



## From the Canon Treasurer

44 years ago, the first hymn I ever sang in a church choir was *Hail the Day that Sees him Rise*. It brings back joyous memories of music-making and Christian fellowship and learning from my childhood. I am one of those many people for whom church choirs weren't just about singing; it was an expression of children's and youth work, a context for fellowship, Christian education, formation in the life of faith, and immersion in the worship of the church.

I'm writing this on the morning of Ascension Day, having just sung the same hymn at the foot of the North Tower, and hearing the voices of today's choristers ringing out over the Cathedral Green, from on high.

This, of course, was the scene of another great event on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May, when 54 intrepid people abseiled down the tower to raise funds for our development appeal – particularly for a window in the new cloister gallery. But of course the day was much bigger than either the money or the abseiling. I observed (again) from the foot of the tower, where there was a spirit of celebration, congratulation, and community.

In all these cases, we are aware of the ways in which the varied life of the church integrates so many different aspects: music, liturgy, learning, fellowship, adventure, community, connection, welcome, work, play, conversation, silence... the list could go on.

I thinking the integration of all these things is what we mean by 'spirituality'. We sometimes limit the word spirituality to mean prayer, meditation, reflection. But this is reductionist; the response of our human spirit to the spirit of God within us encompasses the entirety of human living – beyond the life of the church too, to all our relationships, our use of time, how we deploy the resources available to us, and so on.

Soon we will be celebrating Pentecost, the feast of the Spirit. This is very much a feast that propels us outward, to see and recognise God's Spirit throughout creation, in all our human interactions, in the voices of those who don't explicitly name Christ but are nonetheless seeking truth, in the beauty of the natural world and the creativity of human endeavour. The Spirit, breathed over the waters at the moment of creation, is God's creative presence continually bringing life and hope to the world, penetrating and infusing all existence, and binding together the colossal diversity of created life.

Let us pray that we will revel in the variety of God's world and in the many gifts that God gives to us. And let us pray that our human Spirit will respond to and join with God's spirit in ensuring the ongoing integration and unity of these things.

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people,  
and kindle in us the fire of your love.*

## **News from the Cathedral Flower Arrangers**

How time flies! We are about to embark on Phase 2 of the Quire project and we are all still in one piece and speaking to one another. Months of problems, changes, adjustments and complications have been forgotten, so here we all go again.

During Lent we spring-cleaned most of our mechanics and silk foliage, and moved the lesser used items we wanted to keep to a location near the stonemason's yard. The rickety stairs down are a little scary so we don't plan to use them ourselves to carry anything, but we have been reassured that the Virgers will carry anything necessary. When the project is complete, there will be a beautiful new staircase in place. At the time of writing, we think we have to exit the flower room in June, but we're not quite sure where we will have our "HQ" just yet. It is just as well we've moved because the ancient painted ceiling is falling into our flower boxes.

We have two weddings coming up, and at least four memorial services booked in, so plenty to keep our ladies on their toes. We have replaced or added to our silk flowers since Easter to ensure we can match the requests we have received. The congregation will see a lot of white over the next few months, but with colour added when we can.

I would again like to thank everyone who contributed to the Easter lilies this year – more pennies than ever before. A special thank you to Virger Wendy who gave up "posh" coffees for Lent and gave her saved money towards the lilies. We are always grateful for donations!

**Flick Evans, Chair ECFA**

## **The June edition of *Cathedral News***

We hope to publish the next edition of the *News* on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024. The deadline for material is **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024**. Please send any contributions to [hmm53@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:hmm53@tiscali.co.uk) or to any member of the editorial team; Heather Morgan, Rosemary Bethell, and Jenny Ellis.

## **Please support Christopher**

Christopher Hampton is running in the Great West Run on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May in memory of his daughter, Katie, and in order to support charities Hospiscare, FORCE and Baby Bank. His running partner is Dr Rowan Stanbury.

Sponsorship for these amazing charities would be greatly appreciated.

Please go to: [www.justgiving.com/team/chrisandrowan](http://www.justgiving.com/team/chrisandrowan) and click on whichever charity you would like to support.

Thank you.

## **BBC Radio 3 Choral Evensong 15<sup>th</sup> May at 3pm**

There will be a live broadcast of Choral Evensong from the Cathedral on 15<sup>th</sup> May at 4pm-if you are attending the service, please be seated by 2.45pm. The music will include pieces by Herbert Howells, Thomas Tertius Noble and Cheryl Frances-Hoad. And yes, the choir will sing the psalm appointed for the 15<sup>th</sup> evening, Psalm 78-all 75 verses of it!

## **The Great Abseil: Congratulations!**

Many congratulations and thanks to Anne Eyre, who inspired the Great Abseil and whose enthusiasm drew in so many people from far and wide; and thank you to all who took part on 4<sup>th</sup> May.

The weather relented at last and in bright sunshine we were able to watch the intrepid abseilers descending from the North Tower. A sizeable sum well in excess of £50,000 was raised for the Cathedral Development Appeal. If you haven't yet made a donation, there's still time!

Down below, the Exeter Independent Market was in full swing on Cathedral Green. In the Cathedral, there were displays and demonstrations by, among others, the Flower Arrangers and the Library and Archives, and there was an opportunity to walk the Labyrinth. It was lovely to have the Great West Door open so that everyone could just wander in.

A terrific day in so many ways.

## The Jesus Prayer

“Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”

These words are the classical form of the Jesus Prayer, practised within the Orthodox tradition as a way of entering more deeply into the life of prayer. Repetition of the prayer is used as a means of focusing our inner life.

The Prayer is established in scripture in a number of ways. First, it is clearly rooted in the name of Jesus and its power (see eg Phil 2.9-10, John 14.13-14, Acts 3.6-7) and in Christ as fulfilment of the prophecies of the Old Testament. In fact, it calls on the whole Trinity, given St Paul’s assertion that “no one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except by the Holy Spirit” (1 Cor 12.3), as well as acknowledging Jesus as Son of God. The words are an amalgam of a number of Gospel texts, such as the ten lepers calling out “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” (Luke 17.13); and the tax-collector in the Temple saying “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” (Luke 18.13). Then in its brevity it fulfils Jesus’ command when praying not to heap up empty phrases (Matt 6.7-8).

The Jesus Prayer is designed to be repeated over and over again. It takes only a minute to learn the words, and it can be used in different ways.

Its use in silent prayer requires the setting aside of time during the day. Orthodox teaching distinguishes three stages: the prayer of the lips, the prayer of the mind, and the prayer of the heart. We begin by repeating it out loud, a simple recitation to give it shape. As we continue in repetition the words become no longer exterior to us, but as natural to us as breathing; the Prayer becomes our own. As it develops into silent interior prayer, our mind becomes increasingly focused and free of distraction. At the third stage, prayer has become something that we are rather than what we do.

Another way of using it is to repeat it continually as far as possible throughout the day, as an unceasing reminder of God’s presence. Or, as the Orthodox Bishop Theophan expressed it, to keep “the hands at work and the mind and heart with God.”

Alternatively, it is good to have it available at moments of need: before (mis)speaking, or in temptation, or when we don’t know what else to pray. I try to pause at noon and 6pm each day, and very often this is the prayer that rises by habit. I find it helpful as a concise way to express my faith and, in the light

of that, its no-nonsense objective reality: like every other human being, I am a sinner. So there is no need to get hung up and self-accusatory. I simply need to recognise God, recognise myself, and ask for mercy.

“Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”

**Clare Bryden**

Explore Prayer on the Cathedral website – <https://bit.ly/exploreprayer2022>



*The*  
EXETER CATHEDRAL  
2020s DEVELOPMENT  
APPEAL



## **Two Exciting Fundraising Events for your Diary**

There are two major events coming up in for the Sound System Appeal-the Cathedral Community's contribution to the 2020s Development Appeal.

### ***The Gondoliers***

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July at 5pm at Halsdon Farm, Ide EX2 9TQ**

One of Gilbert & Sullivan's best-loved operas, this staged, open-air production by the Illyria Players is an occasion not to be missed. The lovely garden at Halsdon Farm will be open at 4pm to give ample opportunity to enjoy the surroundings. Feel free to bring a picnic. Please bring your own chairs and do share cars if possible. There will be an opportunity to buy glasses of wine and soft drinks, and we hope to have a raffle.

Tickets are £20 will be available on the Cathedral website.

### **An Evening with Alexander McCall-Smith**

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm**

A great opportunity to hear the celebrated author in a Q & A with the Dean, followed by questions from the audience, and a book-signing.

Tickets £15 to include a glass of wine

## **Exeter Interfaith Talks Programme 2024**

The Exeter Interfaith group invites you to a set of free talks taking place at the Mint Methodist Church. We start with tea and cake and update each other with news on recent and upcoming religion and belief events and festivals.

Meetings are on Tuesdays, 5.15-6.45pm. The talks usually last about 40 minutes with 20 minutes for questions and discussion. For more information contact: [exeterinterfaithandbeliefgroup@gmail.com](mailto:exeterinterfaithandbeliefgroup@gmail.com)

7th May

### **Is God female?**

Iain McDonald and Jeremy Roberts

4th June

### **A guide to the diversity of Pagan traditions**

Nic Gibson

2nd July

### **Is Britain a Christian country?**

Andrew Sails

3rd September

### **An insight into the diversity and spirituality of Hindu rituals and practices**

Ravi Nathwani

1st October

### **Religion and science: conflicting or complementary?**

Warren Houghton

5th November

### **What is the Christian responsibility for the planet?**

Martin Nichols

3rd December

### **How does a worldviews approach to Religious Education in schools make the subject more inclusive?**

Ed Pawson

*Note from Canon Chris Palmer: It would be very good to have a lay person from the Cathedral to join me in attending these talks regularly. If you are interested, please contact me [chris.palmer@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:chris.palmer@exeter-cathedral.org.uk)*

## **Cathedral Community Committee (CCC) 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

The Cathedral Community Committee will meet on 14<sup>th</sup> May. Please contact Ann Barwood at [amb@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:amb@exeter-cathedral.org.uk) with any suggestions for the agenda.



## **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 7pm**

Come to the Cathedral on Wednesday 22 May at 7pm to take part in our Great Big Cathedral Quiz! This “pub-style” quiz will have questions for everyone, both young and old, and great prizes to be won. Find out more at:

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/great-big-cathedral-quiz/>. #ExeterCathedral #YourCathedral

## ***Thy Kingdom Come* 2024 Pentecost Celebration Sunday 19 May 2024 at 6pm**

For the first time in five years, we are hosting a *Thy Kingdom Come* celebration service at the Cathedral. This is an ecumenical event, which will be an inspiring evening of prayer, learning and worship led by Bishop Jackie and Bishop James. Music will be led by Andy Flanagan, and there will be input from Tearfund's Ruth Valerio and Churches Together in England's Revd Dr Ben Aldous. We hope that our worship together will draw you closer to God, and inspire you to pray for God's kingdom here in Devon. Click here to book your free ticket:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tkc-pentecost-event-tickets-871684380447>

## **Margaret Guyver RIP**

The sudden death of Margaret Guyver on 3<sup>rd</sup> April was a sad blow to the Cathedral Community, where she had many friends and colleagues in the congregation, the stewards and in the team that helped to support the Grand Nave Dinner. She will be greatly missed. Her funeral was on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

We hope to publish a tribute to Margaret in the June edition of the *News*. Meanwhile, our prayers and our sympathy surround Robert and her family.

## News from the Diocese

### Join us and the Cheeky Pandas at the Devon County Show!

We are thrilled to announce that the Cheeky Pandas will be joining us at the Devon County Show this year from 16 to 18 May. The Cheeky Pandas have become a much loved Christian ministry for children and families. Through their TV show, and online videos and music, the Cheeky Pandas have entertained young and old and shared the Good News in the process.

We are looking for volunteers to help meet and greet people visiting the Churches Together area and the Cheeky Pandas at the County Show. We will be promoting Mission Shed, Thy Kingdom Come, Cheeky Pandas children's resources, offering creative prayer ministry, talking to people about Jesus and a whole lot more!

Would you like to be part of the team? You'll get a free day ticket to the show, plus free parking, and with it a great development opportunity for anyone interested in Christian mission. To register an interest in volunteering at the show, please click here:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nVvSXRLHDkaupBHadea14BkdYCaTFx1Dt\\_DB0hSuLKhUMjhGSElBV1hRVFBRQjgxWFZWOFo1REVYSS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nVvSXRLHDkaupBHadea14BkdYCaTFx1Dt_DB0hSuLKhUMjhGSElBV1hRVFBRQjgxWFZWOFo1REVYSS4u)

### Cathedral event celebrates Devon's amazing Eco-Churches!

We are delighted that so many churches attended our first Eco Church celebration at Exeter Cathedral. The event, on Sunday 28 April, included an awards ceremony for 21 churches in Devon which have achieved bronze or silver Eco Church status. In an eco-friendly twist on the red carpet, the award winners walked down the aisle along a colourful mossy pompom carpet, made by the Art & Energy charity, to collect their certificates for their efforts to become more environmentally friendly churches.

The awards were presented by the Rt Revd Jackie Searle, the Acting Bishop of Exeter. She said, "Sunday's Eco Church event was a wonderful gathering of people who are playing their part in 'sustaining and renewing the life of the earth' (The fifth Mark of Mission). The stories told were inspiring, and reminded me again that our efforts can and do make a difference."

The Eco Church scheme is run by the conservation charity A Rocha UK, which encourages and equips churches to become more environmentally friendly.

12 churches were awarded Bronze Eco Church awards and 8 Silver during the Exeter Cathedral service. 9 other Devon churches gained Bronze and Silver awards, but were unable to attend the celebration. The Diocese of Exeter was also awarded the Eco Diocese award.



The Eco Church Celebration included a talk from Dave Bookless, Director of Theology for A Rocha International, who spoke about our role in caring for God's creation, and why churches should consider becoming an Eco Church.

He also spoke about the work of A Rocha, and their aim to 'write the gospel in the landscape'.

Dave said, "I've been encouraged by the stories of the churches we've heard today; ordinary people, ordinary churches, who've done some amazing things with their churchyards, heating systems, their buildings, and all of it clearly based on their Christian faith. Based on believing God as creator, and as our mission which includes caring for God's creation."

The afternoon also included a Q&A panel discussion; featuring Dave Bookless, Penny Endersby, CEO of the Met Office; Michael Winter who is Chair of Devon Local Nature Partnership; Clare Fussell, Campaign Director of Operation Noah, and Rev'd Canon Cate Edmonds, from Exeter Cathedral.

*We are delighted to report that the Cathedral was among the churches who achieved the silver award. This followed assessment in the following areas:*

- *Worship and teaching*
- *Buildings*
- *Land*
- *Community and global engagement*
- *Lifestyle*

*There is more to do if we are to reach the gold award, including the formation of an Eco Team. Look out for more about this from Canon Cate Edmonds in the near future!*

## **Cathedral Community Party 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

There will be a Cathedral Community Party on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, following our celebration of the feast of Corpus Christi at the 10am Choral Eucharist.

There will be a ploughman's lunch and wine or soft drinks. £5 per person. Please sign up on the Cathedral website. All are welcome and please spread the word among your friends and colleagues in the Cathedral Community.

## News from Churches Together Across Exeter (CTaX)

### YMCA Exeter to Host BBC Gardeners' Question Time

*Tuesday 18 June, 5-8pm at St David's Church, Exeter, EX4 4HR*

Bring along your gardening questions, as the Radio 4 show Gardeners' Question time will be coming to Exeter on Thursday 18 June. YMCA Exeter, in collaboration with St David's Church and Little Silver, will be welcoming the panel of horticultural experts. During the evening two episodes will be recorded, so if you have any gardening questions make sure to book your ticket. Tickets cost £4.50 per person. [Click here](#) for more information and to book your ticket.

### Join us for the ICE 2024 Prayer Walk!

From the **13th-17th May**, the ICE (Initiatives in Christian Education) team along with our supporters will be completing a prayer walk around all the schools we work with in the city. We will be having lunch in the middle of each walk to pray for all the schools in that part of Exeter.

We would love you to come along for all or part of these walks or just the lunch. This year we will also be having a shorter evening walk on **Tuesday 14th May** to give those who can't join during the day the opportunity to pray for all the schools in the city.

All the information about the walks can be found here:

<https://www.icetrust.co.uk/prayer-walk/>

Do especially think about whether you can join us in praying for your local school, or the school you/your children are a part of. Please do sign up here and share this link so we know how many people to expect: <https://forms.office.com/e/50ZnjMusc3>

Doug Owen, Secondary Schools Worker Exeter ICE

### Christian Aid Week 12<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> May: Pushing Back against Poverty

There will be a table-top sale in the forecourt of South Street Baptist Church on 14<sup>th</sup> May from 11am-plants, cakes and handicrafts for sale.

## What's on in May

### **In Conversation With... Christopher Bryan**

*Sunday 12 May at 6:30pm – optional refreshments served from 6pm*

Guest speaker, Christopher Bryan will be discussing the joys of studying the Bible.

Book now at [bit.ly/chris-bryan-conversation](https://bit.ly/chris-bryan-conversation).

### **In the Library With...Robert Hooke's Micrographia (1665)**

*Thursday 16 May, 6pm – 7:30pm in the Cathedral Library & Archives*

Continuing our series, "In the Library with..." join our Cathedral Librarian for a unique opportunity to experience Robert Hooke's scientific best-seller, *Micrographia*.

Book now at [bit.ly/micrographia-book](https://bit.ly/micrographia-book).

### **Library & Archives In Focus: Building the Cathedral**

*Thursday 16 May, drop in between 11am and 1pm*

The Cathedral's fabric account rolls are an unparalleled source of information about the construction and maintenance of a medieval Gothic cathedral. Join us to find out more about these incredible documents.

Find out more at [bit.ly/in-focus-may2024](https://bit.ly/in-focus-may2024).

### **A Night at the Opera by Candlelight**

*Friday 17 May, 7:30pm–9:45pm*

Experience the thrill, drama and romance of some of opera's most beloved and immersive stories, imagined by London Concertante and some of the UK's greatest opera singers, performed by candlelight inside Exeter Cathedral.

Find out more at [bit.ly/candlelight-opera](https://bit.ly/candlelight-opera).

### **Show of Hands: Full Circle Tour**

*Saturday 18 May at 7:30pm*

In the spring of 2024, music enthusiasts and folk fans across the nation are in for a treat as Steve Knightley and Phil Beer prepare to embark on a journey back to where it all began.

Book now at [bit.ly/ec-show-of-hands](https://bit.ly/ec-show-of-hands).

### **Summer Serenade with the Exeter Cathedral Choir:**

*Ottery St Mary Parish Church, Saturday 18 May at 5pm*

A special opportunity to experience a summer serenade from the Choir of Exeter Cathedral as they perform music from Mozart, Bach and more.

Find out more at [bit.ly/may-summer-serenade](https://bit.ly/may-summer-serenade).

## **Thy Kingdom Come Pentecost Celebration**

*Sunday 19 May, 6pm–8pm*

Join us at Exeter Cathedral on Pentecost Sunday 19 May, for a Thy Kingdom Come celebration service led by Bishop Jackie and Bishop James. Book now at [bit.ly/thy-kingdom-come2024](https://bit.ly/thy-kingdom-come2024).

## **Great Big Cathedral Quiz**

*Wednesday 22 May at 7pm*

A “pub-style” quiz in the beautiful Nave of the Cathedral. There will be questions for everyone, all ages and experience! Book now at [bit.ly/ec-big-quiz](https://bit.ly/ec-big-quiz).

## **Exeter Cathedral Stone Auction**

**The online auction will take place from Monday 3 June until Sunday 15 September at 5pm**

Give a home to a unique piece of Exeter Cathedral’s history by taking part in our online stone auction, with Exeter-based auctioneers, Bearnese, Hampton & Littlewood.

The items on offer will include a range of beautiful carvings that have been removed from the Cathedral during essential conservation work, including handcrafted stonework from the 19th and 20th centuries as well as more modern carvings by the skilful Exeter Cathedral Stonemasons. This is a unique opportunity to give a home to modern grotesque heads carved from Beer limestone, fragments of Victorian pinnacles, tracery fragments and much more.

The online auction will take place from Monday 3 June until Sunday 15 September at 5pm, with in-person viewing opportunities at Exeter Cathedral from 10-15 September.

All proceeds from the auction will support our 2020s Development Appeal Project which is funding an ambitious project of building conservation, visitor experience improvements and community engagement activities, all designed to make sure we are here for generations to come and welcoming to all.

## News from The Company of Tapisers

In May we shall hold our annual AGM – an opportunity to review what's gone before and to plan ahead.

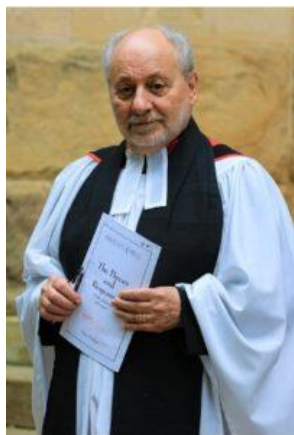
“Once a Tapiser, Always a Tapiser!” This phrase seemed particularly apt when I visited Olive Eyles, now 100 years old, who was an active Tapiser for many years. She made a significant contribution towards the output of the Tapisers – including working on the Rondels in the 1980s. Olive's encouragement and interest in our work has never faltered – and she remains proud to have been a Tapiser.

Membership of The Company of Tapisers is slowly returning to pre-Covid levels – with three new members joining over the past few months. Although our numbers have suffered due to the pandemic, like every other organisation, stitching HAS continued and MUCH work has been accomplished. Apart from the members who can attend our regular meetings, we also have some keen stitchers who work solely from home, because they now live too far from Exeter.

The past year has been eventful: we celebrated 90 years of stitching for the Cathedral, completed the second phase of replacing the original, worn Quire cushions, bade farewell to Bishop Robert, and welcomed a new secretary... and every week the Textile group, Whitework section and Canvas group have diligently produced work of the highest standard.

Very many thanks to everyone who supports our work with your enthusiasm and friendship.

**Diana Symes Chairman of The Company of Tapisers**



### **In Conversation With....The Reverend Professor Christopher Bryan Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm Refreshments served from 6pm**

Christopher Bryan, priest academic and novelist, will be considering “Why I like to study the Bible?”

His most important non-fiction books are probably *Son of God: Reflections on a Tradition* (Oxford, 2023), *The Resurrection of the Messiah* (Oxford, 2011) and *Render to Caesar: Jesus, the Early Church, and the Roman Superpower* (Oxford, 2005).

## **Holy Days**

The Church Calendar may not set the heart racing, but it is important. It gives structure to the church's year and content to our daily worship. As we approach the end of Eastertide we come to the end of our celebration of the main Seasons of the church year, which started in Advent, and on the day after Pentecost we enter Ordinary Time. This gives us an opportunity to focus on the other pillar of the Calendar, the Holy Days, which we see listed very week in the details of forthcoming services, tucked away at the back of the Weekly Sheet.

There is a clear hierarchy in the Holy Days, reflected in the type-face used in Common Worship. The Principal Feasts and Holy Days are mostly celebrations of major events in the life of Christ and are in bold, red letters.

The Festivals are when we remember major figures in the life of the church, such as the Apostles, St Paul, the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Joseph and John the Baptist. They are in ordinary red type.

Lesser Festivals and Commemorations, which appear in black type and italics respectively, remind us of the saints and martyrs who have proclaimed the Gospel throughout the ages. It would be fair to say that many of them are far from household names, but their stories are often inspiring, fascinating and humbling, so we thought it might be useful to embark on a new series. Members of the Cathedral Community will be asked to write a few words about their "Saint of the Month". We hope this will make us all more aware of at least one of the special days in the calendar, and enable us to celebrate it with enthusiasm.

Experience suggests that greater familiarity with the Calendar and the people named in it may enrich our understanding of the Church and the liturgy. It may also provide some helpful perspective and encouragement from our long Christian heritage, a valuable corrective to the sometimes overwhelming concerns of the present.

### **Saint of the Month for May: The Venerable Bede Monk at Jarrow, Scholar, Historian, 735 - 25<sup>th</sup> May**

A Lesser Festival it may be, but 25<sup>th</sup> May rates highly on my scale of Holy Days. The Venerable Bede (Venerable because he was holy, rather than because he was an Archdeacon) has been a hero of mine since I was a student. My copy of his magisterial *A History of the English Church and People*, the Penguin Classics translation I hasten to add, is heavily annotated and used so often that the spine is almost falling apart. It is a fascinating read; Bede was a great historian, often described as our first historian, who knew how to tell a good

story. Thanks to him we have an account of the history of the church in these islands from the earliest times until he completed the *History* in 731.

We learn about the martyrdom of St Alban and the Briton Pelagius “who spread far and wide his noxious heresy that man had no need of God’s grace.” Bede tells us about the Celtic saints such as Columba, Aidan and Cuthbert, and also about the advent of Augustine in 605 and the conversion of much of what we now know as England to the Roman tradition of Christianity. He does so with relish and in detail, especially about Anglo-Saxon kings and assorted bishops (many of whom also feature in the Common Worship Calendar), and he tells the wonderful story of the Song of Caedmon. It is all very encouraging in this more secular age. Thanks to Bede, we learn about the formidable Abbess Hilda of Whitby, and the Synod of Whitby in 664, when the fundamental differences between the Roman and Celtic customs were settled—largely in favour of Rome. He approved of that outcome, yet he writes with exemplary generosity about the Celtic saints.

We owe much to Bede the historian, but first and foremost, he was a devout monk. Born in 673 or thereabouts, at the age of seven he was placed under the care of the learned and much travelled Bishop Benedict Biscop, Abbot of Wearmouth. Bede moved to Benedict’s new joint foundation at Jarrow in 682, where he remained for the rest of this life. His love for the daily round of worship was noted from an early age and he was made deacon when he was only 19. Another of his major works, *Lives of the Abbots*, tells us about the daily life of a monastery in Saxon times, and alongside his scholarship, Bede played a full part in the required monastic duties of worship, service and hospitality.

Bede died on the evening of 25<sup>th</sup> May 735. According to an eye-witness account “All who saw and heard of the death of our father Bede, declared that they had never known anyone end his days in such deep devotion and peace....As long as his soul remained in his body, he said ‘Glory be to the Father’ and other chants to the glory of God, offering unceasing thanks to God with arms outstretched”.

His tomb is in the Galilee Chapel in Durham Cathedral. It was there that I bought a copy of one of the Venerable Bede’s own prayers that I still carry in my diary. The collect for 25<sup>th</sup> May is based on this prayer.

*I implore you good Jesus, that as in your mercy you have given me to drink in with delight the words of your knowledge, so of your lovingkindness you will also grant me one day to come to you, the fountain of all wisdom, and to stand for ever before your face. Amen.*

**Heather Morgan**

## What Jesus Did Next!



A fun and enjoyable activity took place after Easter with a small group of children exploring some of Jesus' resurrection appearances.

The afternoon started with an introductory session giving a brief overview of the Jesus' appearances. The children then made resurrection story wheels and stained glass window fish.

After the sedentary part of the afternoon, there was great excitement as they entered the Cathedral for a treasure hunt. Baskets of clues had been placed around the Cathedral and the children had to seek them out and identify the symbols of the various resurrection events. The afternoon culminated with a re-enactment of Jesus BBQ on the beach. Oldham Passage became the beach of the Sea of Galilee where a fire pit was set up to grill fish. Much to the Virgers' relief there was no real fire, and we had gingerbread fish, which went down a treat. Though not a large number of children attended, it was very well received by all, and the resources that were developed can be shared with parishes who might think about doing a similar activity in the future.

### Canon Cate



*The candles from Altar of Repose on Maunday Thursday are reflected in the Quire pavement.*