



From the Acting Dean

‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ Jesus asks his disciples. A range of answers were given. It is Peter who identifies Jesus as the Messiah (Matthew 16.13-16). Identity is important. Jacob wrestled with God who asked Jacob for his name before renaming him Israel (Genesis 32.27-28). Jacob asked the man for his name but is denied an answer. Yet Jacob declares that he has met God face to face (v30).

Our names are fundamental to our identity. Mohammad Alhajali was the first person named to have died in the Grenfell Tower fire. Yet a BBC radio headline report stated not his name, but the fact that he was a Syrian refugee. His identity as a refugee was thought more important than his name. Many of the victims living in the sub-standard tower block have multiple identities. Mohammad was 27 years old, a civil engineering student, a son, a brother and a resident of the 14th floor of Grenfell Tower who had escaped the fighting in Syria three years ago.

Assuming single identity is confusing and potentially dangerous. Global confrontation is often seen in terms of religious or cultural divisions. Partitioning the world on the basis of religion forgets the multiple identities we each have. Miniaturising people into simple categories is lazy. It feeds and can confirm our prejudices. We exercise choice when we ascribe identity to ourselves and others. Muslim and Christian identities are complex. Each have a range of beliefs and interpretations. Danger arises with an oversimplification, in the minds of some, that religious or cultural identity tells us all we need to know about a person or group.

Peter denied knowing Jesus three times. We read in Matthew 26.73 about a bystander saying to Peter: ‘Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you’. The question I get asked the most at the end of a service is where do I come from? People are intrigued by my accent. I, like you, have multiple

identities. Jesus reminds us that we are all unique in the eyes of God. We are called to respect the multiplicity of identity we find in people in our world.

Revd Canon Dr Mike D Williams

Chapter Bulletin July 2017:

This bulletin provides a summary of the key issues discussed at the Chapter meeting.

Welcome to new members of Chapter and the College of Canons

Jenny Ellis CB and The Ven. Trevor Jones were installed as Chapter Canons at Evensong on the 18th July. Jenny Ellis is the former Chief Executive of the Supreme Court and has worked as a Trustee in a number of charities. Trevor Jones is the former Archdeacon of Hertford with considerable experience in Canon Law and mission. At the same service The Revd Robert Harris, Team Rector of Plympton and member of the Diocesan Board of Education and The Revd David Gill, Team Rector of Tamerton Foliot and Southway, were installed as Prebendaries.

Appointment Process for the new Dean

The appointment panel has met and made a nomination to the Crown. It will take several months before an announcement is expected. In the meantime, Canon Dr Mike D Williams (who is not the nominated person) has been appointed as the Acting Dean.

Love, Hope and Compassion

A number of opportunities have been offered to our community to gather and consider God's love, hope and compassion. We are having a day of prayer with a bring and share lunch on the 30th July. A number of book reading groups will run over the next few months and a week of guided prayer will take place from the evening of the 12th to the 18th November. About thirty people will be able to participate and meet a guide each day who will help them in their daily practice of prayer. An away day in spring next year is being organised plus a number of sessions looking at the creeds.

500th Anniversary of the Reformation

Our Canon Librarian, Ann Barwood, is organising a programme of events for the 31st October this year to mark the 500th anniversary date of Martin Luther publishing his ninety-five theses. We are also planning a sermon series during October about key themes of reformation theology. Other ideas are being considered and will be announced shortly. Please join us on the 31st October.

The Exeter Book

Our highly treasured Exeter Book is going to be digitised using the latest technology to assist with its use in education, research and publicity. This work is being done in the Cathedral in partnership with Exeter University. The use of the Library and Archive is developing with the University and we are very grateful to our dedicated staff for assisting that partnership.

Management Report

Chapter received several updates. The **Christmas Market** has had an excellent response from potential traders and the materials to build the sheds are about to be ordered by our local supplier, Sheds Direct. The **website** development is moving ahead with the company 'ab..' as planned. The visitor development project (**VISTA-AR**) with Exeter University Business School will be launched in the Cathedral on the 7th September. Sir Tim Smit, the founder of The Eden Project in Cornwall will speak at the launch event. Some of the digital equipment will be demonstrated showing the potential enhancement that will be possible for visitors in the future.

Financial Situation

Chapter received the management accounts for May 2017. These show that we remain on track to meet our budget for this year although this is dependent on maintaining our levels of income from visitors and events. A timetable for the production of the budget for 2018 is being prepared with the aim of presenting a final budget to the Cathedral Council in December this year.

Safeguarding

Gary Stokes, a director of ORCA, a company that specialises in providing safeguarding expertise and advice, provided Chapter with his monthly report. An audit of the training records for volunteers will be undertaken to ensure that we are as up to date as possible. All staff are reminded of the need to adhere to safeguarding policies. If you have any concerns then please raise them with Gary, one of the safeguarding representatives or the Acting Dean.

Rev Canon Dr Mike D Williams, Acting Dean

Jane Reader

Jane died on 19th July. Many in the Cathedral Community will remember her with great affection for her kindness and her generosity. Jane and her late husband, Gary, worshipped in the Cathedral for many years. It is perhaps fitting that her Requiem Eucharist will be in the Cathedral at noon on 15th August, the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Fellowship Outing to Powderham Castle – Thursday, 12th October

An outing to Powderham Castle at Kenton has been arranged for Thursday, 12th October, which will include a private guided tour of the Castle at 11.30 am. If they are available, it is hoped that either the Earl of Devon or the Countess will come and meet us. The tour of the Castle has been booked for 11.30, and lasts about an hour. A morning visit has been booked so those who wish to, will be able to join the Deer Park safari at 1.45pm. This trip lasts about 45 minutes, and is drawn by a tractor. As our visit to Ugbrooke last year was so successful, we are planning this on similar lines, so people are free to enjoy the day as they wish. We will travel by car, and hopefully arrange a lift for anyone without transport. There are extensive grounds at Powderham, and picnic tables if you do not wish to use the café at the Castle, where they serve an extensive menu to suit all appetites. You will be free to plan your own arrangements, but coming together as a group for our guided tour of the Castle at 11.30am, and again at 1.45 pm for those joining the Safari trip.

If we can arrange a party of 15 or more, the entrance cost and the tour of the Castle is £10, £9 for senior citizens, and an extra £2.50 each for the Safari. Payment will be required in advance to gain the benefit of a group booking.

Lists for signing will be available from August. It is very much hoped you will wish to join this outing – Powderham is set in beautiful surroundings and there is much to enjoy. As a Cathedral, we do of course have many links with the family, so there are many reasons to visit!

Margaret Williams and Diane Coombes

Tales from the Foodbank No. 26: Please.... and Thank You

Occasionally people give the Foodbank box perishable items which cannot be accepted. More important, it is illegal for the Foodbank to give out items which are past their sell-by, or use-by, date; so please be vigilant!

I have received a letter of thanks from the Foodbank for your generosity. In 2016/17, the Foodbank provided 3 days' worth of emergency food for 5,174 local people, of whom nearly 1 in 3 was a child. That's roughly 99 people per week. I am so grateful for your support.

Felicity Cawthra

The next Foodbank Collection will be on the THIRD Sunday - 20th August.

From the Cathedral Bellringers

A few days ago, I came in for a Health & Safety meeting at the Cathedral Office, and afterwards popped up to the ringing chamber to deliver some paperwork. Normally we ringers always seem to be in a rush, leaving no time to stop and admire our surroundings, so this visit was a small luxury.

Now the busy summer months are upon us, tower tours are more frequent, and on this occasion I bumped into just such a group as they climbed the steps up and down into the ringing chamber. Meeting the guide, listening to some of his talk, and watching the interest of all those around him was a fascinating insight.

Our ringing chamber is full of treasures. Only a few weeks ago, we were gifted a piece of Exeter Cathedral stone, with a depiction of the Cathedral bells painted upon it; the artist was an iconographer from Dorset, who actually painted the icons here many years ago, and acquired the stone from our masons only recently. It was such a special gift, and is displayed proudly on our shelves.

We always welcome visitors up the tower – whether that be Cathedral guides or congregation members – and are only too happy to share our stories, and even show you some ringing. The third Saturday of each month is the best occasion to do this, when we meet from 5:30pm – 7:30pm. If you would like to come and meet us, just drop me a line via the Cathedral Office.

Clare Griffiths, Cathedral Bellringers Secretary

Forthcoming Events

The *What's On* guides for July-September are now available in the Cathedral, at the Welcome Desk and at the Stewards' Desk.

Tickets are now available for the **summer organ recitals** (featuring talented performers including our own Timothy Noon, Timothy Parsons and Ed Jones).

All the recitals begin at 7pm as follows:

3rd August Timothy Noon (Exeter Cathedral)

10th August Ed Jones (Exeter Cathedral)

24th August Stephen Farr (International concert organist)

31st August Timothy Parsons (Exeter Cathedral)

Tickets, price £8, £5 for students, free for under 18, are on sale from 01392 285983 and online from exeter-cathedral.org.uk/boxoffice

Further information for all these events is available on the website www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/events or from the printed *What's On* guide.

Laurence Blyth, Marketing Manager

Wednesday Homeless Cafe

We serve hot food to between 50-60 homeless and vulnerably housed individuals each Wednesday from the Chapter House. Whilst we have the food covered by long-standing donations, we are in need of the following items and would appreciate your generous support:

Clothing - predominantly male, but we also have some young women. Sweatshirts, jumpers, trousers, sweatpants, t-shirts. Sturdy boots and shoes.

Underclothes: pants and socks (better to have the latter in natural fibres for foot health purposes)

Toiletries: Towels, toothbrushes, toothpaste (always worth asking your dental practice for their samples), shampoo, soap, shower gel - please save any complimentary toiletries from hotels you may visit over the holidays, or any others that you are not able to use. We also like to keep a supply of ladies sanitary ware. The young women would also appreciate any make-up samples you may have spare.

Winter: We would appreciate any warm overcoats, waterproofs, thermals, scarves, gloves, hats and wellington boots.

Other: Small tents, rucksacks, sleeping bags, groundsheets and blankets are also very welcome.

Contact: Penny Harris (penny@harris58.com 01392 437873) or Helen & Rob Taverner (tavernersfarm@hotmail.co.uk)

New Guides and Heritage Open Days

We were delighted recently to welcome six new Cathedral guides to the team, following successful completion of the most recent guide training course. We are constantly on the lookout for additional assistance though, and hope to run another guide training course later this year. So please contact the Visitors' Office if you want further information. Looking ahead to the autumn, the Cathedral is once again pleased to be involved with Heritage Open Days (7th-10th September) and we will be offering a number of specialist tours across the weekend. All of the tours will be free to attend, and more information, including how to book, will be on the Cathedral website in the next few weeks.

Chris Bodkin, Visitor Services Administrator

And Then There Were Nun: BBC Radio 4 20th July

If you missed this programme, in which Bishop Martin explores the decline of religious communities, and also looks ahead to new models of living in community, it is available on BBC iplayer.

The times they are a changing...

A report from General Synod July 2017

The gathering of Synod in York always has a different ‘feel’ to it. It is usually hot and sunny (it was), and the opportunity of dressing casually is taken up with some enthusiasm by many; enthusiasm that clearly for some, overrides any interest in looking in a mirror! I know, I know....it shouldn’t matter, but there were some quite startling results!

The informality of dress didn’t detract from the seriousness of the discussions. “After the General Election, a still small voice of calm” was a late addition to the Agenda, introduced by the Archbishop of York, urging Christians everywhere to maintain pressure on politicians of all parties, to put the cohesion of the nation and its communities at the heart of their programmes. Though thought by some to be a “Motherhood and Apple Pie” sort of a debate, - who could vote against? - it nevertheless it gave rise to some powerful speeches.

Final approval was given to Draft Amending Canon 36 (stay with me, it’s more interesting than it sounds!), which permits clergy to dispense with robes or vestments during times of divine service. It was recognised that this, in fact, regularises the position for some parishes, and decision about forms of dress need to be made in consultation with Parochial Church Councils. The change was welcomed by the Bishop of Guildford, who declared it to be about welcome and hospitality, and not “an argument for beating our chasubles into chinos”!

A key debate was one calling on the need for the Government to investigate issues around the cost of applying for Citizenship, currently £1282 for an adult and £973 for a child; any error in completing the form results in the process having to start again, and fresh fees paid. (This compares with 200 euros in Belgium). Sir Tony Baldry suggested a transcript of the debate be sent to the Home Affairs Select Committee. We were urged to write to our MPs, so I did on my return. and Ben Bradshaw, typically, responded straight away. Thank you, Ben.

But why “*The times they are a changing*”? This relates to the two Synod Motions, one on rejecting “Conversion Therapy,” (anti-gay therapy), the other on the possibility of liturgy for transgender people. Both motions were easily carried in all three houses (Bishops, Clergy and Laity), suggesting the large ‘middle ground’ of General Synod members has moved towards a more liberal view. There were workshops on how the National Church is supporting local churches; presentations from the group reviewing the working of the Crown Nominations Committee (the Committee that nominates Diocesan Bishops)-a member of this group, is our very own Revd Prof Morwenna Ludlow; and the

Elections Review Group, looking particularly at how lay representatives are elected to the Synod.

The Agenda also found room for formal Questions, debates on Clergy Well - Being, on the Presence and Engagement Programme (with people of other faiths), and help for families in tied housing to secure school places. The House of Bishops proposed teaching document remains a work in progress, due for completion by 2020, leading to some feeling concerned that this was being kicked into the long grass. Then there were the fringe meetings, and the wonderful service in York Minister. Altogether, a busy but productive time. All business done at Synod can be found on the General Synod website, together with voting results, and live video recordings. Synod next meets in February 2018.

Anne Foreman

Visiting Choirs

During the summer, we are very grateful to the visiting choirs who come to lead our worship. This year, they include:

24 th -30 th Aug	Holy Trinity, Southport
1 st -6 th Aug	The Anglican Singers (New London, Connecticut)
2 nd Aug	Cathedral choir of St Michael and All Angels, Kelowna, British Columbia
12 th -13 th Aug	The Callington Singers (from the Tamar Valley)
14 th -16 th Aug	East Harptree (Somerset)
17 th -20 th Aug	Scarlet (from Leicester)
21 st -23 rd Aug	St Mary's, Hendon
24 th -27 th Aug	The Bridgeman Singers
28 th Aug	Colyton Grammar School
30 th Aug	Chelmsford Cathedral Choir
31 st Aug-1 st Sept	The Coleridge Chamber Choir
2 nd -3 rd Sept	St Giles in the Fields (London)

Dennis Allen

We were sorry to hear of the death of Dennis Allen. Dennis attended Evensong on Sundays for many years, until ill-health prevented him from travelling. His funeral was at Crediton Parish Church on 5th July.

The Friends of the Cathedral

Friends' Day on 29th June, saw many of our members join a variety of events and also attend our AGM. Our thanks are due to everyone who helped in any way towards making this such a successful day, not least to Bishop Robert, for not only opening his garden for members to visit, but also being there to greet each of the three tours that took place.

Following the AGM, we are pleased to report that our Chairman, Conrad Donaldson, was re-elected to the Friends' Council to serve for a further year, following which our Constitution dictates that he must step down, having served for 11 years.

Responses to our mailing, which landed on members doormats at the end of May, was very swift. Some events were very quickly fully booked, including John Allan's tours of The Close over three evenings in August, and talks by The Earl of Devon in September and Prof Nicholas Orme in October. We have a considerable waiting list for all of these events in case of cancellation, so if you happen to be booked on any Friends event, and find that you will not be able to attend, please do let us know if at all possible.

The Friends Office can be contacted on 01392 423931, by email at friends@exeter-cathedral.org.uk or in person at our office, which is situated in the West Wing of The Bishop's Palace, above the Library and Archive. Our office is normally open from 9am until 1pm Monday to Thursday.

Pete Privett, Office Manager

From the Cathedral Pastoral Care Team

The Team is meeting monthly under the leadership of Revd Anne Dunlop.

On 4th July, after a very interesting day with Gary Stokes, the team completed the required Safeguarding training.

On 24th July, we had a day of team-building, reflection and prayer led by Brigid Pailthorpe, at the end of which we had constructed a Pastoral Care Team *Tree of Hope*.

The team will continue to meet regularly, and to define its role further before being commissioned, we hope, later in the autumn.

Cathedral Community Committee (CCC) 13th July 2017

We welcomed Canon Becky Totterdell to her first meeting of the CCC.

The Committee considered the question of co-options, with particular reference to those areas of Cathedral life not represented following the elections.

We agreed that Rosemary Bethell would represent the Cathedral on Christians Together Across Exeter (CTax).

It was also agreed that Julie Glover would chair the Outward Giving Committee, and that Terry Pyle would be a member of that committee.

We considered and provided feedback on the first three sessions of *Love, Hope and Compassion: Time to Reflect*, and considered the future programme (for details of which see the Chapter Bulletin on page 2 of this *News*). This prompted a frank, generous and wide-ranging discussion.

The Committee made some practical suggestions concerning the Day of Prayer on 30th July, and offered some thoughts about other ways in which the process of love, compassion and hope might be taken forward. Bishop Martin challenged us to lead the way in being part of the week of guided prayer in November-the challenge was accepted!

Catherine Escott and Kate Burhouse had prepared a list of staff, with photographs and job titles-this was warmly received. The CCC recognises the importance of staff, volunteers and worshippers getting to know, and to understand, each other better.

Diane Coombes reminded members about the Devon Historic Churches Trust Ride & Stride Day (see page 11 of this *News* for details), which in Christianity Deanery is combined with the Deanery Prayer Walk. She also provided written reports on the work of the Fellowship Committee, and the Prison Prayer & Support Group.

Renewed thanks were expressed to Canon Mike, Bishop Martin, and all the Cathedral clergy for their leadership in recent months.

Heather Morgan, Chairman CCC

Next Month: Please send material for the September edition by **Friday 25th August** 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 Rosemary Bethell and Laurence Blyth.

Devon Historic Churches Trust Ride/Stride & Deanery Prayer Walk Saturday, 9TH September

Since at least 1998, the Cathedral has taken an active part in raising funds for the Devon Historic Churches Trust. Hopefully this will continue in 2017! The 9th September is the date this year for the Trust's annual fund raising event, which, as always, will also be the date for our Deanery Prayer Walk. On this day the Chairman of our Deanery Synod, together with as many others as possible, will be leading a pilgrimage, which aims to visit, and pray in, as many churches in Christianity Deanery as is possible. This walk will start at 7.50 am at St Michael's, Mount Dinham and end at 5.30 pm at St James.

Not many of us are likely to achieve the whole day, but a good starting point will be the Chapter House of the Cathedral at 10.00am, where hot and cold refreshments will be available, and Bishop Martin, who has a particular interest in pilgrimages, will lead the prayers. The walk will then visit the city centre churches, including the Orthodox Church, before moving on to St Matthew's, St Leonard's, along the river to St Luke's Countess Wear, back to the Hospice and Hospital, up to Beacon Heath, and finally to St James at 5.30 pm. A copy of the full timetable is available on our Cathedral Community Noticeboard.

In past years, the Cathedral community has sponsored this event very generously, and once again we hope for the same support please! The sponsorship money raised is divided, with half going to the Devon Historic Churches Trust, and the other half to the church chosen by the walker, which us usually been one of the Cathedral building funds. Perhaps this year we could allocate it to the stonemasons for their work on the new pinnacle which is displayed in the south quire aisle? Last year, we raised the magnificent sum of £531, of which the Cathedral received half.

Sponsorship forms are now available, and we will be looking for support during coffee time after the 10am Eucharist on a Sunday, and at other times. If this idea does not appeal to you, you may like to have your own idea of a ride or stride, or follow the example of others who in the past have used a bus pass to visit as many churches as possible. I will have a supply of sponsorship forms. If you do not feel able to take an active part, please sponsor those of us on the walk. Most of all, please make it a fun day, and thank you all very much for your generosity.

Diane Coombes

The Diary in August

This is just a selection of the many events in the Cathedral in August. For full details, please look at the Cathedral website and the “What’s On July/September” leaflet.

2 nd	1-3pm	Discover the Exeter Book – Cathedral Library and Archive
3 rd	7pm	Organ Recital – Timothy Noon
5 th	7.30pm	Concert by Budleigh Salterton Male Voice Choir
6 th		<i>The Transfiguration of Our Lord</i>
10 th	7pm	Organ Recital – Ed Jones
15 th		<i>The Blessed Virgin Mary</i>
	5.30pm	Solemn Eucharist
16 th	2.30pm	Julian Prayer Group in St John the Baptist Chapel
22 nd		Friends’ Council Meeting
24 th		<i>Bartholomew the Apostle</i>
	5.30pm	Solemn Eucharist
	7pm	Organ Recital – Steven Farr
28 th	7.30pm	Concert – Grand Baroque III
31 st	7pm	Organ Recital – Timothy Parsons

And don’t miss... the exciting programme of events for children of all ages during the summer holidays, including *Crazy Crafts, Young Scientists, Young Knights, and Potions & Spells*. For full details see the Cathedral website or the leaflets and posters around the Cathedral.

Thank You and Best Wishes

Our warmest good wishes to Kate Sidnall and Mandy Bermingham from the Cathedral Café, who are sadly leaving us in August. I know you will all join me in wishing them the very best for the future.

Jonny Titchin is moving on to become a teacher, his last day in the Events Department being 4th August. As Jonny would say, “you can’t get rid of me that easily”, so don’t be surprised when you still see him around the Cathedral, on a daily basis, as he continues his role as a Lay Vicar!

I’m pleased to announce that we have appointed a new Café manager, who will be joining us soon.

Catherine Escott, Acting Administrator