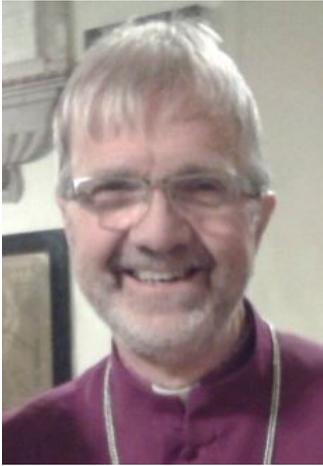
John acts as a trustee and executor in contentious family situations, including court appointments. He also has considerable experience of the operation of church and heritage charities. John is a national Council Member of the Chartered Institute of Taxation, Treasurer of Exeter Cathedral Preservation Trust and Chairman of Victoria County History of Cornwall. He has previously been Churchwarden and Treasurer of St George the Martyr in Truro as well as Treasurer of Cornwall Leukaemia Fund and Friends of Bosvigo School Association.

John read Accountancy at Cardiff University before qualifying as a Chartered Accountant in general practice in South Wales. He then specialised in tax at Coopers & Lybrand in Bristol and KPMG in Bristol and Exeter. After the closure of the Exeter office of KPMG, John moved back to Truro where he grew up and joined Winter Rule in 1997 which subsequently merged with Francis Clark in 2011. In 2014, John re-located from Truro office to Exeter as part of taking over responsibility for the overall tax practice of the firm.

John is a Fellow of both the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales and also of the Chartered Institute of Taxation having obtained the latter through by submission of a thesis on capital gains tax. John also has a background in wider financial advice having previously qualified as an independent financial adviser.

John has written widely in the professional tax press and was awarded the accolade of “Tax Writer of the Year” at the Tolley’s Taxation Awards 2012. He is particularly well known for his book “Furnished Holiday Lettings: A Tax Guide” and also lectures nationally on tax matters.

John is married to Peggy and has three daughters (Sophie, Josie & Katie). He lives in central Exeter very close to the Cathedral. Whilst he was born in London and has spent most of his life in Truro, John comes from good Devon stock with his grandfather having left Devon to join the Metropolitan Police.



Bishop Martin Shaw : Acting Precentor

Martin was ordained priest in 1969. After curacies in Glasgow and Edinburgh, he was Rector of Holy Trinity, Dunoon. Martin and his family came to Exeter Cathedral in 1981 as Succentor, after which he became the Diocesan Missioner. In 1989, he became the Adviser on Spirituality in the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. In 2002, Martin returned to King's College Cambridge, where he had been Chaplain in the 1970s, to take responsibilities as Dean. Martin was a Residentiary Canon and Precentor of St Edmundsbury Cathedral before he returned to Scotland as Bishop of Argyll and The Isles in 2004.

Retiring in 2009, he then came to Exeter as an Assistant Bishop, mainly involved in Spiritual Direction. Recently he took on the work of the Precentor of the Cathedral. Martin is a singer and writes on spirituality. He is married to Elspeth, with a son Ben, who was a chorister in Exeter Cathedral in the 1980s, now running his own Event Management business. His daughter Madeleine, and Eammon his son-in-law are singers.

Elections to the Cathedral Council, Cathedral Community Committee and Christianity Deanery Synod

Shortly after Easter, nomination forms for elections to the Cathedral Council, the Cathedral Community Committee and Christianity Deanery Synod will be sent by email or post to all those on the Cathedral Community Roll.

Both the Cathedral Council and the Cathedral Community Committee play an important, statutory role in the life and mission of the Cathedral. This is a timely opportunity to refresh the membership of both bodies, bearing in mind their respective responsibilities, as suggested by Bishop Robert in his Visitation Charge. He also observed that if the Cathedral Community Committee is to be an effective body "it is important that it is genuinely representative of the Cathedral Community and its congregations".

I would therefore encourage you to participate fully, and prayerfully, in these elections.

Canon Mike Williams, Chair of Chapter

Bach : St John Passion - Monday 10th April 2017 at 7pm

A devotional performance (sung in German) by the Cathedral Choir and specialist baroque ensemble Charivari Agréable directed by Timothy Noon

The practice of presenting the Passion as part of the Holy Week witness was established in the time of Pope Leo the Great in the fifth century AD. From the earliest sources it is clear that a dramatic distinction between crowd, the Evangelist (narrator) and the other characters was drawn, and by the twelfth century there is evidence of musical notation being used to determine pitches.

By the eighteenth century, passion setting had evolved into a dramatic form with much in common with the oratorio: Bach writes a vibrant and demanding part for chorus and characters with clearly differentiated musical styles. The Evangelist's part in the St John Passion is composed as 'secco' recitative (a speech-like narrative style, accompanied only by the continuo section), yet moments of intense drama and poignancy are communicated with relatively sparse means. Bach does not attempt at all to sanitise the horrific reality of the death of Christ, but instead fashions a deeply moving and cathartic experience through his hugely imaginative and memorable score.

Bach's St. John Passion was first performed in 1724 and is composed for conventional forces of soloists, chorus and orchestra. Our performance is presented in collaboration with the Oxford based period instrument ensemble, *Charivari Agréable*, and a first-class line up of soloists, including rising star, Ruairi Bowen (Evangelist). The Gospel story is told, in German, by the Evangelist and solo singers, and arias and chorales fit between the dramatic action, using poetry from a variety of sources (the compiler of the text is unknown).

The work opens with an extraordinarily beautiful, melancholic opening chorus, which is a plea addressed to Jesus. It is tonally unsettling, yet uplifting, and sets the tone for a bold composition of apparent spontaneity which belies its careful construction. In Second Part, the chorus really finds its teeth, portraying the crowd calling for the execution of Jesus with particularly vicious, spiteful music featuring rising chromatic scales and a whirlwind of strings.

The latter stages of the work have a remarkable sense of momentum, with the action driving forward to Jesus's death on the cross. Thereafter, time appears to stand still for the heartrending aria, 'Es ist vollbracht' ('The end has come'), allowing a prolonged period of reflection which includes the tender 'Ruht wohl' ('Rest well'), a closing chorus (before a final chorale) which forms a structural parallel with the work's opening.

In the same manner as John's Gospel itself, Bach's score has an otherworldly beauty, strong conviction, and a deep sense of the poetic.

Skittles Challenge: Adults of the Cathedral Choir v. Cathedral Virgers & Servers

The venue chosen for this magnificent challenge was The New Inn, Broadclyst on Friday 24th March. Both sides managed to put together a team of thirteen. The battle started just after 7.30pm with the two captains (Gordon Pike and Alan Drew) leading the way. John Turner very kindly agreed to keep the score. At the end of round two the score were level.

At that point the buffet arrived, which everyone seemed to enjoy, and there was plenty of conversation. Recharged with both food and liquid, round three passed by very quickly. Gordon Pike managed to knock down only 3 of the 9. However, that was not the worst performance of the round. Michael Graham sent two of the three balls down the alley and they missed the skittles completely: the third ball just managed to touch one skittle which toppled over very reluctantly. Michael seemed very excited by this, and got the biggest cheer of the night. In contrast, Louise Spencer of the Servers had never played skittles before, but managed to knock down 16 skittles with three balls. She was amazed, but the rest of us thought she had natural flair.

During the final round the lead kept changing, and the atmosphere was full of excitement. The Virgers & Servers did their best, but the adults of the Choir came out on top. Alan and Gordon would like to thank everyone for making this a night to remember.

The winning team devoured the prize, a box of chocolates, before we left the alley. The highest individual female scorer was Becky Titchin, who really surprised herself, and everyone else! The highest individual male scorer was John Turner. Alan brought a wooden spoon for the person with the lowest score and if you have followed this report, you will know it was presented to Michael Graham.

The evening was a great success and the two captains have decided this could become an annual event, and be opened to other groups in the Cathedral Community.

Alan Drew (Head Server), Gordon Pike (Punctator)

Congratulations!

Congratulations and best wishes to Elizabeth and John Searle, who celebrate their Golden Wedding on 22nd April; and to Laura Cookman (manager of the Cathedral Café) and Rob Escott, who will be married in the Cathedral on 29th April.

Exeter Cathedral Society of Ringers

Although the Cathedral bells can be heard ringing regularly for our Monday night practices and Sunday services, April is a particularly busy month in our calendar.

On Saturday 1st April, a visiting band of ringers from Birmingham will be attempting a full peal, so do enjoy listening. Our fine, heavy ring of twelve bells are popular with ringers from around the country seeking a challenge, and the peal will take up to four and a half hours to complete successfully.

The Cathedral bells will fall silent during Holy Week, until the local ringers herald Easter morning by ringing out joyously across the city at 7am. Later a quarter peal will call everyone to worship at the Choral Eucharist. Also in April, the bells will be rung specially to mark the Queen's birthday on Friday 21st, and St George's Day on Sunday 23rd.

Finally, as I write this, the Cathedral ringers are preparing to compete in Sheffield for the National 12 Bell Striking Competition eliminators. If successful, they will then ring in the final at Southwark Cathedral in June. They are pictured below. Wish them luck!

Clare Griffiths, Secretary, Cathedral Bellringers

Ed. Our team came first in their eliminator at Sheffield-congratulations!



The Team: Front (left to right) – Ian Avery, Paul Pascoe, Sue Sawyer, Alison Waterson, Jenny Sparling, Pauline Champion.

Back (left to right) – John Martin, Ian Smith, Tom Waterson, Oliver Coldrick, David Hird, Matthew Hilling.



Kate, Christine and Chryssa with their “thank you” gifts

Thank you Chryssa. Kate and Christine!

A huge thank you to Chryssa Turner, who ended 20 years' service as overall co-ordinator of Cloister Club and CYPEX at the AGM in March. The children of the Cloister Club presented Chryssa with flowers after Choral Eucharist on Sunday 5th March. Thanks also to Kate De Brett who has stepped down from the role of Secretary, and to Chris Lethbridge who has undertaken many of the additional administrative tasks required of all volunteer groups in recent years.

Canon Ian Morter: From the Chairs of Chapter and the Cathedral Community Committee

The Cathedral's farewell to Canon Ian Morter will be on Sunday 7th May after Choral Eucharist. It is hoped that there will be a large congregation on this occasion, including people from the parishes in which Ian has served during his ministry in this diocese. There will be a presentation to him, as a sign of our gratitude for his outstanding contribution to the life of the Cathedral. We hope that as many people as possible will contribute.

Please either send donations to the Finance Department, Cathedral Office, 1 The Cloisters, Exeter EX1 1HS, or deliver the envelope in person to Reception in the Cathedral Office.

Please mark the envelope 'Canon Morter Gift', and make cheques payable to 'The Dean and Chapter of Exeter'.

Mike Williams, Heather Morgan

Albion String Quartet : 3rd May 7pm - Death and the Maiden

Austrian composer Franz Schubert is considered one of the great composers of the 19th century. Despite his short life and career (he died, officially of typhoid fever, before his 32nd birthday) he was prolific in his output.

Among over 600 works for solo voice and piano is the 1817 song “Der Tod und das Mädchen” (Death and the Maiden), a setting of words by the 18th century German poet Matthius Claudius.

It was in 1824, having suffered a serious illness and perhaps in recognition of his own impending death, that Schubert took the melody from the song and used it as the basis of the second movement of his String Quartet no.14 in D minor.

Now at the heart of the genre, this quartet will feature in a programme of music by the Albion Quartet who perform at the Cathedral as part of this year’s Honeymoon Festival (Wednesday 3rd May at 7pm). The quartet brings together violinist (and the Honeymoon Festival’s Artistic Director) Tamsin Waley-Cohen, Emma Parker (violin), Rosalind Ventriss (viola) and Nathaniel Boyd (cello).

With a wealth of prior experience in some of the UK’s foremost ensembles, they have enjoyed numerous competition successes between them, including first prize winners of the Melbourne and Florence International Chamber Music Competitions, and awards from the Lionel Tertis International Viola Competition, Borletti-Buitoni Trust and ECHO Rising Stars.

The programme also includes Haydn String Quartet Op.76, No.3 'Emperor' and Schumann String Quartet Op.41, No.1. Tickets (£20, including a drinks reception after the concert) are available from the Visitors’ Office, 01392 285983 (Monday to Friday) and [exeter-cathedral.org.uk/box office](http://exeter-cathedral.org.uk/box-office)

Laurence Blyth

Mary Carr

The Cathedral Community was deeply shocked and saddened by the death of Mary Carr in the early hours of 28th March. Mary was a tapisser for 35 years, and leader of the textile group since 1993. She designed and made many of the beautiful vestments, banners and altar frontals that are used each week in the Cathedral; for instance the Mary and Peter Banners which will be carried in procession on Easter Day.

Mary was involved in many other areas of Cathedral life and at all times could be relied on for her kindness, good humour and robust common sense. She will be greatly missed. There will be a full obituary in the May edition of the News. Meanwhile, our thoughts and prayers are with her children, grandchildren and her many friends.

The Emmaus Project

Here is another report on how the Cathedral Community spends the 10% of our planned giving that we give to external charities. The Cathedral's Outward Giving Committee decides who to give this money to. Last financial year we donated £9800, distributed among several charities, broadly grouped into projects in which the Cathedral is directly involved, local and diocesan initiatives, and to national charities.

One of the organisations that we have supported over a number of years is the Emmaus project. It is a national charity with the aim of "working together to end homelessness". In fact, it started in France in 1949 to address post-war homelessness there. However, it is organised regionally, and we have contributed to a community in Cornwall.

Much of the traditional support that is available for homeless people is only able to provide a bed for the night, and a hot meal, but the next morning they are back on the streets again. This doesn't necessarily give the individual the opportunity to address the root cause of their homelessness, and find a long term way to overcome it. Emmaus tries to do more: They don't just offer a bed for the night, they offer a home for as long as someone needs it, as well as meaningful work in social enterprises. This opportunity, to become part of a community and make a contribution to it, plays an important role in restoring self-esteem, and helping companions to find a way to overcome homelessness in the long term.

If you would like more information about the project, the website is www.emmaus.org.uk

Martin Bowles
Cathedral Outward Giving Committee

Outward Giving Committee 22nd April 2017

The Outward Giving Committee will meet on 22nd April to consider which external charities will receive grants from the 10% of Planned Giving that we reserve for outward giving. If you would like to suggest any local, diocesan or national charities, activities or good causes (preferably Christian in character) to be one of the beneficiaries, please contact a member of the committee.

An urgent grant of £500 has already been made to the DEC appeal for East Africa.

Ian Morter, Martin Bowles, Alice Francis, Rachel Bennett, Heather Morgan



Women's World Day of Prayer

Thank you to Canon Victoria, the staff of the Cathedral, and all the organisers and helpers from Women's World Day of Prayer, for making the service on Friday 3rd March such a success. There were over 100 women, plus a smattering of men, present from churches and denominations all over Exeter. The theme of the service was 'Are we being fair to you?' It had been devised by the women of the Philippine Islands and so we were especially lucky to have had four women from these islands, very willing and able to take part in the service, where they read stories of the different aspects of life in their islands. Thank you also to Tim Parsons for playing the organ, and Julia Featherstone for singing beautifully and hauntingly from the organ loft. Refreshments were served afterwards in the Chapter House, and included some Filipino mini coconut muffins, which proved very popular and rounded off the whole experience.

Chris Lethbridge

Tales from the Foodbank No 23 A Big Thank You

In the run-up to Christmas, Exeter Foodbank provided food parcels for 403 people in just one week. We were able to meet this demand thanks to the tremendous generosity of local people, who donated 12,000+Kg of food in December 2016 alone!

The next Cathedral Foodbank collection will be on Sunday 23rd April.

Felicity Cawthra



**Focus: Ian Morter,
Canon Pastor and Treasurer**

*'In thy house, great God, we offer of thine own to thee;
And for thine acceptance proffer, all unworthily,
Hearts and minds and hands and voices,
In our choicest Psalmody.'*

Francis Pott 1832- 1909

After nearly seven years as the Canon Pastor & Treasurer, Ian is approaching his retirement from these responsibilities. Where did it all start?

'To begin, at the beginning.'

Ian is an Essex man, having been born in Walthamstow, now part of Greater London. He spent many hours walking or cycling through Epping Forest with family members or friends. His father was an electrical engineer, and during the war worked in the Mediterranean and off the coast of Africa, laying cables from a Merchant Navy ship for Cable & Wireless. His mother was a shirt machinist for a company in Jermyn Street, London. His father died at the age of 61, and his mother relatively recently at the age of 89. His sister lives in London.

Ian's first school was the local primary school, transferring, when eleven years old, to the William Morris High School in Walthamstow, which was in the first tranche of comprehensive schools in the country. After taking and passing his O Levels, he went to work at the Gerrard Trust Bank, a Philadelphia-based company in the City of London. He started his AIB (Associate of the Institute of Bankers) exams but, after two years, decided that he wanted to go to university, and for that he needed some A Levels; so he went and studied at evening classes at his local Technical College. Having secured his A Levels, he applied for and was awarded a place at King's College London to study Theology. On this course, he discovered that half of the students were young ordinands! At this point, I wondered if Ian had any inkling then that he would become a priest.

'My parents had always encouraged me to go to church. I was confirmed when I was twelve, and used to sing in the choir. During the Nineteen Seventies, there was a year-long course entitled Seventy for the Seventies; it's where I met-up with one Robert Atwell! The next year, I encouraged other young people from the church to attend. In the next year, I was, also, given the opportunity to experience the nature of Christian vocation; this made it possible to be alongside differing ministries. It was during this period of 'discernment', that I decided not to stay with international banking.'

Ian found studying for this Theology Degree hard work.

'I struggled plus-plus with Greek! I just scraped through; I could see why it was vital to study the New Testament in Greek, but, lucky for me, they'd dropped compulsory Hebrew the year before! Looking back, after some years, I realised just how outstanding those teachers were!'

Ian's mind was now firmly fixed on training for ordination. He looked at St. Stephen's College in Oxford, but decided to go to the College of the Resurrection at Mirfield, where the syllabus was broadly-based for a catholic ministry in the Church of England.

St Stephen's was rather higher up the candle!'

He enjoyed Mirfield with its monastic discipline, and loved the plainsong at the daily choral evensong. He'd lived in the Theological hostel whilst at King's, and where it had also been quite spiritually disciplined, so it was not such a huge change when he got to Mirfield.

How do you prepare for ministry?

'The Spiritual Director would question you. It was compulsory to keep to the Rule of Life; and you were monitored and regulated. It has served me well over the years; a framework for the day, even right up to today. Being part of this choral tradition was the cherry-on-the-cake. A collegiate church enables you to enjoy worship and get your own spiritual tank re-filled; not just about thinking about how to fill-up other people's tanks! But always in my mind there was a constant niggle; was I good enough?'

Ian went on placement to a parish church just outside Huddersfield, where he was required to lead in the services and preach. It could be very intense, with his only day-off on Saturdays. It was so very different from home. On these Saturdays, he visited the Peak District, and cities like Liverpool and York. Sometimes he went to the pub!

In 1978, Ian was ordained and started his first curacy at St. James's the Great church in Colchester, which is a town centre church with a catholic tradition. It was in the London commuter area, with the University of Essex based there, so there were contrasting housing estates, for professionals and council tenants. There was, also, a Church School, a Church of England Home for un-married women and girls with their babies. At this time, many men-of-the-road, or tramps as they were then known, came to the church for food. It was a very interesting and challenging first appointment.

In 1982, Ian became the Senior Curate in Brixham in Torbay; then when it became a Team Ministry, Ian was appointed Team Vicar based at St. Mary's, Higher Brixham.

'This was a complete change of scene and demands. Here there was a huge fishing fleet, holiday camps, retired people relocating from elsewhere; a diverse congregation made-up from long-standing local families and incomers. In this tightly integrated community, I had to learn fast how to meet their needs by providing a more broadly based church. We had Harvest of the Sea services, opened the church to the thousands who holidayed, and held Songs of Praise down on the quay. I loved it, learned a lot, and so enjoyed working with the laity. We put on pantomimes, and once I was Buttons in Cinderella! It was here that Hilary and I got married.'

In 1986, they moved to Sidmouth, when Ian was appointed the Team Vicar of St. Francis's church, Woolbrook, and this was where their two children were born. This was another parish with great contrasts.

'It was the best facilitated church I've ever worked in; with a school next door, a car park, a church hall, and a vicarage all in a single campus! There was a large social aspect to life. We did potted-spoof-pantomimes 'Cinderfred, a badly treated man'! I used to direct, until a retired professional came to live in Sidmouth, and took over the role.'

About nine years later, Ian began to think about seeking new pastures; he had a talk with Prebendary John Mapson, who pointed out to Ian that he had not done any real rural ministry. Bishop Hewlett asked him to look at the parishes of Exminster and Kenn, and to meet the churchwardens and the patron. This he did, and so in 1995 the family moved to live in Exminster.

There were huge changes occurring in Exminster following-on from the closure of Exminster Psychiatric Hospital; the lands had been released for building development, but the hospital buildings were being left empty, which caused huge resentments because there was now no real employment, and it had become a form of dormitory town with all the new houses. The school really benefited here because their pupil numbers rose once the houses were built and families moved-in.

Kenn, however, was still very much a country village, with five farms; an agricultural community. Their daughter Chloe went to Kenn Village School; Ian took her daily and so got to know the other parents doing the same. He also became a school governor.

'I became very connected at Kenn & Clapham. I loved it; I was their Rector, and they knew who I was even if they didn't come to church! Five years went by, and the opportunity to go to Exmouth was presented. It was not exactly an expected move! But, two different friends persuaded me to apply when Father Ken Middleton was due to retire. We had some knowledge of Exmouth because we

visited the beaches at Sandy Bay, and Exmouth Swimming Pool with the children.'

Ian was successful at the interview, and so in October 2000, Ian moved to Exmouth. Sadly, after only one year Hilary decided to return to Exminster, and Ian would see Joel and Chloe on Saturdays, and they stayed with him during the school holidays. It was not an easy time.

'Exmouth was an exciting parish, because my predecessor, Ken Middleton had, with the support of the PCC, started The Open Door Centre, which specialised in giving support, and the provision of lunches to the homeless, disadvantaged people, and those with mental health issues and/or substance abuse. It was also a designated Safe Place for a parent to meet their child or children under a Care Order. We ran literacy courses. I appointed David Lay as a full-time manager; it became an Ecumenical Project, and an independent charity. During my last year, I became acquainted again with a country parish, at Lymptone, which I enjoyed immensely. There were intellectual and personal challenges, too, with my being a school governor and chaplain to the cottage hospital. It was very fulfilling, but ten years in one place is enough! Parishes need a fresh vision!'

Following discussions with the Archdeacon of Exeter, and with a vacancy for the Canon Treasurer/Canon Pastor at the Cathedral, Ian applied for, and was appointed to that role. Chloe came to live with him in The Close.

'At my interview, I say I got the sympathy vote, because at the time I was still on crutches having recently broken my hip!

This was a much bigger stage, a huge upheaval and was very daunting. I was supported by good colleagues, and the then Canon Carl Turner was so helpful with the liturgy. These were interesting times, with Dean Meyrick going on a sabbatical, and then leaving to become a bishop. Carl became Acting Dean, Canons Anna Norman-Walker and Andrew Godsall had part-time roles at the Cathedral, and the late Archdeacon Richard Gilpin helped greatly with the Precentorial responsibilities. We had Occupy Exeter sit-in on the Cathedral Green!

It is the vastness of the portfolios - baptisms, weddings, funerals; pastoral care of the congregations, volunteers and staff; the running of minor trusts, the Cathedral School governorship, Chapter's patronage of many parishes in the Diocese, as well as managing the fabric of the building, its goods and ornaments. I'm involved with the more practical side as I am responsible for the church plate (the gold and silver vessels used in worship), making certain it is in best order; I'm consulted by the Tapisers, Textile Group and White (linen)

Workers regarding the commissioning of new projects and the repair of current items. It's very challenging dealing with governance, mentally and physically.

But, it has been and is such a joy being part of the family here; seeing the choir and choristers daily, preparing them for their first communion, and with the general pastoral role with the school.'

Do you think this man has had time for anything else? Well, yes! He has!

Ian has a passion for art, spending his Sabbatical studying it. He visits galleries in London and overseas when the opportunity arises. He likes the works of modern artists. Opera and Ballet are other passions, attending performances by Glyndebourne and the Welsh National Opera, and the Royal Ballet whenever possible; he has seen all the ballets choreographed by Michael Bourne. Recently, Chloe persuaded him to see more films, for example, the film Viceroy's House. So he's an eclectic, and according to him, not averse to reading some 'trash' novels! He likes food, and enjoys cooking it to share with family and friends.

'I hope to do a lot more experimental cooking! It's not all cerebral. I swim daily and used to be a crew member on a friend's racing yacht off Exmouth and further afield off Croatia and the Greek Islands, and, also, when we sailed in the Antigua Regatta.'

But, in a little while Ian's responsibilities at the Cathedral will come to an end. How does that feel?

'I'm going to miss many aspects from the last thirty-nine years; being able to serve God through his people, and especially in this magnificent building with all its craftsmanship, daily worship, wonderful music from the organ, the choirs, the congregations, and the moving prayers.

I hope to explore the painter side of me! Just to see what happens! I need more physical activity; I now have a garden to enjoy working in, and there, perhaps, to read the odd psychological thriller, with a glass of wine!'

Thank you, Ian for being just you. We wish you every blessing and "Bon Voyage".

Rosemary Bethell

Cathedral Council

Bishop Robert has appointed two new members of the Cathedral Council - Gavin Hall and Anne Foreman. They succeed Robin Barlow and Betty d'Erlanger respectively. To Betty and Robin, our sincere thanks for their service in this important role.

A First for the Cathedral Mothers' Union!

Following their debut as coffee-makers after the 10.00 am service on March 5th, Mary Moore declared that the Cathedral Mother's Union had passed their test, could lose their L plates, and have another session later in the year. So look out for us again on May 21st and thank you everyone for their patience with the 'learners'.

Chris Lethbridge



The MU Coffee Team ready for action

20@70

In April, David Barlow, one of the Cathedral Virgers will be seventy. To mark what he describes as “this scary event”, on 29th April David intends to do a speed walk of twenty miles to raise money for Sense, the charity for deaf blind children. David has asked the Cathedral Community to raise awareness of this charity, and to help him raise funds for these children by giving generously to sponsor his walk. If you would like to make a donation, please go to www.justgiving.com/fundraising/David-Barlow15.

Next Month: Please send material for the May edition by Friday 21st April to Heather Morgan (01392 877623) hmm53@tiscali.co.uk, and Sheila Atkinson sm.a@blueyonder.co.uk. The other members of the editorial team are the Venerable Clive Cohen, Rosemary Bethell and Laurence Blyth.

Prebendary Harry Rann (1918-2017)



Many members of the Cathedral Community, past and present, attended the funeral of Harry Rann at Kenton Parish Church on 4th March. This was no surprise, because although he left his post at the Cathedral in 1977, the legacy of his ministry here remains, not least in those who were brought into its life and worship by Harry's pastoral gifts, and the warmth of the hospitality extended by both Harry and Ruth, especially to students.

In this photograph, we see Harry in characteristic pose at the door of 6A The Close in 1976.

We are grateful to his family for permission to quote from the tribute they prepared, read at the funeral by Father Stephen Hoyle

The family arrived in Exeter in 1962, straight from, in Ruth's words, 'industrial Lancashire'. Harry was appointed Dean's Chaplain, to do free-lance pastoral work amongst visitors and young people, the first such cathedral appointment in the country. At the same time, he became Chaplain to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, in the days when it was located in Southernhay, close by the Cathedral.

Harry was successively appointed Sacrist, and then Succentor of the Cathedral and as such was responsible for the ordering of services, including the enthronement of Bishop Mercer and the Royal visit by the Queen Mother. In addition, Harry redesigned the Christmas Eve Grandisson service to the much-loved style it is today. Harry, along with his great friend Ron Melhuish, Head Virger, would often be seen pacing out the timing of an event to ensure that it went off with military precision.

One of his other colleagues of the time specifically recalls Harry's great forte was the big occasion, involving lots of ceremonial and processions; 'He was a master at that. Everything was meticulously rehearsed so that it all worked smoothly on the day.' Rehearsals, conducted with a lightness of touch and humour, were apparently sometimes concluded by a well-earned team trip to Tinley's tea shop nearby. Harry's then small daughters well remember the annual Epiphany Pageant, when they, along with other Cathedral children had great fun dressing up as pages and processing round the Cathedral.

Meanwhile, the pastoral work continued, and there was much burning of midnight oil and drinking of coffee with students from St Lukes, discussing the Christian faith, in the sitting room at Barnfield Road. Many of them have kept in touch ever since and have remained in Harry's thoughts.

May 1977, saw a complete change of scene, with a move to a country parish. Harry, as the new Vicar, together with Ruth and Kate, and Libby when she was home from university, were warmly welcomed by the residents of Colyton in East Devon. The next eleven years were busier than ever. Harry became Rector of the Colyton Team Ministry, with six parishes and seven churches, Rural Dean, and in 1984, Prebendary of Exeter Cathedral

Not long before his 70th birthday, Harry with Ruth, moved to Bridford on the edge of Dartmoor. For Harry this was his 'retirement' in name but not necessarily in practice.

In 2006 and Harry and Ruth were on the move again, with Ruth now priested, to the parish of Kenton and this beautiful church. Harry started to take his retirement more seriously, though still enjoyed getting involved in parish life and supporting Ruth in her duties as Priest in Charge.

When Harry arrived in Devon he was already in his mid-forties. Harry, the eldest of five, was born in Southsea, just before the end of the First World War. In 1924, the family moved to Lacock in Wiltshire; a time he remembered fondly and often talked of.

As a very young man, already quite certain of his vocation, Harry was amongst the many whose plans were interrupted by the Second World War. Shortly after his 21st birthday, he was called up and joined the Yorkshire Regiment, The Green Howards, who were eventually deployed to France. After heavy fighting in Northern France, Harry spent three days on the beaches of Dunkirk, surviving on plain chocolate, before being rescued on the Lady of Mann. He especially remembered the huge piles of sandwiches and mugs of hot tea laid on by the WRVS for their arrival at Folkestone.

Harry went on to serve under 'Monty' in North Africa and then Italy through to the end of the war. While still in Italy he attended selection board for the

priesthood and after being demobbed, started his training at Salisbury Theological College. Harry was priested on 20th May 1951 and served his first curacy in Victoria Docks in the East End of London and then the following year, moved to Christchurch Priory.

A decision to take a later train that day, while visiting a friend in Salisbury, resulted in a chance encounter with his future wife. Ruth and Harry were married on 11th September 1954, and Libby arrived the following year. Subsequent moves saw the three of them head to John Keble Church in Mill Hill, London and then much further north to a parish in Bury, Lancashire, where Kate was born.

In the last five years, despite being in his nineties, dogged determination kept Harry living on in his own home, supported by Libby and Kate and the kind-hearted carers from Pinewood Homecare. He thoroughly enjoyed lively visits by his great-grandsons, Daniel and Adam, and visits from all four of his grandchildren, especially when they came armed with goodies like cream teas, pizza, and Dart's Farm fish and chips.

Harry will be remembered for many things, but above all surely, as a natural people person. He remained to the end, a strong man, with an impish grin and sense of humour, that made for good company and could set strangers at ease.

May he rest in peace.

Canon Victoria Thurtell : From the Chairs of Chapter and the Cathedral Community Committee

We will be saying farewell to Canon Victoria on a date to be arranged, probably in early May, when we will make a presentation to her as a sign of our deep appreciation and gratitude for her ministry at the Cathedral. We hope that as many people as possible will contribute.

Please either send donations to the Finance Department, Cathedral Office, 1 The Cloisters, Exeter EX1 1HS, or deliver the envelope in person to Reception in the Cathedral Office.

Please mark the envelope 'Canon Thurtell Gift', and make cheques payable to 'The Dean and Chapter of Exeter'.

Mike Williams, Heather Morgan

Cathedral Library & Archive

On Monday 24th April, between 12.30am and 2.30pm, our copy of the "Second Folio" edition of Shakespeare's complete works (published 1632) will be on display.

What's on in April?

This is just a selection of the many events in the Cathedral in April. For full details please look at the Cathedral website and the "What's On Guide" leaflet.

- 6th 7pm Cathedral Community Committee meeting
7th 12 noon The Way of the Cross - Stations of the Cross

Holy Week & Easter

- 9th *Palm Sunday*
9.45am Liturgy of Palms at St Pancras Church & Procession followed by
10am Choral Eucharist in the Cathedral; 7pm Holy Ground
- 10th 2.30pm Julian Prayer Group in St John the Baptist Chapel
7pm Bach - St John Passion – Cathedral Choir
- 11th 10am Cathedral Council meeting; 7.30pm Eucharist and Address
- 12th 1.30pm Chrism Eucharist-the Bishop of Ebbsfleet
7.30pm Eucharist and Address
- 13th *Maundy Thursday*
11am Chrism Eucharist-the Bishop of Exeter
7.30pm The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday followed by the Watch (a vigil of silent prayer) at the Altar of Repose until midnight
- 14th *Good Friday*
10am Ecumenical Service for Good Friday
2pm Liturgy of the Last Hour
5.30pm Evening Prayer **(said)****
- 15th *Easter Eve (Holy Saturday)*
4pm Evening Prayer **(said)****; 8pm The Easter Vigil
- 16th *EASTER DAY*
8am Holy Communion; 10am Sung Eucharist & Procession
11.45am Choral Mattins; 4pm Choral Evensong
- 17th *Monday in Easter Week – Old Choristers' Reunion*
11.30am Solemn Eucharist; 3pm Choral Evensong
- 21st School Outreach Day
Quarter Peal of Bells for the Queen's Birthday
- 23rd Quarter Peal of Bells for St George's Day
2pm St George's Day service for Exeter Scouts
- 24th 5.30pm Solemn Eucharist for St George
- 25th *Mark the Evangelist* 5.30pm Solemn Eucharist
- 26th Sidesmen's AGM

**** N.B. change from previous information.**