



From the Dean



The purple seriousness of Lent and the heady golden days of Easter seem long past, as we now enter the long green days of the Trinity season. But let's not be despondent, for it is in these very ordinary days that God will be most readily found - the extraordinary comes and goes, but God is a constant for all time.

The French Jesuit priest Jean Pierre de Caussade writes about the Sacrament of the Present Moment, exhorting us to find God in the here and now, wherever the here and now may be. The Country and Western song "One day at a time, sweet Jesus" embraces a similar theme: "Just give me the strength to do every day what I have to do. Yesterday's gone, sweet Jesus, and tomorrow may never be mine. Lord help me today, show me the way, one day at a time."

Of course as we head off into this ordinary season, let's not forget the lessons we have learned over the past few months; living always as an Easter people, with the hope of resurrection in our hearts and on our lips. Setting time apart for God as we did in Lent: time to rest in his presence, experience his embrace, bask in his love. Towards the end of her life, Sainte Therese of Lisieux was too ill to sleep, so she spent the night in prayer. 'What are you saying to God?' asked one of the other nuns. 'I'm in too much pain to speak,' she replied. 'I just love him.'

Therese makes prayer sound so easy, but that's not the experience of most of us. We assume prayer will be automatic, and as soon as we try it, discover it's not. Our attention wanders, our mind is distracted, we don't get very far. But of course prayer takes discipline and practice, and we can be greatly helped in our prayerful endeavours by others. To that end, we are organising a workshop day here at the cathedral, which will focus on prayer, allowing us to experience



it in many different forms. It's ages away: 2 February 2019. But it promises to be a real help to all of us who struggle to pray, so I am keen to give plenty of notice. More details will follow in due course, but if you're planning a winter trip to the ski slopes, or even to the sun, you know now to avoid the beginning of February.

Jonathan Greener

Tales from the Foodbank: From an article by Madeleine Davies, Church Times, 27 April 2018

"Demand has increased sharply by 13%; 428 foodbanks gave out more than 1.3 million packages to approximately 666,476 people between 1st April 2017 and 31st March this year. Low income is the commonest reason, followed by benefit delays and benefit changes. 'It is hard to break free from hunger if there isn't enough money coming in to cover the rising cost of absolute essentials like food and housing' said Emma Revie, the Trussell Trust's chief executive."

The Cathedral has contributed 295.8Kg in the year ending 31st March and our grand total is 1336.4 Kg, plus several financial donations. A huge thank you to everyone who so generously gives support.

There will be two collections in June at the 10 o'clock Eucharist, **Sunday 17th and Sunday 24th June.**

If possible, please check the list of priorities which will be in the Weekly Sheet, and on the noticeboard in the South Transept.

Thank you.

Felicity Cawthra

Help, please

The garden at Halscombe Farm, Ide EX2 9TQ is opening on the 16th and 17th June under National Gardens Scheme with half the profits going to the Friends of Exeter Cathedral. Please note this in your diary. If anyone is able to help for a couple of hours with serving teas or selling tickets please contact jgshayward@tiscali.co.uk or 07708087168

Congratulations!

Our love and best wishes to Bishop Martin, who celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination as Deacon on Trinity Sunday.

Exeter Cathedral Choir Tour 2018

Thursday in Easter Week 5th April until Monday 9th April to Vienna & Bratislava

We left Exeter by coach about 9.30am with 17 children (Years 7 & 8) plus 18 Adults. James Mustard our Precentor came to see us off with best wishes from the Chapter and a prayer of Blessing. We pulled away with farewells from the chorister parents

We made our way to London Gatwick for our flight to Vienna. On the flight our cover as the Exeter Cathedral Choir 'was blown', and while awaiting take off the Steward asked the Choir to sing! A resounding *This joyful Eastertide* was sung to the passengers with much appreciative applause. To encourage the passengers in their giving of loose change for the EasyJet charity appeal to eradicate Polio throughout the world, the Choir sang Mozart's *Ave Verum*; which we hoped spurred on generous giving!



The choristers on tour (photo: Timothy Noon)

We were met at the Airport by our Slovakian guide, Richard, who would accompany us for the whole five days. We then boarded our coach that took us the 53kms from Vienna Airport to the Hotel Baronka in the suburbs of Bratislava. Arriving at about 11pm, we were quickly allocated rooms and got the children off to bed.

After breakfast on Friday morning, we assembled for our coach trip into the centre of Vienna, ready for the day's singing and sight-seeing. Arriving at St Stephen's Cathedral, we sang the mid-day Mass, where the Choir sang part of the Mozart *Sparrow Mass*; and then for the hundreds of visitors that crowded into the Cathedral after the service, a half-hour concert. The visitors were noticeably moved by the singing, and stood or sat listening appreciatively.

After disrobing, most of the party went for a guided tour of the State Opera House, the interior of which is sumptuous. We were shown around the many front-of-house areas with their amazing frescos and statues. We went into the auditorium and saw the stage being prepared for that evening's performance. Then the children and the chaperones went to the House of Music Interactive Museum with many things to keep the children busy. Re-assembling a few hours later, we made our way back to Bratislava for our evening meal.

Saturday we were off by coach to the medieval walled city of Trnava, often described as 'the Slavic Rome'. We had a short time of orientation in the city, and then off to the Franciscan Church of St James for a long rehearsal. The afternoon was taken up by climbing up the City Centre's ancient clock tower, affording views of the city walls which enclose the Cathedral, the many ancient churches, and also the university buildings. After an early supper, we assembled in St James Church for the concert, comprised mainly of English choral music. This was well received by the audience, who enjoyed the delights of Thomas Tallis & S. S. Wesley etc. A late return to Bratislava and our hotel!

On Sunday morning and afternoon we were able to explore Bratislava, which is the capital city of Slovakia, as our Sung Mass was in the evening followed by a concert. The coach took us sightseeing, ending up at Bratislava Castle, which gave wonderful panoramic views of the cityscape, and River Danube. Then off by foot to explore the ancient parts of the city, with its maze of streets and fine Cathedral. After lunch, a rehearsal; then we assembled again for the Sung Mass at the Jesuit Church of The Saviour. The service was broadcast throughout Slovakia on their Christian Radio Station. Following the service, we had the largest audience of the tour, for whom we repeated the programme of the previous evening - a selection of music mainly from the English choral

tradition. All the members of the tour, children and adults gathered together for the last evening's meal in a delightful restaurant in the city centre.



The back row of the Choir before dinner (photo: Timothy Noon)

A very early start on Monday took us back to Vienna Airport for a smooth flight back to Luton Airport, and our return to Exeter just after 6pm. All members of the tour safely returned to parents and loved ones without incident. The Precentor's prayers and blessing on our departure, and the great care given the chaperones were very effective and much appreciated.

Canon Ian Morter

A Purrfect Prayer?!

This was spotted recently on the prayer board outside the Lady Chapel. We are grateful to one of our Stewards for sending it to us.

'Please remember Polly, who was beautifully spiteful to the end; even if she was only a cat!'

Cathedral Community Committee 12th June

The next meeting of the Cathedral Community Committee will be at 7pm on Tuesday 12th June. If there are any matters to raise on the agenda, please send them to the Secretary, Yve Taylor at yvonneclaire52@gmail.com

Congratulations

Congratulations to three pupils from Exeter Cathedral School, and Judith from the Cathedral Café, who were confirmed at Pentecost by the Bishop of Exeter.

Canon James Mustard

News from the Bellringers

June will be something of a landmark month in the life of the Cathedral bells. As many of you will already be aware, planned bell maintenance and repair work is scheduled to begin in June, and the date is now set when Taylors Bell Hangers will arrive in Exeter to start work on the restoration project.

Monday 18th June will see the bell fittings dismantled, with the front six and semitone bell clappers, some of the pulley boxes, and the smallest headstocks, all being removed and transported to Taylors Bell Foundry in Loughborough for repair. Local ringers are helping with the labour, and it looks set to be a busy week for everyone involved.

The work schedule will continue in July, when a crane is hired to raise the new steelwork into the South Tower, before the metal frame is cleaned and painted in August. Only then will the bells be restored and ready to ring again, in September. We will, of course, keep you up to date with the bell works throughout the months ahead.

All this means that the Cathedral bells will ring for the last time for a while on Sunday 17th June – but until then, we have plenty of ringing for you to enjoy. On Saturday 9th June there will be a full peal attempt of Stedman Cinques on the bells, by a visiting band from Bristol, gathered by a young ringer called George Salter. Andre De Mendonca is beginning an exciting new venture of Bellringing Roof Tours, to include a ringing talk and demonstration. Finally we will be ringing for the *Celebrate our Soldiers* concert in support of ABF – The Soldier's Charity, on Saturday 16th June.

Whilst the bells are silent, Sunday morning ringing will still take place, but with a different sound. On the first three Sunday mornings of each month, you will hear the six bells of nearby St Petrock's Church calling you to worship – and this is with especial thanks to Stephanie Brown for all her help in achieving this.

Finally, and most importantly, our 12-Bell team will be heading off to Cambridge on Saturday 23rd June for the National 12-Bell Striking Competition Final – wish them luck!

Clare Griffiths, Cathedral Bellringers Secretary



Focus: Timothy Parsons Assistant Director of Music

*'But let my due feet never fail to
walk the studious cloisters' pale
With antique pillars massy proof,
and storied windows richly dight
casting a dim religious light.
There let the pealing organ blowing
to the full-voiced quire below
In service high, and anthems clear,
as may, with sweetness, through
mine ear
Dissolve me into ecstasies,
And bring all Heaven before mine
eyes.'*

From John Milton's (1608-1674) *Il Penseroso*

I do not think that there can be many people attending our Services, Recitals, or on holiday and visiting the Cathedral, who will not be 'demanded' to stop and just listen when the organ is being played - even if it's only for a few moments. It is not called The King of Instruments for nothing! But without the fingers and feet of an organist, this, like all musical instruments, remains silent.

I never cease to be amazed by the capacity of the human brain to organise eyes to see black marks, or fingers to feel Braille dots, on paper. These marks represent notes on the tonic scale, and send signals to the hands and feet, which when roaming over keyboards, strings, apertures, will, whatever the instrument, in their turn produce sounds. In the organ's case, when the keys are pressed on the manuals (for hands and feet) air is forced through pipes of varying dimensions, that end up emitting sounds ranging from the fine and delicate to earth-vibrating magnificence; thus enabling the listeners to hear such incredible compositions written by composers long dead, or of our time.

Of course, to be able to 'operate' such a complex instrument, one has to have the potential or gift, and travel through many, many years of study, hard work and practice, whilst being encouraged, guided by devoted teachers. It is a long journey. Here at Exeter, we have been privileged, over the years, to have had organists giving us immeasurable musical feasts, whether they have been in

accompanying or performance mode. In this Focus, I will try to show a light onto just what a complicated, and intense journey has been required, to enable us to have the opportunity of daily (mostly) hearing our Assistant Director of Music, Timothy (Tim) Parsons enchant us from the organ loft.

Tim was born in 1992 in Basingstoke, but when aged seven months, the family moved to live near Guildford when his father, a violinist, went, from being employed in the West Berkshire Music Service, to become Head of Strings at Charterhouse School. His mother was, and still is, involved with teaching at the Infant Level, now as a Senior Teacher. His sister, Elizabeth, studied literary and environmental studies at the University of East Anglia and Glasgow University, and plays the cello and sings in church choirs.

Tim loved school. His first school was Puttenham Church of England School, where his mother was a part-time teacher. Their home was near Charterhouse, and had a large garden.

'I played outside all the time. It was idyllic!'

When he was seven, Tim became a chorister at Guildford Cathedral. He was interviewed by Andrew Millington, our former Director of Music.

'I had to sing, and play a piece on the piano. Afterwards, Andrew showed us around the office, and I noticed that every desk had a computer, except Andrew's. When I asked him where his was, he replied "The organ is my computer!"'

My dad played both the piano and organ, and I used to sit alongside him on the organ bench and pull stops for him. I'd fallen in love with the organ aged five!

At seven years of age, he played his first organ voluntary, just before Evensong at St. John the Evangelist's Church in Farncombe!

'I played Grieg's The Watchman's Song. I'd learned to select the stops by listening to them, and could reach just a couple of the pedals! Being a chorister, and being taught by Stephen Farr after Andrew left for Exeter, was a foundation experience. I loved it, worked hard and practised two to three hours daily, which gained me a Music Scholarship to Charterhouse School. There I was greatly influenced by Mark Blatchly, and who became a remarkable friend. I was very occupied with playing the organ, and singing. I studied hard with English, History and Music for my A Levels, in the hope of getting an Oxbridge Scholarship.'

He achieved his goal by being awarded a place at Selwyn College in Cambridge. But, having obtained a year-long scholarship to Hereford Cathedral, he postponed going up until 2011.

'Hereford was the right place for me. I had my own flat, learned to live alone and look after myself. It was an acute learning curve and massive change! Playing for Cathedral Services for the first time was daunting, but I was lucky to work with two enormously supportive musicians in Geraint Bowen and Peter Dyke. My year's scholarship was tailored carefully so that it graded my progression, and by the end of my year I played for all of the services, for ten days or so, whilst Geraint was away in the States.'

A year later, it was off to Selwyn College, where he was taken 'under the wings' of Sarah MacDonald, the Director of Music.

'She was brilliant! It was an excellent choir which responded to her energy, dynamism and ambition. Alongside three weekly services and our concert schedule, we toured Germany, the NE seaboard States of the USA and the Channel Islands; and, we recorded four CDs. She was a real task-master and didn't spare me in the first few weeks! In my second year at Cambridge, I also held the additional organ scholarship for King's Voices, the mixed-voice choir of King's College, Cambridge. Alongside all of that, Tim had to study hard for his BA Degree in Music.

'I enjoyed it hugely, but never fancied life as an academic! Having had the very busy year at Hereford helped me greatly with organising my studies.'

These included the analysis of Benjamin Britten's vocal music, Beethoven's String Quartets, Mozart's Marriage of Figaro, tonal composition (pastiche) in the style of Brahms, and the fugue! Not only that, he passed his ARCO in the first year, and FRCO in the second year!

He got a starred first in Music, and was awarded The Tony Bland/George Rowe Prize for outstanding academic and instrumental performance. On graduating in 2014, he took up the post-graduate scholarship at Winchester Cathedral.

'I love Hampshire, and it was nearer to my parents, so I really wanted it! It was very different being the Number Three, where I was doing about half of the organ playing. I had to step-up to Assistant Director of Music for a term, when Andrew Lumsden went to Australia. It was lots of hard work and late nights! I was very glad to do it, and to be a regular conductor.

It is quite difficult being a Post Graduate Scholar because you might have to leave to get a full-time job! Which I did, I came here!!

Arriving in Exeter, he discovered that he had a rather large flat, which his parents helped to sort out and furnish, and friends came to stay and to explore Devon.

'I had a whole month to get to know the organ before I officially started. It felt overwhelming in the September. Tim Noon had only been here six months, and I had arrived at the same time as the new organ scholar, Dr Ed Jones! It was a bit of a roller-coaster!'

Now, two years on, how is it? I asked.

'I've had a brilliant time and enjoy working with Tim hugely. We have similar priorities and we get a lot done. Not all cathedrals have a daily service! The organ is fabulous and a delight to play. The view from the organ loft is incredible; it is definitely the best seat in the house!

Tim is keen to stretch us and we've performed the St John Passion, Messiah, Bach's Mass in B Minor, recorded CDs of the organ and choir, as well as a BBC Evensong. The B minor Mass, in particular, was a massive achievement for the choristers, and as Tim Noon told them, it is probably the single musical experience they will be most proud of when they look back on their time as choristers.'

Tim is enjoying walking and driving his two-seater Mazda convertible through Devon, with its contrasting land and seascapes. He is, also, a composer, and he would like more time to do it. Currently, he is composing a piece for a friend's bride-to-be to walk down the aisle at their forthcoming wedding. He has also written an unaccompanied Introit for his mother's choir. *'That took one day!'* When he listens to music, his choices range from jazz and pop music through to his absolute favourite piece, which is the first movement of Walton's First Symphony.

'I just love his work. I don't know why! I wrote a dissertation on it.'

When feeling like reading, his choices are futuristic science fiction or factual history books concerning the architecture of cathedrals, and The Shell Guides to English Counties. He unwinds by cooking whilst listening to the radio (he loves a good curry, chilli con carne, or pork casserole), going for a walk, or car drive on a Summer's evening, and having a drink with friends.

I'm ending with Tim's summary of who he is and where he sees the pathway ahead.

'I've always wanted to be a cathedral musician, and have the belief that opportunities present themselves, and you cannot predict the future. I'm very invested with my daily work with the choristers and the back row of the choir, and with my role with the St Peter's Singers.

'I'm more settled than I've ever known, and feel at home in my flat. I'm so glad not to be scouring The Church Times for a job! I feel part of the community, and am meeting many people. Exeter is a very exciting place. I'm never bored here!'

What can I say? A big thank you Tim, for letting me write about you, and a THANK YOU for all the fabulous musical, emotional and spiritual experiences we receive from you, when you are seated at 'the best seat in the house'!

Rosemary Bethell

From the Friends of the Cathedral

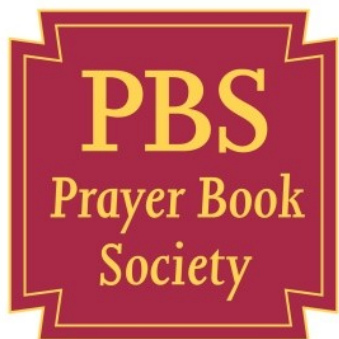
Friends' Day takes place this year on St Peter's Day, Friday 29th June, and arrangements are now at an advanced stage. A mailing, containing details of the day, as well as our Annual Report, should have been received by members in recent days.

Special tours for the day include views from the top of the North Tower and World War 1 monuments within the Cathedral. There will be a Solemn Eucharist at 11am. At 2pm there is an organ recital, which is open to all. The stonemasons will have some of their work on display, as well as being on hand to talk to members. The Library and Archives Team will have special exhibits in the Cathedral, including the Exeter Book. Our AGM takes place at 4pm in the Chapter House. Evensong & Procession is at 5.30pm, after which there is a Reception.

Our Autumn events include an evening with Jonathan and Pamela Greener, the launch of a new book by Nicholas Orme entitled *A Medieval Pilgrimage*, and a talk about *Exeter's Ancient Buildings* by Dr Todd Gray.

Some, but not all, of our events are open to members only. If you are not a member and would like to attend any event, please contact our office, and we will be pleased to advise on availability. Our office number is 01392 423931, and we are open between 9am and 1pm Monday to Thursday.

Pete Privett, Office Manager



**Prayer Book Society AGM:
16th June at 2.15pm in the Pearson Room**

**Address by the Dean:
*A Vision for Exeter Cathedral***

Admission Free. Please contact Peter Gaston
Tel: 01626 439160 for more details

Ascension Day

Morning Prayer on Ascension Day was sung from the North Tower of the Cathedral. Here we see some of the choristers “high and lifted up” on a sunny morning, and the congregation “gazing up towards heaven”. It was an exciting way to celebrate the Feast of the Ascension.



Photos: Mike Williams and Heather Morgan

The great efforts of the Canon Precentor and Canon Mike Williams, made it possible to hear (just!) the spoken parts of the service, so those gathered below were able to join in.

The service began with everyone singing *Hail the day that sees him rise* and ended with the Mendelssohn's anthem, *Above All Praise and All Majesty* resounding round Cathedral Green. Thank you to all who made this such a memorable and joyful occasion.

Thank you

I have recently received the money that was collected for me as a 'thank you' for my time as Acting Dean last year (there was a considerable delay due to the need to resolve issues relating to tax requirements).

Gilly and I are very grateful to the many people who contributed generously to the gift. I had intended to stand aside from the Cathedral but the Dean very kindly asked me to continue on a part-time basis. Gilly and I now occupy 9 Cathedral Close, and we are enjoying our ministry with you all. **Mike & Gilly**

Cathedral Mothers' Union: 22nd May **Pamela Greener – *My Life in Music***

The Cathedral Mothers' Union, with some of their friends, met at the Deanery on 22nd May. Pamela Greener spoke about her life in music, illustrated by pieces on the piano and flute. This included a number of songs she had written herself, including the famous "VAT Ditty". This was very much a trip down memory lane. For the *Sicilienne & Gigue* from Handel's Flute Sonata in F, Pamela was accompanied by Paul Morgan. (Many years ago, he gave her full marks for that piece in her O Level Music Practical!). As you might expect, this was an afternoon full of fun. A cream tea was much enjoyed, and there was plenty of lively conversation. Huge thanks to all who contributed to such a lovely afternoon, and especially to Pamela and Jonathan for their hospitality, and to Pamela for such an informative and entertaining talk.

Over £100 was raised, to be shared equally between the MU and Pamela's newly created Deanery Development Fund, which she hopes will eventually finance necessary repairs to the Deanery, and, in due course, other Chapter houses in the Close. So watch out for more of these open events at the Deanery. Pamela is very grateful to the MU for kicks-starting this initiative.



Thy Kingdom Come

It was very good to welcome a large congregation from all over the Diocese to the beacon celebration for *Thy Kingdom Come* on the evening of Pentecost. The different prayer stations throughout the Cathedral were fully explored, including St Gabriel's Chapel (below left), which was the contribution of the Cathedral Community. Prayers written by people both here and in churches throughout Devon were placed at the Nave altar.

Thank you to Paul Reisbach, Anne Eyre and Diane Coombes, who led the contribution from the Cathedral congregation, and special thanks to the children of Cloister Club and their leaders, who made a wonderful and colourful River of Life (below right) flowing out from St Gabriel's Chapel.



Photos: Paul Reisbach and Morwenna Ludlow

The Diary in June

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

- 5th *Boniface of Crediton, Bishop, Apostle of Germany, Martyr, 754*
1pm Service and Cream Tea for Flower Arrangers
- 9th Full peal attempt, visiting band, George Salter from Bristol
- 10th 11.45am Choral Mattins attended by Her Majesty's Judges and members of the legal profession
7pm Holy Ground – *Christian Mindfulness*
- 11th *Barnabas the Apostle*
2pm Chapter Meeting
2.30pm Julian Prayer Group in St John the Baptist Chapel
5.30pm Solemn Eucharist
- 12th 12.30pm Lecture in the Chapter House – Canon Ian Morter
Let's talk about the signs and symbols important to Exeter Cathedral
7pm Cathedral Community Committee Meeting
- 14th 9am Chapter Meeting
- 16th Exeter Cathedral School Fête on Cathedral Green
7.30pm ABF Soldiers' Charity Concert
Semper Fidelis – Courage & Sacrifice 1918
- 18th Start of the Cathedral Summer Art Exhibition
10am Meeting of Exeter Music Foundation Trust
12.30pm Lecture in the Chapter House
John Allan, Cathedral Archaeologist
Let's talk about the Cathedral's Medieval Tiles
- 19th Meeting of Diocesan Rural Deans and Lay Chairs
- 20th Meeting of the Fabric Advisory Committee
- 21st 7pm Organ Recital – Timothy Parsons

- 22nd 1.30pm & 7pm *Romeo and Juliet* – Handlebards Theatre (sold out)
- 23rd Military Village for Armed Forces Day on Cathedral Green
National 12-Bell Striking Competition Final in Cambridge
7.30pm Concert – West Buckland School
- 24th 11.45am Service for the Old Mancunians in the Oldham Chantry
- 25th *The Birth of John the Baptist (moved from 24th June)*
12.30pm Lecture in the Chapter House – Jesse Lynch
Let's talk about the Medieval Paper Trail
5.30pm Solemn Eucharist
- 29th *Peter the Apostle*
Festival of the Friends of the Cathedral (see page 11)
11am Solemn Eucharist; 5.30pm Evensong & Procession
- 30th 4.30pm Chorister Outreach Concert

Advance Notice – Party Ahoy!

The Fellowship Committee is hoping to have a party to mark the end of the Choir Term in early July. Full details will be in the Weekly Sheet and on the Cathedral website imminently. Please keep a lookout for that and come to join in the fun.

Thank you from Bishop Martin

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed with such overwhelming generosity to the very substantial cheque I have just received to mark the end of my time as Acting Precentor. I am deeply grateful. I am sorry it appears I have taken so long to say thank you, but as explained by Canon Mike Williams elsewhere in this edition of the *News*, there was a delay because of concern about possible tax implications.

Bishop Martin

Next Month: Please send material for the **July** edition by **Sunday 24th June** 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