



Exeter
Cathedral

Cathedral News

September 2018 – No. 677

From the Dean



My life is controlled by a trinity of calendars.

There's the Gregorian calendar, starting on 1 January, which populates my phone, my iPad, my desktop, and pretty much determines what I do each day.

There's the Church's calendar, observed pretty rigorously here at the cathedral, starting on Advent Sunday and working its colourful way round to the Feast of Christ the King. To my amazement, by the time we proclaim Christ as King on 25 November, I'll have been in Exeter for a whole year: maybe not 'the new dean' anymore!

And there's the academic calendar, starting in September, which governs all things choral. This is the time of year when our musical life begins afresh, when the younger choristers step up to fill the shoes of older colleagues who have moved on to new places and challenges, and when we welcome our new choral scholars and organ scholar.

Just thinking about three calendars sounds exhausting, but at least they offer the opportunity for three lots of looking back in contrition and thanksgiving, and three sets of new year's resolutions - though that may of course mean three times as many failed resolutions or, more hopefully, a greater chance of success because of three bites at the cherry.

And my September resolution this year... is to take back control of my calendars. It's too tempting to claim that I have no time to do anything, because so much of what is inserted in my diary is outside my control. But this isn't just a time-management question: it's a spiritual question. What is my life for? How am I to use it to serve God most faithfully and effectively?



www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk

In three years, Jesus turned the world on its head. I'm not expecting, nor even hoping, to do the same. But there are things that I can do, that each of us can do, in our immediate vicinity to make the world a more loving, inclusive, Christian place. That will only happen if we make time to tune in to God's gracious will for our life, and to implement what we hear him saying. And other things will inevitably have to give way to make room for this.

I can't tell at this stage what progress I'm likely to make. But at least if I fail, Advent - my next New Year - is just round the corner, and that will give another chance to take stock, and refocus on what really matters.

Fellowship Outing – Wednesday, 10th October 2018

Arrangements have now been finalised for our October Outing. The main part will be a ride on the South Devon steam train from Buckfastleigh to Totnes. This is a most beautiful journey along the River Dart. But there is more! It is suggested we arrive at Buckfastleigh South Devon Railway Station, where there is a free car park, for 10.30am – 10.45 am. There is a café at the station for those who would like a drink. We then gather together to visit the Butterfly Farm at 11am, followed by the Otter Sanctuary, where the otters are fed at 11.30am.

You will be free to make your own arrangements for lunch, but the suggestion is that we make the short journey to Buckfast Abbey, and enjoy together the excellent wide range of food at the Grange Restaurant there. There should be time for a wander around the grounds, or the Abbey, before returning to Buckfastleigh Station to catch the 2.15pm steam train, where our seats will have been reserved. For a party of 20, we have been offered a rate of £16.70 each (senior citizens) to include the Butterfly Farm, Otter Sanctuary and train. The normal fare for just the steam train ride for senior citizens is £14! So please book the date now. As the hire of a coach is too expensive, we plan to travel by car, and we hope that those with a spare seat will offer this to someone who needs a lift. To facilitate this, lists for signing up will be available shortly (please look out for this in the Weekly Sheet), and we look forward to you joining us.

Margaret Williams and Diane Coombes

Congratulations!

Our love and warmest congratulations to David and Peggy Conway, who celebrate their Diamond (60th) Wedding Anniversary on 6th September.

Devon Historic Churches Trust Ride/Stride and Deanery Prayer Walk Saturday, 8th September

For over 20 years, the Cathedral has taken an active part in raising funds for the Devon Historic Churches Trust. We aim to continue this in 2018, and seek your help in keeping up this tradition! The 8th 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, David Smith, 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 7.50am at St Michael's, Mount Dinham, and end at 5.30pm at St James.

Not many of us are likely to achieve the whole day, but a good starting point will be at the refreshment point in the Cathedral precincts. The Chapter House is occupied this year, but we will be warmly welcomed (probably about 10am) with tea/coffee or soft drinks in Cloister Garth, where Canon Ian Morter, now Priest Vicar, will lead us in prayer and send us on our way with a blessing. The walk will then visit the remaining city centre churches including the Orthodox Church, before moving on to St Matthew's, St Leonard's and along the river to St Luke's where we have a lunch break. Then on to the Hospice, the Main Hospital Chapel, St Michael's, Heavitree, then up to Beacon Heath and finally to St James for 5.30pm. A copy of the full timetable will be available on our Cathedral Community Noticeboard.

In past years, the Cathedral community has sponsored this event very generously, and once again we will be hoping 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 for us has been one of the Cathedral's building funds. Last year, the money was allocated to our stonemasons, and they received over £250 which they put towards a hoist to carry the necessary materials up for the work on the roof. They were extremely grateful. For the past two years, we have raised a total of over £500 – a tough call to repeat, but please be generous. We would, again, like to sponsor our stonemasons in recognition of all the work they are doing.

Sponsorship forms are now available, and we will be looking for support, especially during coffee time after the 10.00 Eucharist on a Sunday. If you wish to take an active part in fund raising but do not want to join this walk, you might have your own idea; such as using your bus pass to visit as many churches as possible and being sponsored for your efforts. If you do not feel able to take an active part, please sponsor those of us who are. Most of all, make it a fun day. Thank you very much for your generosity. **Diane Coombes**

July 2018 General Synod Report

1. General Synod met in York from Friday 6th – Tuesday 10th July with an agenda covering all three aspects of the Synod's function, legislative, liturgical and the life of the church in the world. A significant tranche of legislative business made for a full agenda resulting in one important debate, that of the Archbishops' Report from the Evangelism Task Group **GS 2098**, being squeezed out. Hopefully this will be on the Agenda of the February Synod. As usual there was a wealth of fringe meetings to choose from and introductions to new members of Synod, including 'our own' Simon Friend. I attended fringe meetings on Setting God's People Free, **GS 2056**, the Cathedrals' Working Group, and Survivors of Clerical abuse. This latter was attended by survivors, and their experience of the poor response of the Church to them was dreadful to hear. Archbishops Justin and Sentamu were both present, as were several other bishops including the Bishop of Bath and Wells, Rt Revd Peter Hancock, the lead bishop for safeguarding.

2. Diocesan Synod Motions (DSMs) represent a vital part of the Agenda since they arrive at Synod via discussion in deaneries and hence reflect local experience and expression about national concerns. Members of General Synod are invited to 'sign up' to DSMs, available at Synod or on line. Any DSM receiving 100 signatures is then considered by the Business Committee for inclusion on the Agenda. The DSM from London Diocese, with co-operation and input from Truro Diocese, **GS 2094A and GS 2094B**, on environmental programmes, was begun but adjourned. An adjournment means that the debate is resumed at the next Synod, February 2019. It would be good to have a DSM from Exeter, to demonstrate that we are a Diocese that is alive and kicking; issues around Self Supporting Ministers, Resource Churches and Licensed Lay Ministry (Readers) are three that spring to my mind! Please let me, or any of the Exeter General Synod Representatives, know if this possibility might interest you.

3. The Business Committee (of which I am a member) received criticism and praise in almost equal measure for its decision not to include DSMs or PMMs (Private Members Motions) relating to matters intended to be addressed in the proposed House of Bishops Teaching Document on Human Sexuality. Instead members of Synod were invited to engage with the work of the House of Bishops, by participating in a number of seminars designed both to inform and enable synod members to comment on the work. Seminars were preceded by a presentation from the Revd. Dr Eeva John, the enabling officer for the Teaching Document which is now named "*Living in Love and faith: Christian teaching and learning about human identity, sexuality and marriage.*" Dr John expressed the

view that there was a need to ensure that scholarly work made connections with experience and vice versa.

4. Worship and prayer undergirded the Synod; this has always been the case, but since establishment of the continuing praying presence and the Chaplain to Synod being given more time to fulfil his function, we were spoilt for choice in the range and style of worship available, from morning and evening prayer in a variety of styles and music, Compline, to the Eucharist at York Minister, where I was privileged to be one of the Eucharistic Assistants. There was a daily celebration of the Eucharist one of which was an "Open Table" one, which took place in an 'ordinary' room with the support of Archbishop Sentamu. This was a first for me and afterwards Revd Preb Cate Edmonds and I agreed we'd like to explore learning more about this way of ensuring the service truly welcomes LGBTI people.

5. Legislative business included simplifying the way to create ecumenical partnerships, one practical outcome will be that members of the Salvation Army will be able to preach at Church of England Services (I confess I didn't realise they couldn't). That relating to the Church Representation Rules will allow for joint PCCs and a new rule will ensure that laity on a PCC must outnumber clergy. There had always been an understanding that this would be the case, but it had been open to abuse. First Consideration was also given to Draft Amending Canon No 40, providing a framework for religious life in the Church of England. Five Dioceses are piloting electronic voting which it is intended should be in place for all Dioceses at the election of the next Synod in 2020.

6. The Safeguarding debate, **GS 2092** was introduced with a Presentation by Dr Sheila Fish of the Social Care Institute (SCIE) and Jo Kind of Minister and Clergy Sexual Abuse Survivors (MACSAS). Jo Kind had been abused as a young adult and said that inviting survivors to address Synod was a step in a better direction, since Synod needed the expertise of survivors. There was an opportunity for questions following the Presentation and before the debate, which was introduced by the Bishop of Bath and Wells. Other debates included Climate Change and Investment **GS 2093 and GS MISC 1196** The Ethics of Nuclear Weapons **GS 2095** The Long Term sustainability of the National Health Service (a DSM from Carlisle Diocese) **GS 2089A and 2089B** and the Report from the Cathedrals Working Group **GS 2101A and GS 2101B**. Synod also took note of the Annual Report of the Archbishops' Council **GS 2096**, approved the budget and proposals for expenditure, and the re-appointment of Canon John Spence as a member of the Archbishops' Council and Chair of the Finance Committee. Canon Spence is a man who makes things happen!

All the papers mentioned can be accessed on the Church of England website where there is also a full record of business done each day.

It's not too soon to consider whether you might stand for election to General Synod in the 2020 Elections. Please don't hesitate to talk to any of the Representatives if you want to know more.

Anne Foreman

Christmas Shoeboxes

As in previous years, the Mothers' Union will be heading up this year's collection of Christmas Shoeboxes for needy children and elderly folk in Eastern Europe. We hope that members of the congregation will again join in and fill boxes for **pensioners**. The charity we use - International Aid Trust - sends boxes for 4 different age groups of children: 2-4, 5-9, 10-14 and 15+, as well as for pensioners. They all go to really needy people - the pensioner ones go to people who are lonely and forgotten, and are often the only gifts that these people receive. The charity welcomes boxes for all the age-groups specified, but is always particularly short of boxes for pensioners. If you would be able to make up a box, please see the suggested list of items provided by the charity, which is shown below.

You do not have to put every item into your box, but a mixture of types of items (e.g. something(s) from each of the categories listed below) always makes for a lovely box. If at all possible, please make sure your box is lovely and full.

You are also asked to wrap both the box and the lid in Christmassy paper, but to wrap them **separately** - the boxes have to be opened and the items checked by the charity. For this reason also, please do **not** wrap the individual items inside the box. When completed, please bring your box(es) into the Cathedral on a Sunday morning, and give them to Chryssa Turner, or leave them with the Floor Managers during the week. A voluntary donation of £1 per box, towards the cost of transporting the boxes to their destination, would also be appreciated by the charity. We hope that, as previously, all the filled boxes will be blessed in the Cathedral, and then go off on their journey at the beginning of Advent.

Over the years we have sent several hundred boxes from the Cathedral Community, which has been a fantastic effort. Our 'record' send is 104 boxes at any one time - maybe we could match or even break this record, this year?

For **pensioner shoeboxes** please choose a mixed selection from the following list:

Stationery:

notepad, pencils, pens, rubber, ruler, scissors, sellotape, pencil sharpener, greeting card, photo of donor.

Foods/Sweets:

chocolate, packet/tubes of sweets, biscuits, dried fruit, pasta/rice, instant soup, sachets of hot drinks (e.g. Horlicks).

Toiletries:

aerosol deodorant, comb, hairbrush, mirror, shampoo, soap, sponge/flannel, talc, toothbrush/paste, wash bag, tissues, nail clippers, nail file.

New Clothes/Misc:

baseball cap, warm hat/gloves, body warmer, T shirt, shorts, socks/tights/underwear, headscarf, sewing kit (including needle and thread).

If you wish for further details of the scheme, please contact Chryssa Turner:

crst0915@yahoo.co.uk or on 01392 202330.

Shoeboxes will need to be ready by **Sunday 11th November**. Thank you in advance for your support of this venture, which we consider to be an important part of our Christian work.

Chryssa Turner

Tales from the Foodbank: Increase in Need

The Foodbank will be grateful for whatever anyone can give but the pressure on Exeter Foodbank, with the massive growth in need, means pressure on storage as well. Please, if possible, look at the list of priorities, which will be in the Weekly Sheet the Sunday before collection, and choose an item or items from that. That would be an enormous help. Thank you.

The next Foodbank collection will take place on **Sunday 23rd September** at the 10 o'clock Eucharist.

Felicity Cawthra

Community Committee Meeting 4th September

The next meeting of the Cathedral Community Committee will be on 4th September at 18.30. Please send any suggested items for the agenda to me at the email address on page 9 of this News, or to the Secretary, Yve Taylor;

yvonneclaire52@gmail.com

Heather Morgan, Chairman CCC

News from the Bellringers



With the Cathedral bells having now been silent for over two months, we are starting to near the end of the bell refurbishment project. On Saturday 4th August, a second crane lift returned our two treble, or lightest, bells back home to the belfry, having undergone their maintenance work at Taylors bell foundry in Loughborough.



The bells were accompanied by the new clappers, and all the steel work required to construct a lockable metal grill cage around the south and east side of the bells. This is essentially a safety measure, meaning that we will be able to leave the bells up and ready for ringing far more often. At 72cwt (or nearly four tons), the tenor bell at Exeter, Grandisson, needs to be raised by three people before it can be rung – a demanding exercise to say the least. With the lockable cage, the heavier bells can be safely left up, and supervised access to the belfry for maintenance, visiting tours and groups will also be improved.

During August, the arduous job of frame cleaning continued; September will then see the frame painted, with the bell hangers assisted by volunteers from our local band of ringers. Finally, it will be time to fit the new clappers, the lockable cage, and finishing touches, as the project nears completion. All being well, if the work progresses to schedule, we are hopeful that the Cathedral bells may ring out once again by the end of September – so please keep an eye on the weekly pew sheet and the Cathedral website for further updates!

And finally, thank you all for your support and interest throughout, we are very much looking forward to returning to the Cathedral to ring for you once again.

Clare Griffiths, Exeter Cathedral Bellringers Secretary

Grand Nave Dinner

A table of ten (or smaller if required) has become available for this year's Grand Nave Dinner on Friday 19th October. Tickets are £135 per person. This is a very special fundraising event for the Cathedral with fine wine, dinner and lots of entertainment. Please email kate.burhouse@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

Welcome Party for Canon Chris and Olivia Palmer

There will be a party to welcome Chris and Olivia, probably in early October. At the time of writing, the date is not confirmed, so please look out for more information in the Weekly Sheet and in the October edition of *Cathedral News*.

Welcome Back to Bishop Mark and Mandy Rylands

Bishop Mark Rylands and Mandy, have returned to the Diocese. Mark is well known to many in the Cathedral Community. He was Diocesan Missioner and Residentiary Canon of the Cathedral from 2002-2009, when he became Bishop of Shrewsbury. He was licensed as Priest-in-Charge of Ashburton and the Moorland Team Ministry on 31st July, and will be an Assistant Bishop in the Diocese. It is lovely to have Mark and Mandy back in Devon.

Next Month: Please send material for the **October** edition by **Wednesday 19th September** 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, Jenny Ellis and Laurence Blyth.

Welcome!

A very warm welcome to the musicians who join us in September:

To Hamish Fraser (Organ Scholar)



Hamish has just completed his A-levels at Eton College, and will be with us for a year, before progressing to New College, Oxford, where he will read for a degree in music, and be organ scholar to the world famous choir.

To Choristers: Ellenna, Jazmin, Rosalila, Phoebe, Summer, Lilla, Genevieve, Edward, Ben, George, Isaac.

And to the Back Row of the Choir:

James Picton-Turbervill (bass), is in his 3rd year at Exeter University, a former chorister at Winchester Cathedral

Daniel Maw (tenor), also in his 3rd year at Exeter University, who moves to us from the University Chapel Choir

Emily Harrison (alto), a post-graduate gap student and *alumna* of the highly prestigious *Genesis 16* programme.

Hamish, James, Daniel and Emily will be installed during 4pm Evensong on **Sunday 16th September.**

Music Foundation Trust

On Thursday 13th September, supporters of the Music Foundation Trust will attend Evensong at 17.30, which will be followed by the Trust's AGM.



Focus: The Reverend Canon Becky Totterdell,

Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Residentiary Canon

'We have a gospel to proclaim, good news for all throughout in all the earth. The gospel of a Saviour's name. We sing His glory, tell His worth.'

Edward Burns b.1938

Whenever I pass through the portals of The Gatehouse at the entrance to the Bishop's Palace, I'm fascinated by its history. If only those walls could talk! It certainly would have been a fiercely defended gateway, and one can only imagine the trepidation in those passing through, especially if they were accused of committing some civil or criminal offence.

Thank goodness, it is not like that at all now! A warm welcome, and the offer of a cup of tea and coffee was given, as I ascended the stairs, led by Andrew Godsall, to the office bright with light and warmth of spirit, where Becky greeted me..

Becky was the youngest of four children born into a North Somerset farming family. Her parents had met and married in India during WW2, when her father was in The Royal Corp of Signals, and her mother in The Queen Alexandra Royal Army Corps. Returning to the UK, they settled near to her paternal grandparents and other relations, this being a long established farming family.

She recalled the early morning walks with her father, with the mists hovering over the hedges, down across the fields to gather the beautiful Guernsey and Jersey cows up to the milking parlour; their rich, creamy milk, with which her mother made clotted cream to sell in the local dairy shop.

Becky attended the local infant and junior school, and recalled her first day, when her mother thought that it would make life easier for her if her older brother took her.

'He rode his bike, with me running alongside him on the one mile journey to the school. I was a bit miffed about that, as I had to keep up with him! But, he did stay with me until break-time.'

Life on the farm gave her a life-long love of the natural world.

'Trees have always been important for me; from the ones I used to climb or hide in as a tomboy, to the ones in churchyards I have known, which seemed, to me, to form attentive guards of honour as I led coffins and mourners through for a burial.'

Now, living a little more remote from the wild, trees and fields are where I regain my sense of self, and rootedness in the earth.'

Aged eleven, she moved to Backwell Comprehensive School, which then had only recently been 'converted' from a secondary modern school. It still had buildings holding workshops in which pupils were taught practical skills relating to the building industries, and household maintenance.

'I liked English, and thought I might have a career in writing. But, I was disappointed by my A level results and did not get a place at university. So I took a year out, and realised a long time ambition (stimulated over time by the wonderful aroma of fresh bread and taste for sticky buns) to work in a local bakery. It was a significant meeting point at the heart of the community, where everyone came to get their daily or weekly loaf, and to exchange views.

Looking back, I can see how that love of community was given a whole new expression by God, in what has turned out to be my life's work of welcoming people into the community of Christ, and offering the bread of life to them.'

Becky's journey to ministry in the Church of England was, however, a surprising one. She was brought up in an Open Brethren family, and they met in a chapel built by her great grandmother, after her great grandfather (who had had been a church warden at the parish church) had a falling-out with the vicar. In those days, the 'church-chapel divide' was very strong in that village.

'In fact' Becky recalls, 'in the Chapel we were doubtful that Anglicans were really Christians at all!'

The year in the bakery had shown Becky, that if she was to live her life as a Christian, she needed to be sure that the Christian faith had firm foundations. Many questions had been thrown at her, especially when one of the bakers died slowly of cancer. Where was God? How could I be so certain that he exists? Are the Gospels reliable? Aren't there contradictions in the Bible that render the whole thing worthless?

The two ladies who ran the Girls' Crusader Class that Becky attended in the village had studied theology at London Bible College, and encouraged her to apply for a place there. It was a non-denominational college. She did, went for an interview which was very intense and stimulating, and got the idea that it would be a life-giving place. Students came from such diverse countries as Nigeria, Finland, Germany, South Korea, Australia, Lesotho and Israel and it had an on-going fellowship with its students. During this time, she met and was influenced by a Kenyan couple, Alex Muge and his wife. Upon their return to Kenya he was made Bishop of Eldoret. Tragically, he was killed late at night in a road accident, when his car was deliberately rammed by a truck by those who disliked his outspoken criticisms of the Kenyan Government.

A particular joy, during this time, was playing the violin with the Harrow Symphony Orchestra. She'd learned to play whilst at school, but, recently some back problems have meant that it is now a no-go area. She lives in hope that she will get back to it soon.

Leaving with a BA in Theology, the thought came asking, *'what do you do with such a degree?'*

The answer was put on hold, whilst she did a Post Graduate Course at the Langham Secretarial College, (this included Common Law, as well as learning to type and do shorthand). Leaving with her certificate, she became the Personal Assistant to a surveyor in Northwood. She moved on fairly quickly, when a place was offered for her to become a trainee book editor with Scripture Union Publishing.

Becky commented *'I think I have now learned to trust God for the strange and unwelcome turns life takes, as well as the good things. Just as the door closed to studying English literature led to the study of theology instead, so the reluctant year on the secretarial course had opened the door to publishing.'*

After a year, she became a commissioning editor, which meant not only selecting the authors, the styles and contents of their books, but how their books looked! (This was just before the computer-driven printing that exists today). She edited Bible commentaries, biblical teaching handbooks, books on youth ministry and books for house-groups.

'One busy pastor used to send me tapes of his talks, and it was my lot to transcribe them and knock them into shape! I learned a lot about church ministry, teaching and the skills of communication. I stayed for nine years.'

Becky had met Mike (her husband) when they were at LBC, and they married a couple of years later. When Mike was appointed teacher of RE, Philosophy and Games at Cheshunt School, they moved to live in Potters Bar and began to worship at the local Anglican Church.

Towards the end of her nine years, Becky had become dissatisfied with the desk-bound nature of the job. With the encouragement of her vicar, she went through the discernment process in St. Alban's Diocese, and trained for ministry on a part-time basis over the next three years at Oak Hill College.

'Part-time training meant evenings and weekends, while I worked full time. Not an easy combination! I have great empathy with those ordinands I see into training now, managing that same sort of workload.'

In 1991, Becky was ordained as Deacon in the St. Alban's Diocese, and became curate at Broxbourne. At this time it was not possible for women to be ordained priest. However, the debates were continuing.

'I remember sitting on the stairs at home, listening to the synod debate in 1992. I didn't realise, till then, how much the outcome meant to me. As I heard the tellers report the numbers, and it was declared that the vote was for women's ordination, it was as if a door had swung open in a brick wall.'

On St. George's Day in 1994, she was in the first cohort of women in the St. Alban's Diocese to be ordained priest. This was followed by a second curacy in Stevenage new town. In her care were two villages, Walkern and Benington. She particularly liked the rural setting, and the Rectory was set in an acre of garden surrounded by fields, and regularly invaded by wildlife- deer, badgers, pheasants, ducks and the ubiquitous rabbits. One of their two white cats would follow Becky most places, and on Sunday afternoons would walk down the lane to the church for baptisms, sit in the porch greeting people, then go hunting for rabbits in the churchyard until the service ended, and then would accompany Becky home!

'It was a fruitful time of ministry, straddling two very different church traditions; 'country-low' in one church, which meant a stole never made an appearance, and the definitely sunny-side of Anglo-Catholic on the other!

I especially enjoyed the ecumenical opportunities. There was a Methodist chapel in one village, and a URC (United Reformed Church) in the other, and I had the great joy of working alongside them to form an ecumenical ministry team of fourteen people, each of whom was licensed to carry out in any of the churches (with the permission of the minister) the role to which they were licensed in their own church.

We were almost the first ecumenical ministry team in the diocese; Knebworth piped us to the post by a couple of weeks! I'm delighted that, years later, that team is still going strong in enabling all those churches to serve their local community.'

A couple of years in post had passed by, when the Assistant Director of Ordinands invited Becky to get involved with the work of discernment. Shortly after, that the ADDO retired, and the Bishop asked Becky to take over that role on a half-time basis, which reduced by half the time she could spend on her parish ministry.

With the ecumenical ministry up and running, she was able to expand her ministry to that of discernment.

'It is encouraging to look back and see how things have changed from an environment where there was much opposition to women in the priesthood, to the present where women priests are flourishing. Without doubt, women have enabled the church to become a more open and honest place, where the whole range of life's-experiences in women as well as in men, is valued and woven into life in Christ.'

Meanwhile, Mike had moved from school teaching to higher education, and, in 2007, he was given a Chair at Plymouth University, and appointed the Dean of the Faculty of Education. After commuting for a year between Hertfordshire and Plymouth, Mike and Becky decided it was time to return to their West Country roots.

Exeter called..... Becky became Assistant to the then Diocesan Director of Ordinands, Mandy Rylands. This was, in every sense, a very good experience. In 2010, Becky was appointed the Director of Ordinands, and almost immediately was diagnosed with breast cancer.

'I was so grateful that after surgery I needed only radiotherapy, and was able to continue working throughout the treatment.'

She describes the role of DDO as a privileged calling, to be *'walking alongside those sensing a call to ordained ministry, and discerning whether this is truly a call from God or not. To a large extent, the role of DDO is one of mentor and tutor as candidates become more aware about things that are motivating them, and go deeper into the history, theology and the practice of the church. Of those I've walked this journey with over the past nine years, around 120 are now in active ministry in this diocese.'*

Becky combines her role as DDO with being a member of the Cathedral's Chapter. She is a busy lady. I wondered how she managed to refill *her tank?*

'I walk in the woods, beside the river near our home, and try to do it three to four times a week. It restores my soul! When playing the violin was no longer an option, I joined an amateur choir for my 'fix' of music. Also, watching the birds feed in the garden, or the buzzards flying above, as well as other wildlife. I like classical music, folk music and, of course, the terrific music we hear in the Cathedral.'

Her daily work requires reading a lot off the computer screen, reports from national bodies and academic sources, trying to keep up to speed with theology, and other relevant matters. This means that there is little time for just reading for pleasure. When she does, she enjoys autobiographies. Recently she has read *I am Mallala*, the story of the Pakistani schoolgirl who stood up for education despite being shot by the Taliban.

'I don't watch much television, but we enjoy the cinema at Dartington, recently watching a Live Screening of a ballet. I love Shakespeare, and read poetry to unwind: poems by Gerald Manley Hopkins, George Herbert, John Donne, Elizabeth Jennings, and of course, Ted Hughes. I like cooking. I'm like my mother, always trying to be creative with the left-overs in the fridge!'

I asked, as is my custom, what were the best and worst aspects to the Cathedral from her viewpoint.

'The best thing is that it's like an entire village itself. It's a busy, committed, creative and interdependent community. And that is where the on-going challenges are! The frustrating thing is not having enough time to give to it!'

Thank you, Becky for this glimpse into your life here in Devon.

Rosemary Bethell



The Secret Garden

For some time now, André de Mendonça and his team have been working to reclaim the land that lies behind Cloister Garth so that it can be used as a garden by staff and volunteers. It is a work in progress but already it is a

lovely space; sheltered, facing south west, and with large walls. But it had become very overgrown. Thank you to André and to everyone involved for all their work so far to restore the garden.

André would like to place on record his thanks to:

Catherine Escott for enabling the project, Terry Pyle for the access doors, Chris Sampson for more enabling, the Floor Supervisors for the bench and good humour, Derek Rigby (and Mrs Rigby) for digging, planting, planning and levelling the bench (brilliant job), and all the people too numerous to mention here who generously provided the plants – you know who you are!

Here we see Stephen Carruthers, the manager of the Cathedral Café, using the garden for the purpose for which it was intended-providing a space for fresh air, reflection and relaxation.

Friends of Cathedral Music: Thank you

Our warmest thanks to the Friends of Cathedral Music, who have awarded an endowment grant of £20,000 to the Cathedral to a fund set up to support an organ scholarship. This will be presented to the Cathedral at Evensong on **Sunday 16th September**. The award will be invested by the Cathedral Music Foundation Trust.

Events in September

Great Big Cathedral Quiz : 11th September

Line up your colleagues, or gather your mates around, and put together your top quiz team for Exeter's biggest and most unique quiz, which will take place in the Nave. Kenniford Farm will provide a hog roast on arrival (included in the ticket price), and the team from The Oddfellows will be on-hand with a well-stocked bar (cash – not included in the ticket price).

Tickets £10 each person (teams of 6-8 people please).

Visit www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/quiz for more information, or pick up a booking form from the entry desk or Cathedral Office.

Heritage Open Days

Heritage Open Days celebrate England's architecture and culture, and here at Exeter Cathedral we will be offering a series of short tours, as well as a drop-in session at the Library and Archives.

The events are free to attend, but booking is essential (please call 01392 285983; there is no online booking facility for Heritage Open Days). Full details are online and in the *What's On* guide (please also note the recent additions below)

Thursday 6th September 2018 11.30-12.30

Kathryn Harrison: *Where was the Library?*

Sunday 16th September 2018 at 13.00

Barbara Spencer: *Grandisson: The Man and his Chapel*

Other events

If you've not yet seen the latest *What's On* guide, then you're missing out, as the months ahead really are packed with lots of special services and other events.

In particular, I would like to draw your attention to the new lecture series for Remembrance, organised by Canon Mike Williams (Sundays at 17.00 during November). There are also details of some new tours and talks for adults, as well as information about the half term activities for October 2018. If you've missed the announcements elsewhere, then you may want to note that tickets for this year's *Christmas with the Cathedral Choir* concerts (6th and 8th December) and the performance of Handel's *Messiah* (given in aid of the Music Foundation Trust on 9th December) **are now available** from www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/boxoffice. Printed copies are available in the Cathedral, or you can visit www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/events and search by type of service/event or date.

Laurence Blyth, Marketing Manager

Announcing two new Exeter Cathedral publications

We are delighted to announce that we have selected Scala Arts and Heritage Publishers to produce two new books about Exeter Cathedral which will be published together in the Spring of 2020. Scala specialise in the production of books for museums, galleries, libraries, heritage organisations, cathedrals and other religious sites. We look forward to working with Scala on these new works interpreting Exeter Cathedral.

Architectural historian Jonathan Foyle is a great admirer of Exeter Cathedral and is looking forward to adding new insights to a compelling narrative history of the building and its symbolic arts in his new book. This will be a further edition in his series of highly acclaimed books for Scala interpreting Canterbury, Lincoln, Lichfield, and Peterborough cathedrals. Jonathan says:

“Exeter Cathedral is very special. It is unique in England for the silhouette of its twin towers, while nothing in Europe compares with its long internal perspective of branching vaults. A closer look reveals a wealth of meaning that its cosmopolitan builders invested in sculpture, carving and colour. This book, the first illustrated narrative of the cathedral, will explain how the building evolved and what it’s trying to tell us.”

Diane Walker, who leads the Cathedral’s guide training programme, has agreed to write a new guide book to the cathedral. She will also be working with Jonathan on research for his book. Diane says:

“It is a privilege to be involved in this exciting project. I’m looking forward to sharing many special aspects of our beautiful cathedral with readers of the new guidebook. However, summarising the glories of this special place will be a real challenge.”

The Dean welcomed the news, saying:

“I am excited by the announcement of these new books, both of which are long overdue. Jonathan Foyle’s work on other Cathedrals is well-known, and I will be following his work with Diane here in Exeter with interest.”

New photographs of the Cathedral are being commissioned for these two publications.

The Angel of St Gabriel's Chapel

This photograph was taken early on an April morning. The sun suddenly burst from the clouds creating this image. The photographer found this to be a very moving experience and for them it has become "the angel of St Gabriel's Chapel".



Wednesday Evening Homeless Café

The Café is in need of men's clothing and toiletries. Please bring any contributions to any of the Sunday services.

Sunday 9th September 2018 at 19.00 in the Chapter House: Holy Ground "New Life and Hope"

The Reverend Joanna Jepson will talk about her experience working at Louisiana State Penitentiary.

The Diary in September

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

- 4th 18.30 Cathedral Community Committee Meeting
- 5th 11.00-15.00 The *Exeter Book* on display in the Nave
- 6th Exeter Cathedral School Beginning of Term Service
- 19.00 Cathedral Fellowship Committee Meeting
- 6th-16th Heritage Open Days – see pages 17 and 18 for details.
- 8th Devon Historic Churches Trust Bike & Stride Day & Deanery Prayer Walk
- 9th 16.00 Evensong & Installation of Organ Scholar and Choral Scholars
- 19.00 Holy Ground – The Revd Joanna Jepson: *New Life & Hope*
- 11th Flower Arrangers Committee Meeting
- 19.00 The Great Big Cathedral Quiz
- 13th Chapter Meeting
- 17.30 Evensong attended by Cathedral Music Foundation Trust
- 10.00 Organ Recital – David Flood
- 14th *Holy Cross Day*
- 17.30 Solemn Eucharist
- 15th 15.00 Ordination of Deacons
- 16th 16.00 Evensong attended by the Friends of Cathedral Music
- 20th 19.30 Concert by Tenebrae: *We will Remember Them*
- 21st *Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist:*
- 17.30 Solemn Eucharist
- 25th 18.30 Evening Spiritual Tour of the Cathedral
- 29th *Michael and All Angels*
- 16.00 Ordination of Priests

Advance Notice

On Sunday 7th October at 16.00, there will be an Orchestral Evensong, when the Cathedral Choir will join forces with Exeter University Chapel Choir and Exeter Symphony Orchestra for *My Beloved Spake* by Patrick Hadley, Stanford in B flat and Parry's *Blest Pair of Sirens*.