



From: The Dean



What a beautiful, crisp spring morning: the sky is blue, buds are peeping open, daffodils dance, trees are in blossom. It recalls a sentence from Martin Luther: “Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in spring-time.” For after a wet and windy and very cold winter, our eyes are re-opened to the possibility of new birth: death doesn’t have the final say. That is true of the world all around us, and, we believe, it is true of Jesus Christ: nailed to a cross, wrapped in a sheet, and buried in a tomb, but on the third day he rises again. Death doesn’t have the final say: that’s the promise Christ makes to us, his brothers and sisters, also.

If that’s Christ’s promise to us, how do we share this promise with the world? By all means through our speaking, as we give account of the truth that means so much to us; but also by the way we live. For as St John tells us (1 John 3: 18): “Let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.”

But how to live out this truth: that death doesn’t have the final say? What might it mean for the people we meet? The American poet Albert Laighton puts it this way: “Where man sees but withered leaves, God sees sweet flowers growing.” Seeking the best in others, nurturing potential, praying for the flourishing of even those we find most troublesome. If Easter is the season of new life and fresh starts, let that be true not just for ourselves, but for our family and friends, and the people we interact with day by day. Easter is the season to look beyond the withered leaf, to open our hearts and minds to the possibility of resurrection in all God’s children; for every time that happens, Christ lives again, and new people begin to discover his Easter truth and his resurrection life.

May I wish you all a very Happy Easter.

Jonathan Greener



News from the Company of Tapisers: A Trip to St George's Chapel, Windsor

A group of Tapisers were invited to visit St George's Chapel, Windsor. This was the result of a chance meeting between a Michael Pitfield (a member of the Guild of Stewards at Windsor) and Sally Hulin (in her role of Steward here). Michael visited Exeter Cathedral because he was researching some of his Courtney ancestors – and Sally ably assisted him in his quest. Their meeting concluded by Michael extending an invitation to see Windsor's Beryl Dean Panels – an enticement to any needlewoman!

Beryl Dean (1911 – 2001) was an embroideress and foremost textile designer of her generation and a leading exponent of modern design in ecclesiastical embroidery. She designed the 'Jubilee Cope' for the Silver Jubilee of our Queen in 1977 which is worn by the Bishop of London and kept at St Paul's Cathedral. The splendid cope features the spires of 72 churches within the Diocese of London – Beryl Dean put them all together in an innovative and stunning design. (You may have seen the Bishop of London wearing it at the service in November at the Cenotaph.)

St George's Chapel in Windsor has five Beryl Dean Panels which she created between 1969 and 1974 for the Rutland Chantry – and it was these embroideries that we went to see:

The Annunciation – has the Virgin Mary, simply-dressed, surrounded by shining wings of light.

The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth shows the two women happily meeting under a sky sparkling (literally) with butterflies. (Beryl Dean used metallic materials to reflect the light.)

The Adoration of the Kings has the richness of the Kings' garments represented by dazzling decoration and complex embroidery techniques.

The Temptation of Christ shows Him dressed in a linen garment edged with a plain, homespun brown fringe. Christ stands firmly on a tower while the Devil – a gold dragon – offers Him earthly power.

The Marriage at Cana, has a rainbow of satin grapes above a scene of decoratively dressed guests huddled around pink wine jars.

To study these panels close-up was a rare privilege as we identified the stitches and pulled thread work we asked ourselves: "How can we incorporate these techniques into our own embroidery?" It certainly made us re-think our boundaries!

We were shown a selection of vestments, including their 'Garter' Altar Frontal which is used once a year when the Order of the Knights of the Garter gather together in the presence of the Queen.

Finally, we had a quick tour of the Chapel itself – too much history to take in in one visit, though!!! Everyone from Edward III ... Richard III... Henry VIII... to Margaret Thatcher has left their mark here.

As we returned to the railway station we were all aware of the remarkable heritage we have inherited!

Our special thanks go to Michael Pitfield and Sally Hulin for organising this very special visit for us.

Diana Symes, Chairman of The Company of Tapisers

Ed. Sadly, it was not possible for the Tapisers to take any photographs of this special day.

Advance Notice

Dates for your diary: Thursday 1st August until Monday 26th August 2019

A special exhibition by The Royal School of Needlework called 'Worship and Glory' will be on display in the South Quire Aisle of Exeter Cathedral.

On display will be unique examples of ecclesiastical embroidery from the 19th century and early 20th century; alongside will be pieces from the Cathedral's own collection of vestments, whitework and canvas work.

More details soon!

Diana Symes

Tales from the Foodbank: Report from the Joseph Rowntree Trust February 2019

The number of single pensioners living below the Minimum Income Standard almost doubled from 0.7 million to 1.3 million between 2008-09 and 2016-17, which was linked to the rising cost of food and fuel and pensioners identifying additional needs. Female pensioners were more likely than male pensioners to live in households with incomes below the MIS.

The next Cathedral Foodbank Collection takes place on **Sunday 28th April** at the 10 am Service. Please give generously to that or to collections in the supermarkets, Thank you.

Felicity Cawthra

News from the Bellringers

Firstly, I would like to extend my personal thanks to everyone in the Cathedral congregation for their support and interest in the National 12 Bell Striking Contest Final, which we are hosting here at Exeter Cathedral on Saturday 22 June.

Since launching our volunteer recruitment drive earlier this year, we have seen huge interest, with some 85 people registering to help on the day, including volunteers from the Cathedral community. So many people have spoken to me about the competition and offered their support, which has been incredibly encouraging, aside from the invaluable help I have received from both clergy and staff with all the arrangements so far. Without all of you this competition would not happen – so thank you. If you have signed up, we will be in touch soon, once we have completed the comprehensive volunteer rota for the day.

Our 12 Bell team are currently practising hard; being host tower, ringing our own bells, gives us a considerable advantage over the visitors! However, from early May onwards the nine other competing teams will begin travelling to Exeter for their allocated practice session on our bells. After the eliminator rounds held on 23rd March, I can now confirm the nine teams joining Exeter in the final will be the Ancient Society of College Youths, Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Leeds, Melbourne, Oxford, St Pauls Cathedral, Society of Royal Cumberland Youths. In next month's edition I will be able to tell you more – but please make them welcome and enjoy listening to their no doubt different ringing styles.

Meanwhile, April will see us enjoying our Easter ringing, following the silence of Holy Week. On Easter Sunday morning at 7:00am, the bells will peal out over the city once again in celebration – as ringers, this is always a very special, almost spine-tingling moment. After a quick pause for breakfast, some of us will then return to ring a quarter peal before the main Festival Choral Eucharist at 10:00am. Finally, we will celebrate St George with a quarter peal on Tuesday 23rd. So please enjoy the bells this month as much as we will enjoy ringing them for you.

Clare Griffiths, Exeter Cathedral Bellringers Secretary

News from Churches Together Across Exeter (CTaX)

Fri 5th April 3-5pm Southernhay Church: 30th Anniversary celebration of Southernhay child contact centre - all welcome

Good Friday 19th April 10am: Passion for Exeter-Exeter Cathedral & City Centre

Exeter Cathedral Flower Arrangers

A short piece this month; there are no flowers in the body of the Cathedral because it is Lent. However, we are still busy with planning for the Easter Festival and all that it entails.

The Easter Garden takes at least 2 or 3 of us half a day to put together, and as it is going in a new position at the West End of the Cathedral, we have had a practice run with the staging and “boulders”. David Gunn-Johnson brought his staging skills to advise us and the plan sounds good – let us hope that it works out in practice.

The Altar of Repose for Maundy Thursday evening’s service will be set up on Thursday morning and that will take at least 3 of us. It is a moving piece to work on and it is just wonderful once all the foliage and flowers are there, but even better with all the candles lit in the evening. The foliage from this Altar will be moved to the Easter Garden when that is finished on Easter Eve.

Saturday morning will see a whole team of us in, working with flowers going all over the Cathedral, in chapels as well as the regular placements at the High Altar, Lady Chapel, Flower Box and the Nave pillars. Lilies of course, for those of you who have contributed to the costs, and to make our lovely building special for the Easter services and all the people who will make a special visit over the holiday. Should you wish to contribute, perhaps in memory of a loved one, please pop an envelope in one of the collection boxes marked “Lilies”. The Cathedral Flower Arrangers will be very grateful for your financial help.

Flick Evans, Exeter Cathedral Flower Arrangers

Christine Edwards: Thanksgiving Service 8th April at 2pm

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Christine Edwards. Christine was a regular member of the congregation, on Sundays and at weekday Evensong, until five years ago, when she moved to be in a residential home in Minehead near her sister’s home.

Christine worked for the Foreign Office before retirement to Exeter, where she deployed her language skills in teaching for U3A. The Cathedral played a significant part in her life; she was a Steward, on the Sunday Coffee Rota, the Cathedral Community Committee, and much more. We greatly missed her presence and her friendship when she moved to Somerset.

All are most welcome to attend the Thanksgiving Service in the Lady Chapel, at 2pm on Monday 8th April.

Christianity Deanery Synod: 20th February 2019

Christianity Deanery Synod was held at St Thomas Church Hall. It began with a short act of worship from the Iona Community, led by Rev Dr David Nixon (St Thomas & Area Dean). This included Jesus' reassuring words recorded in John's Gospel (11:17-27), followed by a time of prayer and silent reflection following the tragic and premature deaths of Anthony Payne, Richard and Roger Carter.

The main focus of the evening was entitled: *The Role of Exeter Cathedral in Deanery and Diocese* and included 3 presentations by Dean Jonathan, Canon Dr Chris Palmer, and Canon Becky Totterdell.

The Dean summarised the Cathedral's core *raison d'être* in terms of its governance according to the Cathedrals Measure 1999 and as the seat of the Bishop; to be a centre for learning, to support the Bishop and serve the whole Diocese. The Dean then gave his overview of some significant issues which are being given attention at the moment:

1.
 - a) Signing off the Bishop's Charge by Easter.
 - b) Completing the Cathedral Worship Survey.
 - c) A formal process of self-evaluation for the Cathedral needs to be approved and signed off.
2. Christian nurture and discipleship.
3. Building maintenance and improvement.

The Cathedral heating system is failing, as is the sound system and the lighting is inadequate and needs improving. The exterior toilets are "ghastly" and Cathedral surveyors have identified urgent work which needs to be done to damaged stone and metal surrounds of the Chapter House. Church House, which incorporates the Cathedral administration and finance offices, is nearing the end of its life without substantial renovation work and most clergy houses require re-roofing. This is a huge challenge with initial estimates suggesting costs of approximately £13m to put right.

The Dean affirmed the blessing of goodwill among the Cathedral community but also the need to care better for its staff and volunteers, to make better use of its library and archives, and to resolve the issue of charging people to come in and look around. The Dean dislikes charging people to look around the Cathedral, but it raises £450k per annum, and he invited Synod members to make suggestions how this money might otherwise be raised. The Dean ended by affirming the need for better Cathedral outreach with the Deanery and wider Diocese.

Chris then outlined his role, which includes oversight of education, outreach, mission and pastoral care. Chris talked about some of the initiatives already underway to improve Cathedral outreach:

- Holy Ground (Most 2nd Sundays of each month through the year):

A service offered to everyone within the Diocese to explore themes around the arts, justice and theology in a safe environment.

- Growing the rural parishes project:

Pilgrimage routes (five long and one short) are currently being developed in and around Exeter, suitable for walking and cycling.

- Spirituality Day:

Future spirituality days and quiet days are envisaged.

- Various Exhibitions:

To include Tapestry (Royal College of Needlework) in August.

- Pastoral Care Team:

Now in place, and as we move to recruiting and training more members of the team, an invitation to parishes to join the training might be offered.

- Homeless and Vulnerable:

The Cathedral's Wednesday Kitchen is one of a number of facilities offered to homeless and vulnerable people across the city offering a hot meal, hospitality and interaction with people they wouldn't otherwise see.

- Cathedral Green:

Management issues surrounding anti-social behaviour involving ball games, cycling, drug and alcohol use are currently under ongoing discussion by an Operations Group including local businesses, Exeter City Council, The Cathedral and Devon and Cornwall Police to see how this can be better managed.

- Engaging with people of other faiths:

Chris spoke of his awareness that the Cathedral's engagement with people of other faiths requires further development, and hopes that efforts to encourage engagement with people of other faiths will improve understanding.

- Mission:

Finally, Chris spoke about mission as a response to the large number of visitors who come to the Cathedral and our awareness of the need to work harder to promote pilgrimage to this place.

Then Becky outlined what helping the Cathedral to connect better with Deanery and Diocese means in practice. This includes:

- Building better links with parishes.
- For Benefices with the Cathedral as Patron, assisting with the interview and selection process for appointing candidates.
- Improving partnership working arrangements with Friends of Exeter Cathedral and Parishes.

- Providing support for ordinands in training with SWMTC and St Mellitus College, as well as those around the UK; and also support for curates in the Exeter Diocese.
- Establishing a clearer role for the Prebendaries to contribute to Cathedral life.

She followed this by asking how the Cathedral can be more of a resource and more accessible to parishes across Deanery and Diocese and suggested the following five ways:

1. **Spiritual Resource:** Including Holy Ground, and the organisation of quiet days for all parishes.
2. **Theological Resource:** By offering a series of lectures and book clubs via Skype particularly those in more rural locations such as North Devon.
3. **Building Community:** Making the Cathedral a place where people and parishes can come and be part of a fun experience, and feel welcome.
4. **Schools:** Cathedral resources and activities, including seasonal workshops in Advent and Lent, art and literary sessions, are available to all schools, and clergy might wish to mention this particularly any Church schools in their parish.
5. **Celebration of Parish special occasions:** The Cathedral Choir is to support and help parishes celebrate any special event, if invited to do so.

After answering various questions from the floor, the Dean left two questions for Synod members to consider:

1. How best can the Cathedral establish two-way communication with the Deanery's churches?
2. What would you like the Cathedral to be for you in the Deanery and Diocese?

The impression I gained from this meeting was overwhelmingly positive, and the members of this synod were impressed by the enthusiasm of our 3 representatives and the intelligent way they are dealing with the complexities of the demands made of the Cathedral.

Nick Horton

Holy Ground: Sunday 12th May at 7pm

Making Good Decision: Making God Decisions

How do we discover what God wants? How can we navigate difficult choices in a way that bring life to others and ourselves? Revd Hannah Alderson, diocesan Vocations Officer and chaplain at Exeter University, and Canon Chris Palmer, Canon Chancellor of the Cathedral, open up these questions, and introduce some of the paths that have been used through the ages.

Cathedral Outing to St Paul's Cathedral

Following a kind invitation from David and Hilary Ison, the Fellowship Committee is planning a visit to St Paul's for the weekend of 1st and 2nd June, 2019. All are welcome to be part of this exciting weekend. David is the Dean of St Paul's. He was formerly Canon Chancellor of Exeter Cathedral, and is well known to many people here.

The provisional programme is for us to attend Evensong at St Paul's at 5pm on Saturday 1st June, which will be preceded by a tour of the Cathedral. After Evensong, David and Hilary are hosting a buffet supper. Numbers for supper are limited; only the first 30 to sign the list for the outing will be able to join us for that, so please sign up quickly!

On Sunday morning, we will attend Sung Eucharist at 11.30am. We will arrange somewhere for the party to meet for lunch, and hope to have time for an activity on Sunday afternoon, possibly a boat trip on the River Thames.

People can make their own arrangements, and take advantage of early booking and rail travel discounts. Several people have asked if we could travel and stay together. We are, therefore, planning to hire a minibus and stay at the Premier Inn near St Paul's. If this encourages you to join us, please contact Diane Coombes urgently on 01626 862339; we need to book transport very soon.

We will publish the final programme of the fixed schedule as soon as possible. Meanwhile, if you would like to join the party to St Paul's, please sign the list, which is still available at coffee after 10am Sung Eucharist, and in the Events Department in the Cathedral Office. In fairness to all, especially as numbers are limited for supper on Saturday evening, there will be a non-returnable deposit of £10 person on booking. The deposits will be allocated to the funds that support the pastoral care of our Cathedral Community.

Diane Coombes and Margaret Williams

Cloister Club and Cathedral Community Information

The Cloister Club now have a noticeboard to display their work. It is on the plinth in the South Quire Aisle, opposite the Cathedral Shop. It currently displays some Lent Prayers written by our children and young people, and also their Acts of Kindness for Lent.

The Cathedral Community noticeboard is in the South Transept. It is now at eye level and more easily visible. Adjacent to it, on Sunday mornings, there is a table on which information about the Cathedral Community and its activities will be available. We hope that this will be helpful to all who worship at the Cathedral, especially to newcomers.

General Synod February 2019

General Synod met in London from 20th - 23rd February 2019. A full and mainly outward looking Agenda had an emphasis on Evangelism. The Exeter representatives had their usual pre synod meeting with Bishop Robert and Stephen Hancock, Diocesan Secretary, when we went through the Agenda and identified areas of particular interest and/or concern. All the papers together with video recordings of the sessions are available on the Church of England website.

After the usual introductions and welcomes, we had Presentations from two members of the Anglican Communion, Prem Chand Singh, Moderator of the Church of North India and Bishop of Jabalpur, and Bishop Paul Korir, Bishop of Kapsabet in Kenya. It was salutary to learn of their approaches to evangelism and discipleship; in particular Bishop Paul's words that ... *"Christ should not be like an absentee landlord to young people, but fully present in their lives"*stayed with me throughout the three debates on evangelism! The Archbishop of Canterbury gave a Presidential Address urging us to eschew cynicism and to listen in order to hear, rather than to speak.

There was a raft of legislative business, and of direct interest to Mission Communities and Benefices, was the change in Canon Law to allow Morning and Evening Prayer and a service of Holy Communion to be said every Sunday in at least ONE of the churches in each cluster of churches. As with the recent change in Canon Law concerning vesture, it regularised the reality of some existing practice, and acknowledged the changing context; in 1960 17% of churches were in multi parish groups, in 2011 that figure had risen to 71%.

The main meat of the Synod included debates on Homelessness, the Environment, Gambling, the treatment of Gypsy, Roma and Travelling Communities. The three Evangelism debates including, Youth Evangelism and Estates Evangelism, engaged synod and those in the public gallery. These were excellent debates with good speeches; several in the Youth Evangelism debate pointed to the mismatch between young people and the institutional church in their respective understandings of LGBTI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex) issues. Many young people are baffled by the church's attitude to something that for them is a non-issue.

Synod concluded with a debate initiated by the Presidents (the Archbishops of Canterbury and York) on The State of the Nation, with a motion to pray for those in authority, promote the voice of the marginalized, and work for the common good at this divisive time. Elections for a new General Synod take place in 2020 so it is not too soon to think about whether you, for someone you know, might consider standing. If you are interested, I'm happy to talk about what it involves.

Anne Foreman, February 2019

Outward Giving 2017-2018

The Outward Giving for the financial year 2017-2018 from the “old system” (see Marian Gilpin’s article below) amounted to just under £8000 to be given to charity. The Outward Giving Committee (Canon Mike Williams, Terry Pyle, Marian Gilpin and myself) met, sometimes virtually, to organise the distribution of these funds. Following the pattern of past years, the beneficiaries are in three groups:

- ❖ Those directly associated with us here at the Cathedral in some way or another: the Wednesday Kitchen, the Exeter Foodbank, the Exeter Diocesan Church of England Council for Social Aid, the Exeter City Centre Chaplaincy, Exeter Community Initiatives and the Choir Schools Association
- ❖ Those that are local to us here in the Diocese, or with which we have diocesan links: Cyprus and the Gulf (Link Diocese), Thika, Kenya (Link Diocese), Companions of the Melanesian Brotherhood-Southern Section UK (Diocese of Exeter), Exeter Street Pastors, Farm Community Network, Mothers Union Away From It All, Christian TEFL
- ❖ Those with an international focus: Send-A-Cow, and Street Child

Two of these charities are new to us, so what follows is a paragraph introducing them and their work.

Christian TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) is an organisation based in Exeter in which trains Christian EFL teachers who wish to share the gospel through English teaching here either in the UK to immigrants or working overseas in Christian schools or with mission organisations, quite often using TEFL in a “tentmaking” capacity. It has been operating for about 6 years and has recently been awarded a grant for a pilot project for teaching English in churches to refugees and asylum seekers. The grant covers about 80% of the pilot, and the gift from the Cathedral will increase that to almost 90%. For more information, please see <https://www.christiantefl.org/>

Street Child believes that achieving universal basic education is the single greatest step that can be taken towards the elimination of global poverty, and works in some of the world’s toughest places, including remote, hard-to-reach areas and fragile, disaster-affected states. Knowing that the barriers to education are complex and interlinked, the projects focus on a combination of education, child protection and livelihood support to address the social, economic and structural issues that underpin today’s education crisis. Street Child partners with local organisations and communities, and takes an outcome-led approach, using low cost sustainable solutions that make a real difference to the children. Since 2008, Street Child has helped over 200,000

children to go to school, and supported over 15,000 families to set up businesses, so they can afford the cost of educating their children long-term. Now in its tenth year, Street Child was awarded the UK Government's "matched funding" for their "Count Me In" appeal, so all donations made are effectively doubled, including that from Exeter Cathedral.

Julie Glover, Chair Outward Giving Committee

A New Way of Giving

I am a member of the Outward Giving Committee, and it falls to my lot to explain a change in our method of giving. In the past we have given 10% of our planned giving income to charity, but now our outward giving is to be done through 4 special collections spread over the year (Lent/Easter, Pentecost, Harvest and Christmas). The first of these will take place on the four Sundays from Mothering Sunday until Easter Day. The reason for this is to make sure all have an opportunity to give in this way.

Our first charity is to be Shelterbox, one I am sure many of us know about. A typical box costs £590, and the contents may vary depending on the disaster for which it is to be sent. Contents may include a tent big enough for ten people, blankets, a cooking set, a water container and purifying kit, solar lights, ropes, basic tools, ground sheet, tarpaulin, and sometimes school equipment, where an existing school building has been destroyed by the disaster.

On 31st March, and for the following Sundays until Easter Day, there will be an opportunity to donate to Shelterbox in addition to your normal giving. Shelterbox Gift Aid envelopes will be available from the Sidesmen and these, and all contributions, can be placed in special collection plates around the Cathedral. It would be wonderful if we could raise enough for at least one Shelterbox. If you have any queries, please contact Julie Glover on 07747 633216 or myself on 01616 873443. Please help the Cathedral to reach new heights in our outward giving.

Marian Gilpin, Outward Giving Committee

A Contemplative Journey through Lent

St Martin's Church, on the corner of Exeter Cathedral Green

8pm on the remaining Mondays of Lent: 1st, 8th April

This is an opportunity to experience the ancient close-of-the-day service of Compline, with plainchant and polyphony, hosted by Margaret Aagesen Hughes (Soprano) and Clare Bryden (Alto). It will feature the music of Bach, Barber and Saint-Saëns, and musicians Ruth Molins, Sophie Brewer (Flute), Emma Welton (Violin), Catherine Bradley (Cello)

Clare Bryden

Focus: The work of our Cathedral Servers and Virgers In conversation with Alan Drew, Team Leader

*'We love the place, O God, wherein thine honour dwells;
The joy of thine abode all earthy joys excel.
We love the house of prayer, wherein thy servants meet;
And thou, O Lord art there, thy chosen flock to greet.'*

William Bullock 1798-1874

I am doing things a little differently this month. I am endeavouring to shine a light onto the work that is carried out, week in and week out, by the members of the above two groups. So, a few weeks ago, I spent a couple of hours talking with Alan Drew, who is their Team Leader. Those of us, who sit week by week as a member of the worshipping community, or are a visitor, a member of an audience for a concert, or whatever, see only the tip of the iceberg relating to the organisation that is at the base of every event. I was, for certain, really more than a bit of an ignoramus concerning the breadth, depth, and differences between the responsibilities and duties of the virgers and servers! So, here I am now hoping to shed a little light for you into their territory.

The Canon Precentor, is responsible for the organisation of Services held in the Cathedral, he is '*the officer commanding*'. The Team Leader (Head Virger in some places) makes certain that each Service is completely 'covered' by Virger Services. This means ensuring that everything required for a Service is in the right place, that microphones are in working order, and that processions get to the right place and at the right time!

There are records of vergers/virgers being in existence as far back as the 12th century in Exeter, Lincoln, Rochester and Salisbury. The Church of England's Guild of Vergers was formed in 1932.

The term Virger/Verger comes from the phrase '*He who carries the verge*'; the verge being a rod, staff, or wand that is carried as an emblem of authority or office, before a scholastic, legal or religious dignity in procession; a method used to clear their pathway. Sometimes, in the past, this role included that of being the Dog Whipper.

During the 16th to 19th centuries, it was not uncommon for people to bring their dogs to services; or theirs and/or stray dogs just followed them! So the Dog Whipper, armed with a whip, used to chase them outside, and/or sometimes, with a provided pair of tongs, would grapple with the errant dogs before they got to the consecrated bread!

The last recorded Dog Whipper, performing their original function, was a John Pickard, who was appointed to Exeter Cathedral in 1856. I guess you could say they were the precursors of modern animal control officers, and similar to the Bang Beggars, who morphed into police officers. Fortunately, the Sluggard

Wakers, whose job was to poke and hit drowsy members of the congregations, died out!



As for the Servers, (some of whom are seen here with Bishop Martin on St Stephen's Day), Canon James Mustard our Precentor, with Alan and the servers secretary, Caroline Prince, work out the rota for every Service; that is, who is doing what and where. Examples being, who will carry the Cross, the Banner, the Candles, and, when required, the Thurible.

Servers enable the clergy to carry out the liturgy, by carrying the Processional Cross, the lights and tapers for Eucharistic Services, and the three major items, which are the Ciborium, holding the un-consecrated wafers, and the Chalices, which are to be filled with the wine and water from the silver plated jugs for their consecration. These sacraments are then distributed to those in the congregation who wish to receive them. The Company of Servers was formed in 2009, and ours here at Exeter, is titled The Servers' Guild of St. Stephen. St. Stephen was the first Deacon and the first Christian martyr.

As well as making certain that everything is ready in the Cathedral, the virgers lay out the vestments, appropriate to the liturgical year in the Sacristy, and the relevant altars are prepared with the necessary plate and/or valuable objects for each Service. It's like a theatre production! The actors cannot perform until the stage is set! The Servers assist the clergy with the ceremony. Alan arrives at the Cathedral at about 7am in the morning to get ready for the 8am Morning Prayer and 8.20am Eucharist.

Here at Exeter, we, also, have three part time virgers; David Barlow, Alan Bowen and Philip Richardson, plus four voluntary virgers; Mary Moore, Elizabeth Noon, Morgan Philpott and Malcolm Pomeroy.

Our servers are Martha and Dom Bowles, Steve Ellis, Pete Francis, Elizabeth Noon, David Norris, Morgan Philpott, Caroline Prince, Wilfred Reynolds, Eden Smith, Louise Spencer, Chryssa Turner, Emma White, and John Wood. John Wood and David Norris are the longest serving members. At one time, only men held these positions. The Committee, is headed-up by the Precentor, Alan,

Carol as Secretary, and four others; Wilfred Reynolds, Malcolm Pomeroy, John Wood and Morgan Philpott. This is a committee which has quite a wide age range; from eighteen years to....?! I'm too polite to mention!

Alan was born in Taunton, but attended schools in Exeter, when his father left the railways for a job as Chief Steward at the Conservative Club. His first job was as a lighting technician at The Princess Theatre in Torquay. There, one night, he failed to keep the spotlight on Eric Morecombe. Trying to apologise, he was told by Eric to keep doing it because *'I've got the perfect line to put in!'* His journey along the path to where he is now, commenced when he was a server at Heavitree Parish Church.

'Here I learned all my Church bits & pieces!'

After a meeting with Canon Frank Rice in 1973, he was appointed as the Temporary Junior Virger & Dog Whipper to the Cathedral. He recalled his first big service, which was the Enthronement of Bishop Eric Mercer in December 1973. Ron Melhuish, the then Head Virger, was a very influential figure in Alan's development. (NB. Mary, Ron's wife, was a wonderful flower arranger, and had an influence upon me!) When Ron Melhuish died, Alan was promoted to Second Virger, a position he held until his departure in 1989 for Birmingham's Cathedral, on taking-up the post of Head Virger. Returning to Exeter when his father's health deteriorated he got a job, during the dreadful BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalitis) outbreak, with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. To control the spread of the disease, thousands of cattle had to be culled, which brought intense and immense emotional and financial suffering to the agricultural communities throughout this land. Once the crisis was over, Alan became redundant, so he set up his own Cleaning Company, getting a contract to clean the Cathedral's Offices. He joined the Serving Team, later on becoming the Part Time Acting Head Virger when Michael Greaves became ill. Later on, he was appointed to his current role as Team Leader of both the Virgers and Servers.

'My most memorable duty was at the Royal Maundy Service in 1983, when I had to virge the Duke of Edinburgh to his seat.'

In his spare time, Alan tells me he is a *'bit of an aeroplane anorak'*! He has a model helicopter, one which he keeps crashing into trees and bushes!

'My piloting skills are not so good!'

He enjoys walking on, or roaming around Dartmoor and Woodbury Common to find a spot with a view to read a book; the book would probably be one by Agatha Christie, one concerning Sherlock Holmes, or any of the Harry Potter books; but, he also gains much pleasure from the historical fact or fiction genre.

Alan was very precise concerning his favourite pieces of music. They are:-

1. Samuel Wesley's *Ascribe unto the Lord.*
2. Orlando Gibbons' *This is the record of John.*
3. John Ireland's *Greater love hath no man.*

In response to my questions about what, for him, are the best and worst things at the Cathedral, he replied:-

'My love for God has multiplied since I came here. It's a joy and pleasure to work in such an amazingly beautiful building. So many people do not stop and look at it properly! To see the progressing sun, spot-lighting various parts of the building, makes me think about the 13th century woodcarvers, stone masons and glaziers.

I have a feeling of huge satisfaction when I know that a service has gone exceptionally well. It is a vocation not a job, and it is my life. I cannot think of the worst thing!

However, we do need more Servers, so if anyone sees or knows of any likely candidates, please encourage them to get in touch with me.'

Thank you Alan for giving me the opportunity to talk with you about the work you do here as Team Leader of the Virgers and Servers; a job you love so deeply.

Will you please join me in saying a big thank you to them all.

Rosemary Bethell

Congratulations Renate!



Warmest congratulations, and belated birthday greetings to Renate Helmsley, who celebrated her 90th birthday in March. Renate is a steward, guide, reader, Eucharistic Assistant, and friend to many in the Cathedral.

The Dean presented her with flowers from the Cathedral Community after the Choral Eucharist on 10th March.

Here she is pictured at her birthday party, when over a 100 of her friends and family, from all parts of the world, including Australia, gathered to celebrate with her.

From the Canon Chancellor

Pastoral Care Training

Our Pastoral Care Team works with the Canon Chancellor in offer listening and pastoral support to members of our cathedral community. At present we have 12 people on the team, who undertook training for this role in 2016 – 2017. We are planning to run this training again this summer – and are pleased to confirm the first two dates, the evenings of 22 & 29 May. Other dates will follow; there will be five or six evenings in all.

We are actively seeking people who might like to take part in this training, with a view to becoming members of the Pastoral Care Team. We are looking to diversify the team, particularly in terms of age, gender, and experience so that we minister effectively to the whole range of our congregation and community.

If you would like to talk about taking part in this training, please would you contact Canon Chris Palmer on chris.palmer@exeter-cathedral.org.uk or 07906 249132. The recruitment is a two-stage process: the first stage looks for those who will undertake the training. Afterwards, there will be a further conversation about whether you will be recruited through the cathedral's safer recruitment procedure and join the Pastoral Care Team.

Rule of Life

I'm delighted that so far 35 people have indicated that they wish to express their Christian discipleship by adopting the cathedral's Rule of Life. If you haven't yet done so, please make sure that you have read the booklet *A Rule of Life* and, if you wish, return the commitment slip. And if you would like a conversation about living this Rule of Life, you can indicate this on your reply.

I've been asked about those who already have a rule of life. The cathedral's Rule is flexible enough to encompass the commitments that you might already have – as I said when I preached about it, you need to put the flesh on these bones.

At the same time, the Rule of Life is meant to stretch our engagement with the things of God and his world. If the Rule provokes you to new service or renewed prayer, or to better care for yourself, or to talk about your faith with others, these are steps that God delights in and which allow us to know his faithfulness afresh. The amazing thing is that God's commitment to us remains constant, even through the changing patterns of our commitment to him, and through our conscious choices to follow, we become more deeply aware of his love and grace sustaining us.

Canon Chris Palmer

Celebrating a Partnership

On 20th March, at a special ceremony in the Cathedral, the University of Exeter and Exeter Cathedral signed a Memorandum of Understanding which strengthens even further an already fruitful research partnership. The Memorandum marks the range of innovative work already carried out by the University and the Cathedral, such as the digitalisation and analysis of the Exeter Book, and will strengthen future collaborative research projects.

Those present at the ceremony heard both the Dean and Professor Mark Goodwin (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, External Engagement, University of Exeter) speak warmly about what has already been achieved, and about the exciting prospects for the future. Members of the University Chapel Choir sang, and Professor Jeremy Clark gave a short and inspirational lecture about the Exeter Book. The evening ended with the presentation of a large bouquet of flowers to Canon Ann Barwood BEM, Canon Librarian, whose immense hard work has played such a huge part in building and developing joint working between the Cathedral and the University of Exeter.

Here we see the Dean and Professor Goodwin signing the Memorandum.



Next Month: Please send material for the **May** edition by **Tuesday 23rd April** to Heather Morgan (01392 877623, hmm53@tiscali.co.uk and Sheila Atkinson sm.a@blueyonder.co.uk. The other members of the editorial team are Rosemary Bethell, and Jenny Ellis.

Cathedral Community Committee (CCC)

The Cathedral Community Committee met on 7th February and 12th March. Both meetings had a very full agenda. The key items to report included:

- Noticeboards & Community Information Desk-see page 9 above.
- We welcomed the introduction of a prayer before the Cloister Club leave 10am Choral Eucharist for their own activities, as suggested at the Awayday in November
- Further discussions about the *The Rule of Life*, including its title, led to some amendments in the final version.
- The success of *Come & See*, the day of prayer and spirituality, was welcomed, and there was great support for a similar event in the summer. This will take place on 8th June.
- We asked for as much notice as possible to be given to the Cathedral Community about *Thy Kingdom Come*, and about how we could contribute, as we have done for the last two years.
- Inward and Outward Giving (see pages 11 and 12 above). We recognised that the take-up of Parish Giving has not been as great as we hoped. Various ideas were put forward to assist, and the matter referred back to Chapter for further consideration
- A focus group from the Cathedral Community had contributed to the SCIE audit of safeguarding. The generally very positive feedback from SCIE was warmly welcomed....
-as was the Cathedral Building Development Plan
- Results of the Worship Survey, repeated during the school term as suggested at the Awayday, were considered. The need to work on all aspects of Welcome was agreed, and a wide-ranging discussion ensued.
- We agreed a proposal to invite students in the congregations, of whom there are an increasing number, to an informal, free lunch on the first possible Sunday. Invitation cards will be available to hand out.
- Clare Griffiths has been co-opted to the Committee, and warmly welcomed. From late June, she will be the CCC Secretary
- Huge thanks were expressed to Yve Taylor, the previous Secretary, who has resigned from the Committee. Thanks were also expressed to Kate Burhouse and Terry Pyle who had also resigned.
- The Chair was authorised to prepare drafts of an action plan for the CCC and amendments to update its Constitution.
- Consideration was given to how we organise social events/hospitality.
- We hope soon to have a generic ccc@ email address.

The next meeting will be on 9th April. Please send any suggestions for the agenda to me at hmm53@tiscali.co.uk

Heather Morgan, Chair CCC

Events in the Education Department

There will be a full and varied programme of activities for April, including an Easter Egg Trail, several craft workshops between 9th-16th April, Dementia Awareness sessions on 25th April, a Spiritual Evening Tour of the Cathedral led by Canon Ian Morter on 25th April, and a talk by Laurence Beckford (Master Carver) at 12.30pm on 17th April. On 23rd April, the Cathedral Library & Archives celebrate Shakespeare's Birthday with a showing of the Second Folio and, at 11.30am, there will be a special tour *The Time of Shakespeare at Exeter Cathedral*. Further details and booking information are on the Cathedral website.

Lisa Raymond, Head of Education

Holy Week 2019 – Easter and our Human Vocation

"In this world so tempted by despair there may be no other source of hope than trust in the God who has given us his word." Timothy Radcliffe

Who am I? What should I do in life? What is the meaning of life? Humans have been asking themselves those questions since the beginning of time. Each generation needs a new answer. It can feel as Christians in our country that 'we are like blacksmiths in the world of cars', looking to be relevant to our neighbour. During Holy Week, we will reflect on the question 'What is the meaning of human life today in the context of the Easter story?' I'm going to suggest that our life as Christians and a church is the answer to that question. We make sense of life as humans by pointing to something beyond ourselves - to God. We are able to do that in the light of the story about the ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus. That story gives us a role to play, and it extends beyond the horizon to the Kingdom of God - it allows us to be part of something bigger than ourselves. By finding meaning in that story and pointing others towards it, we offer an invitation to be a human being in a new way. We will explore through stories, metaphors and theology ways in which we can point to God.

Monday 15 at 7.30pm – The Bear and the Nun

Tuesday 16 at 7.30pm – Silence and Honey Cakes

Wednesday 17 at 7.30pm – Identity and Maypoles

Thursday 18 at 7.30pm – Maundy Sermon: Hessed – the kindness of love
as deed

Friday 19 at 13.30pm - Reflection: Courage and vulnerability

Sunday 21 at 5.30am - Easter Sermon: the power of celebration

Rev Canon Dr Mike D Williams

For full details of Holy Week and Easter Services, & the Cathedral Choir's performance of Bach's St John Passion on 14th April, please see the Cathedral website and the What's On leaflet.