



## The G-Word from the Canon Chancellor

*“For last year’s words belong to last year’s language  
And next year’s words await another voice.  
And to make an end is to make a beginning.”* (T.S. Eliot)

One word that has dominated the political, economic and social discourse in recent weeks is the G-word: General Election.

I am conscious that you will read this article in the week in which we will discover whether or not we will have a new Government. The outcome is not yet known, though there have been weeks of postulating: Will there be a Labour Landslide? Will any Party have a clear majority? If there is a Coalition, who will be invited to be bed-fellows? Reform? The Liberal Democrats? The Green Party? What will be the effect on Education? The NHS? Economic Growth? Pensions? Farming? Climate change? Foreign policy? Is Brexit on or off?

But into the chaos and mess of life, there is another Word: Logos. A Word which has been present from the beginning. A Word that brings order into chaos and light into darkness. A Word which brings abundant life instead of death.

In the Christian Tradition, that Word is embodied in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and it is embodied in us too. In an echo of the creation story, the opening of John’s Gospel suggests that the Word and Wisdom of God can be glimpsed in all creation and in the heart of any person. The strength of the John tradition, is that it produces a spirituality that sees God, Source, The Word, The Way, in the whole of life and regards all things as inter-related. It makes room for an encounter with the Word and Light of Life wherever it is glimpsed: In all people of creation; in the rising of the morning sun; in the moon at night; at the heart of the life of any person, even if that person is of an entirely different religious tradition or of no religious tradition at all.

So how do we find the Word or Wisdom within us and outside us? In the Hebrew Bible, 1 Kings 19:11-13, there is a beautiful story in which the Prophet Elijah comes to the end of his own resources. He is depressed, despondent and exhausted. He

feels his life's work has been in vain. But in that state of emptiness and openness, when he stands on Mount Horeb and awaits an encounter with the Source of All Being, he discovers that "...the Lord is not in the wind; ... the Lord is not in the earthquake; ... the Lord is not in the fire; [but the voice emerges from] a sound of sheer silence."

When the wind, earthquake and fire of invective have burnt themselves out, might our politicians hear Wisdom that emerges from the silence offering another voice and a new beginning: Another G-word. The Word of God.

With every blessing,  
Canon Deborah Parsons



The  
EXETER CATHEDRAL  
2020s DEVELOPMENT  
APPEAL



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

There are two major events coming up 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 Halscombe 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 Halscombe 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 there will be a raffle.

Tickets are £22 available from [Illyria.co.uk](http://Illyria.co.uk) Tel: 0333 666 3366

### **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.

## **Cathedral Community Committee (CCC) 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

The CCC met on 11<sup>th</sup> June. We recorded our huge and heartfelt thanks to Norman Pullen who had retired as Head Sidesman at the Sidesmen's AGM earlier in the afternoon, and to Sheila Casely, the deputy Head Sidesman. We also congratulated Chris Hampton, the new Head Sidesman.

Members were asked to help at the performance of *The Gondoliers* on 7<sup>th</sup> July and to encourage others to attend.

Most of the meeting was devoted to safeguarding. We were delighted to welcome the Venerable Nick Shutt, the Chapter Lead for Safeguarding. He gave a brief summary of the current situation on safeguarding in the Church of England, the Diocese and the Cathedral, and the preparation in hand for the forthcoming safeguarding audit. He encouraged us to help to foster the sense that safeguarding is something to which everyone in the Cathedral Community contributes.

The next meeting will be on 9<sup>th</sup> July. This will follow a farewell Evensong for Sir Ben Bradshaw, who has retired after many years as the MP for Exeter. Please email [hmm53@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:hmm53@tiscali.co.uk) with any items for the agenda.

**Heather Morgan, Chair CCC**

## **News from The Company of Tapisers**

Behind the scenes:

Exeter Cathedral, like all other organisations, is reliant on its volunteers! Every week, willing, enthusiastic 'helpers' attend to carry out a wide range of duties and skills. This gallant 'band' do not seek praise or special appreciation, but happily give their time and energies so that Exeter Cathedral can 'run smoothly'. The Tapisers are part of this: meeting every week in Cloister Garth, we beaver away with our needles and threads.

Sadly, one of our members, Judith Motler, died this week after a long battle against cancer. She was a lovely lady and the epitome of an ideal volunteer: selfless, unassuming, an excellent needlewoman, open to different ideas and willing to take on new challenges, all her work was skilfully stitched. Judith was kind, generous, thoughtful, creative and always had time for others: she will be greatly missed by all who knew her. During her 15 years as a Tapiser, her contribution to the Quire cushions and beautifully embroidered cards has been significant. She can truly be named an 'unsung hero' of Exeter Cathedral.

RIP Judith.

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

## **Christianity Deanery Synod 30<sup>th</sup> April**

The Cathedral's three lay representatives attended the second Synod meeting of the year on 30 April. First on the agenda was a networking/ice breaker activity where members worked their way through a bingo card, seeking out, for example, a person with an allotment, someone who speaks multiple languages, and a non-tea drinker (a definite challenge in a group of committed Anglicans). It was suggested that this could be a way for the Cathedral Community to get to know each other better at coffee one Sunday - or at least a way to find out who to approach the next time we need some gardening advice or a translator.

The main part of the evening was dedicated to receiving updates from each church. A few themes stood out. Several churches spoke about growing numbers of children and young people, and asked for prayer for their developing ministry to these groups. A few churches mentioned positive green initiatives, with St Boniface's new solar panels proving very successful and producing surplus electricity. Residents are moving into new developments across Exeter; churches are feeling hopeful and praying for the resources to support their new neighbours, as well as anticipating growth and change in their faith communities.

In contrast to these largely optimistic updates was the item from the Standing Committee on the Diocese's financial challenges. With a large deficit causing understandable anxiety, the discussion centred on the importance of working and praying together, and on how to avoid taking a competitive approach towards the limited resources. All church communities were encouraged to make use of the diocesan monthly prayer diary, which can be viewed on the Diocese of Exeter's website: <https://exeter.anglican.org/prayer-diary/>. The monthly prayer diary for the Deanery is on page 14 below, followed by a prayer for the city of Exeter.

**Caitlin Moran**

## **Diocesan Synod 15<sup>th</sup> June**

Members of Exeter's Diocesan Synod met on 15<sup>th</sup> June at the Westpoint Exhibition Centre to discuss a range of subjects, including the financial situation of the Diocese, a report on women in ordained ministry, and an update on lay training and authorised lay ministries.

You can **[read Bishop Jackie's Presidential Address here.](#)**

Annie Jefferies was thanked for her work over a number of years as Chair of the House of Laity. The Archdeacon of Exeter, the Ven. Andrew Beane, was presented with a gift as a thank you from Licensed Lay Ministers across the diocese. Andrew has stepped down as Warden of Readers (LLMs) after five years in the role.



## **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.

### **Save the Date**

On **Monday 7th October** the second Posbury St Francis Trust Lecture, in association with the Exeter Centre for Ethics and Practical Theology, will be given by Dr Bethany Solleredar, Lecturer in Science and Religion at The University of Edinburgh. The lecture will take place at Exeter University and will start at 7pm. when Dr Solleredar speak on the subject of "*Radical Hope: the roots of courage in inevitable climate change*".

### **The August edition of Cathedral News**

We hope to publish the next edition of the *News* on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2024. The deadline for material is **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 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.



## **INEQE Independent Safeguarding Audit**

Independent safeguarding audits were first commissioned by the Church of England in 2015 with a pilot scheme which was then rolled out across the national Church. The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, IICSA, commended these audits and one of

IICSA's 2020 recommendations (No 8) was that independent external auditing of the Church's safeguarding policies and procedures, as well as the effectiveness of safeguarding practice in dioceses, cathedrals and other Church organisations, should continue.

Consequently, INEQE Safeguarding Group was appointed by the Archbishops' Council to carry out a new round of independent external audits of Church of England dioceses and cathedrals, starting in January 2024. Several other South West dioceses and Cathedrals have already completed their audits and the process has now started in the Diocese of Exeter and the Cathedral.

### **The Audit Process:**

The audits will be carried out in the diocese and cathedral at the same time, with an audit framework agreement to ensure consistency of approach. The purpose of the audits is to ensure dioceses and cathedrals are doing all they can to create environments where everyone feels safe, valued and respected. INEQE have provided the Diocese of Exeter and the Cathedral with a series of in-depth questions (230 in total) concerning safeguarding practice across the diocese and Diocesan and Cathedral staff are now in the process of responding to the questions.

Additionally, INEQE are also seeking to engage with parishioners, church and cathedral volunteers and staff, members of the parish and Cathedral community, and diocesan and cathedral staff through online surveys which will act as a mechanism through which individuals can comment on any matters relevant to the Audit's focus. INEQE will also speak with children and vulnerable adults in each diocese (including victims and survivors of abuse).

When the audit is complete INEQE will produce a report with recommendations for the Diocese and cathedral, and both will be made available publicly.

### **How you can help:**

INEQE would like to hear from as many people as possible, so we encourage you to complete the relevant survey/s for your role in the Diocese of Exeter. The

surveys are anonymous and confidential in that your identity will not be sought or identified. The results are received directly by INEQE's Audit Team and not by the Church of England or Diocese of Exeter. Therefore, you are encouraged to be open and honest with your responses.

**The online surveys are now live and will close at 11.30 pm on Tuesday 2nd July 2024. You can access them at: <https://ineqe.com/churchofengland/exeter/>**

Please also encourage others to do the same. To assist with this, INEQE have provided a useful poster which you will find in the Cathedral to advertise the Audit and encourage as many people as possible to respond. The poster can be downloaded at: [bit.ly/exeter-ineqe-poster](https://bit.ly/exeter-ineqe-poster)

Should you wish to share any further information or if you would be interested in participating in a focus group you can contact the INEQE Audit team at: [ineqe.com/churchofengland/exeter/#contact](https://ineqe.com/churchofengland/exeter/#contact)

You can find further information about INEQE and the Church of England Independent Safeguarding Audits at:  
<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-news-releases/next-round-independent-safeguarding-audits>

*The Dean and Chapter of Exeter are committed to the protection and safeguarding of all children and adults at risk of abuse and recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. We look forward to working with INEQE throughout the process of the Audit*



## **Thank you**

A huge thank you to Norman Pullen on his retirement as Head Sidesman after more than 25 years of service, an occasion marked after the Choral Eucharist on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. The Dean reminded us of the immense time commitment and energy that Norman has given to this role, which is of such importance to the ministry of the Cathedral. Norman is seen here with the Royal Maundy money he received in 2019.

Thanks also to Celia King, who has retired as Secretary to the Sidesmen.



## **In Conversation With...Dr Christopher Murray NCA (dist) NDA DipFM Hon DBA FRAGS.**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30pm**

**Refreshments from 6 pm**

Dr Murray will speak on the topic: Recognising God's hand in your life.

Dr Murray studied at Bicton and for the Royal Agricultural Society Diplomas at Seale Hayne. His post graduate dissertation was on farm diversification. In his farm management year at Seale Hayne, he became involved at Riverford Farm and, with John Watson, introduced the UK's

first guided visits to open farms.

Working at Dartington with Maurice Ash, they set up Dartington Farm Foods offering local produce, innovatively marketing organic meat by post, manufacturing sheep skin products and organising farm visits for schools. He lectured at Seale Hayne and Bicton, while producing and presenting a weekly farming programme for *Devon Air* called *Down to Earth*.

In 1987, he became senior lecturer, farm manager and Head of Section in Farm Management at Coleg Howell Harris in Brecon and then in 1989, with his wife Nicky, decided to take a risk and invested in a bare field site in the South Hams, which they named Pennywell. It opened on 22 May 1989, with one animal barn, a small shop, and a catering unit. Today, they have welcomed over two million visitors and Pennywell has won numerous awards, including "Best Sustainable Business" in the South Devon Tourism and Hospitality Award. In 2011, he was made Associate of Royal Agricultural Societies in recognition of distinguished achievement in the agricultural industry, and received an Honorary Doctorate in Business from the University of Plymouth for his work in sustainable tourism.



## **Olympic Mission Breakfast 27<sup>th</sup> July**

We are planning an Olympic themed Mission Breakfast, with fun and games.

Help is needed to organise the event, so if you can spare a little time and are interested in

contributing to this event please contact [cate.edmonds@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:cate.edmonds@exeter-cathedral.org.uk) as soon as possible.



## **What's on in June**

### **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.

Find out more at [bit.ly/ec-stone-auction](http://bit.ly/ec-stone-auction).

Candlelight comes to Exeter Cathedral on Saturday 22 June.

Book now at [bit.ly/beatles-ec](http://bit.ly/beatles-ec).

### **Stones & Bones: July Tours**

*2 July, 11 July, 16 July & 23 July at 11:30am.*

Delve into the history of the Cathedral Green and explore the surrounds of Exeter Cathedral, by tracing their history from Roman time to the present day.

Find out more at [bit.ly/special-tours](http://bit.ly/special-tours).

### **Summer Organ Recitals: Robert Sharpe**

*Thursday 4 July 2024 at 7pm*

We will be joined by Director of Music at York Minster, Robert Sharpe, for the first performance of our Summer Organ Recital series.

Find out more at [bit.ly/recital-robert-sharpe](http://bit.ly/recital-robert-sharpe).

### **Reformation Tour: July Tours**

*4 July at 1:30pm & 9 July at 11:30am*

Learn about the 16th century Reformation that caused the greatest ever upheaval in the life and fabric of Exeter Cathedral.

Find out more at [bit.ly/special-tours](http://bit.ly/special-tours).

### **Romanesque to Gothic: July Tour**

*Friday 5 July at 1:30pm*

This July, take a closer look at Exeter Cathedral's exterior and learn about its successive phases of building work from Norman to Gothic.

Find out more at [bit.ly/special-tours](http://bit.ly/special-tours).

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

*St Mary's Church, Totnes, Saturday 6 July 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/july-summer-serenade](http://bit.ly/july-summer-serenade).

### **Bach B Minor Mass with Exeter Festival Chorus**

*Saturday 6 July 2024, 7:30pm*

Join Exeter Festival Chorus and Devon Baroque Orchestra at Exeter Cathedral for one of Bach's most popular and well-known vocal works. Find out more at [bit.ly/bach-b-minor-mass](https://bit.ly/bach-b-minor-mass).

### **The Gondoliers at Halscombe Farm**

*Sunday 7 July 2024 at 5pm at Halscombe Farm, Exeter, EX2 9TQ*

Enjoy a delightful performance of the Gilbert & Sullivan's The Gondoliers at Halscombe Farm in support of the Exeter Cathedral Sound System Appeal. Book now at [bit.ly/gondoliers-halscombe-farm](https://bit.ly/gondoliers-halscombe-farm).

### **Reading the Reformation at Exeter Cathedral**

*Monday 8 July at 2.00pm and Tuesday 23 July at 11.00am*

Join us to discover stories of the Reformation in the Library and Archives and to take a closer look at evidence of the impact on the Cathedral building and decoration.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MONDAY 8 JULY DATE IS FULLY BOOKED.

Find out more at [bit.ly/ec-reformation](https://bit.ly/ec-reformation).

### **Farewell Service for Sir Ben Bradshaw**

*Tuesday 9 July at 5:30pm*

A special evensong service to give thanks and say farewell to the city's current MP, Ben Bradshaw, who has held the parliamentary seat of Exeter since 1997. Book now at [bit.ly/bradshaw-evensong](https://bit.ly/bradshaw-evensong).

### **The Music of Elton John by Candlelight**

*Friday 12 July 2024 at 7:30pm*

Featuring a cast of West End singers and epic live band, experience the hits of rock legend Elton John as you have never heard them before! Find out more at [bit.ly/ec-elton-john](https://bit.ly/ec-elton-john).

### **The Music of Rod Stewart by Candlelight**

*Saturday 13th July 2024 at 7.30pm*

Experience Rod Stewart's hits like never before with one of the UK's leading tribute acts and incredible live band, Tonight's The Night. Book now at [bit.ly/ec-rod-stewart](https://bit.ly/ec-rod-stewart).

### **In Conversation with Dr Christopher Murray**

*Sunday 14 July, 6:30pm with optional refreshments served from 6pm*

The guest speaker for our July In Conversation With... will be Dr Christopher Murray, talking on the topic: Recognising God's hand on your Life. Book now at [bit.ly/in-conversation-july](https://bit.ly/in-conversation-july).

### **Summer Organ Recitals: Giles Longstaff**

*Thursday 18 July at 7pm*

Enjoy the awe-inspiring sound of the Cathedral's magnificent organ at our Summer Organ Recital with Exeter Cathedral Organ Scholar, Giles Longstaff. Find out more at [bit.ly/recital-giles-longstaff](https://bit.ly/recital-giles-longstaff).

### **Amadeus Orchestra: Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No.2**

*Friday 19 July, 7pm*

Amadeus Orchestra returns to Exeter Cathedral by popular demand with a summer selection of orchestral fireworks. Find out more at [bit.ly/amadeus-ec](https://bit.ly/amadeus-ec).

### **Exeter Symphony Orchestra with Natalie Clein**

*Saturday 20 July, 7:30pm*

Join Exeter Symphony Orchestra for a concert at Exeter Cathedral with accomplished cello soloist, Natalie Clein. Find out more at [bit.ly/eso-concert](https://bit.ly/eso-concert).

### **Library & Archives In Focus: Inventories**

*Wednesday 24 July, drop in between 11am and 1pm*

Join us as we take a closer look at inventories of treasures and other objects used in the Cathedral over a period of more than 700 years. Find out more at [bit.ly/in-focus-inventories](https://bit.ly/in-focus-inventories).

### **Exeter Independent Market: July**

*Saturday 27 July, 11am-4pm*

Discover handmade crafts, clothes, accessories and more at the Exeter Independent Market on Cathedral Green. Find out more at [bit.ly/indie-market-july](https://bit.ly/indie-market-july).

### **Zoom Morning Prayer**

Don't forget that every weekday at 9 am, Morning Prayer is available on zoom for those unable to be at the Cathedral. We follow the Common Worship of the C of E Morning Prayer Service, with the addition of specific prayers, including the Diocesan Prayer Diary. Each service is lay-led. Readers and responders are volunteers that change each morning.

Zoom meeting ID: 99638985011

Passcode: 1F0puR

## News from the Cathedral Flower Arrangers

Those members of the congregation who have not recently moved east beyond the Golden Gates will have missed our little “refugee encampment”, as someone called it. We are all out of the Flower Room, and indeed the sink and water and shelves are gone already. The contractors are not wasting a moment!

All our regularly used mechanics and flowers are stacked on the step, in the South Quire Aisle. We had our first arranging from here last Friday and it took a deal of teamwork to clear the previous flowers and foliage away before we arranged something different on the pillars. The choir pedestal and the regimental chapel are still being arranged, the High Altar is back on our regular list and St John the Baptist chapel has a small pedestal. We are quite pleased with how the morning went and the results look great, I think!

We have a plan to cover all our stock completely, so it is discreetly hidden by fabric provided by Sue the seamstress.

We will be arranging under the pulpit for St Peter’s Day as we still have the “fishy” stuff, to pay tribute to his original occupation as a fisherman. It will be fairly simple but to the point! The next change will see blue and white in the pillars as there is a significant memorial service in the following two weeks. It is all keeping us on our toes, along with discussions for Britain in Bloom judges visiting in July and August. More of that to follow.....

**Flick Evans, Chair ECFA**



### Congratulations to Emma

Our Cathedral Librarian, Emma Laws, has been awarded Fellowship of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP). Fellowship is the highest level of Professional Registration and requires the applicant to demonstrate significant impact on their wider profession.

Emma has worked for various national organisations over the last 25 years. Currently, when not working as the Cathedral Librarian, Emma works for the Historic Libraries Forum which draws together representatives from across the rare book and historic libraries sector to offer training and support. Emma manages the Forum’s nationwide mentoring scheme which offers traditional, peer and reverse mentoring to support people working in historic libraries or with rare book collections. She is also Secretary of CILIP’s Library and Information History Group which supports research into the history of libraries. Emma has also been accepted as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London and as an Accredited Lecturer of the Arts Society.

## **Exeter Foodbank**

The Foodbank needs tinned meat, tinned fish and tinned vegetables. Please bring contributions to the Cathedral on 7<sup>th</sup> July. There will be a box at the back of the Cathedral.

## **Welcome**

A warm welcome to new members of staff. Bianca Taylor Smith from South Australia will be with us for ten weeks. She is one of the first recipients of the FCTA (Flexible Construction Training)/CWF (Cathedral Workshop Fellowship) international Training Scholarship in Stonemasonry and will be spending most of her time with Chris Sampson and the stonemasons' team.

Katie Steer, our new Commercial Assistant, will be working alongside Alice Escott. Her role will focus on all commercial activities including the Entry Desk, the Shop, and Independent Markets. She has a catering background and will also be overseeing Ten Fifty and the Chapter House Refectory.

Floella Simmonds is with us for four weeks as a temporary Business Assistant to Catherine Escott, Chief Operating Officer.

Celia Stoddart will join the Cathedral Choir as a Lay Vicar in September.

Jon Seagrave (aka Jonny Fluffypunk) is our new Riddler in Residence.

## **A notable anniversary**

On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June, the Cathedral Society of Ringers celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers by ringing a 'date touch' of 1874 Stedman Cinques prior to evensong. The Guild was formed in 1874, the first ever provincial society of bellringers. The Guild of Devonshire Ringers and the Exeter Cathedral Society of Ringers will be celebrated during a service on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July.

## **Emmaus Spiritual Direction Course: September 2024**

Starting in September, the South West Ministry Training Course is offering a two-year course to prepare people to offer the ministry of spiritual direction. Each year includes one residential weekend, five in-person Saturdays, and five weeknight zoom meetings.

For more information contact [principal@swmtc.org.uk](mailto:principal@swmtc.org.uk)

## **Monthly Prayer Cycle for Christianity Deanery**

- 1 Alphington St Michael, St Ida, Ide & Shillingford St George
- 2 Cathedral
- 3 Central Parish, St Stephen. St Olave, St Pancras, St Petrock
- 4 Exeter Network Church
- 5 Exwick, St Andrew
- 6 Heavitree, St Michael, St Mary Steps & St Lawrence
- 7 Diocesan staff
- 8 St Michael, Pinhoe and St Mary, Poltimore
- 9 St Boniface, Whipton & Holy Trinity, Beacon Heath
- 10 St David & St Michael's, Mount Dinham
- 11 St James
- 12 St Leonard
- 13 St Mark
- 14 Ordinands & vocations
- 15 St Matt's
- 16 St Sidwell and the Mothers' Union
- 17 St Thomas
- 18 St Margaret, Topsham, & St Luke, Countess Wear
- 19 Trinity Church, Clyst Heath
- 20 Unlimited Church
- 21 Exeter College, School Chaplaincies & ICE
- 22 Exeter City Centre Chaplaincy & Street Pastors
- 23 YMCA
- 24 Exeter Prison, Chaplains & SW Community Chaplaincy
- 25 Hospitals and Hospice in Exeter, Chaplaincies
- 26 Universities of Exeter and Plymouth, Chaplaincies
- 27 St Petrock's Centre & Exeter Foodbank
- 28 Deaf Church & Celebrate Together at St James
- 29 Licensed lay ministry
- 30 Retired clergy
- 31 Ecumenical links & other Chaplaincies

## **A prayer for the city of Exeter**

Creator God,  
whose being encompasses all,  
whose love excludes no-one and no thing,  
whose compassion is boundless and eternal:  
we pray for the people and places of Exeter,  
for all whose joys and worries, hopes and fears,  
inhabit these buildings and walk these streets.  
Pour out your blessings, we ask,  
and may your Holy Spirit be both guardian and guide  
in the ceaseless activities of city life.  
This we ask in the name of Christ. Amen.

## **Congratulations, Sheila**

Many congratulations to Sheila Casely who received the St Boniface Award at a service in the Cathedral on 9<sup>th</sup> June. Sheila has been a sidesman at the Cathedral for over 30 years. The warmth of her welcome to visitors is reflected in the warmth of her smile, and we are all immensely grateful to Sheila for her long and dedicated service. Sheila is second from the left in this photograph, where she is seen with Bishop Jackie, Bishop James and the other recipients of the award.



## **The Monthly Prayer List for the Cathedral Community**

- 1 Our Bishops + Jackie (Acting Diocesan) & + James
- 2 Cathedral Safeguarding Costa Nassaris (Advisor) & Nick Shutt (Chapter Lead)
- 3 The Cathedral School, the Pupils, Headmaster, Staff & Governors
- 4 The Dean, Jonathan Greener, Chapter & SNEM, Barnabas Hurst-Bannister
- 5 The Virgers and Custos, Luke Stevenson
- 6 The Finance Team & Chief Finance Officer
- 7 The Bellringers
- 8 Our musicians – Director, Timothy Noon; Assistant Director, Michael Stephens-Jones, Organ Scholar, Choristers & their families, Choir chaperones, Adults of the Choir, and St Peter’s Singers.
- 9 Heritage and Learning (Library, Emma; Archive, Ellie; Education, James; Outreach, Lis); Heritage Engagement Manager, Jonathan Scott
- 10 The Clerk of Works, Chris Sampson, the Stone Masons & H&S officer, Simon Aston
- 11 The Community Committee and Chair, Heather Morgan
- 12 The Chief Operating Officer, Catherine Escott & HR Generalist & Volunteer coordinator, Alysha Keers
- 13 The Dean’s PA, Tina Robbins
- 14 All who enable and participate in occasional study groups
- 15 The Wednesday Kitchen; volunteers and guests
- 16 The Cathedral Shop and Catering Van, Ten-Fifty refreshments
- 17 Our buildings & grounds maintenance team, cleaners & Holy Dusters
- 18 The Cloister Club; Coordinator-Kathryn Timms, members, leaders and assistants.
- 19 Entry Desk Staff, Guides, Stewards, Duty Chaplains & the Pastoral Care Team
- 20 The Fabric Advisory Committee – Chair, Geoff Rich
- 21 Residentiary Canons, Canons Theologian, Priest Vicars, and Cathedral Deacon
- 22 Director of Development, Jill Taylor & all involved in the various aspects of the Project
- 23 The College of Canons
- 24 Cathedral Flower Arrangers, Tapisers, and Seamstress
- 25 The Prayers for Healing, Lectio Divina, Julian and Contemplative Prayer Groups
- 26 Our Cathedral Liturgical resources, Secretary Tom Salmon; Servers, Intercessors, Readers and Sidespeople
- 27 The Friends of Exeter Cathedral and the Music Foundation Trust
- 28 The Events Team (Charlotte & Cressida) and Marketing & Communications Team (Director, Richard Remington), Commercial Manager, Alice Escott
- 29 Our Visitors, sightseers and those coming to pray and worship
- 30 Our Visitors and Volunteers Office and all cathedral volunteers



## On Being a Server

The servers play an essential role in the worshipping life of the Cathedral. They lead processions carrying either the processional cross, candles or banners, and also assist in preparing the altar for communion. When incense is used, a server acts as thurifer, ensuring that smoke ascends in appropriate quantities at important points in the service.

There are currently 18 adult and 3 junior servers, and a number of other people who assist when needed for particular services. A quarterly programme is prepared by Caroline Prince, the Head Server in which she tries to share work evenly across the team. In addition to the regular pattern of worship, special services such as weddings, memorial services, funerals and marking national events must also be included, some of them at short notice. The commitment of time for the servers is tailored to their availability so it isn't very easy to give a typical figure.

Both Caroline and Chryssa, the deputy head server, liken the serving team to a family. It is close-knit and its members look out for each other and offer support and help when needed. Covid brought them closer together, not least via a WhatsApp group set up by the late Wilfred Reynolds.

Caroline has been a server for 15 years, and Head Server for the last two years. She is responsible to the Precentor for ensuring that there are sufficient servers for services, and regards her role as that of a facilitator, who organises, provides administrative support and enables the server team to do their work to the best of their ability. It is a role they carry out with care, skill, prayerfulness and dignity.

The Servers are now called the Guild of St Gabriel and they receive an annual blessing and the thanks of the Cathedral Community during a 10am Choral Eucharist.

Being a server is immensely fulfilling and enjoyable. The ministry of the servers is at the heart of the Cathedral's worship. The Cathedral Community is grateful to them all. If you would like to know more about being a server, please contact Caroline via [liturgy@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:liturgy@exeter-cathedral.org.uk) or the Precentor [james.mustard@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:james.mustard@exeter-cathedral.org.uk)

**Allen Bowen**

## Healing Service

On the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at 6.30pm there is a Healing Service in the Cathedral. This is a simple Service of the Word with a short homily, and the opportunity for anointing for those who wish. All are welcome.

## Finding God in all things

*Teach me, my God and King, / In all things Thee to see,  
And what I do in anything / To do it as for Thee.*

— The Elixir by George Herbert

I'm writing this from Tymawr Convent, set in the beautiful countryside between Chepstow and Monmouth. My view is of wild flowers and oaks. There are house martins chuckling above my window and riding the air. I have my own space, access to Chapel, good food provided, and wi-fi. As a guest here, it is easy to see God in all things. But Tymawr is also the home of a religious community, with all that implies of the round of cooking and laundry and cleaning up after the guests (!) and doing the accounts and living with the self and others' frailties.

God is not simply to be found in our prayer life or worship services or in reading the Bible – important as these are – but in our daily life, our relationships, work, thoughts and emotions as well. God created the world, created us, and then became one of us, fully participating in humanity and creation. Every moment in every day is an invitation to encounter the living God who wants to encounter us, and to treat everything and everyone with reverence, because (to paraphrase Julian of Norwich) God made them, God loves them, and God sustains them.

Mirabai Starr, the author, teacher and bereavement counsellor, writes of the “moments of grace [that] happen in the midst of everyday ordinary human life. Changing a diaper on a newborn grandchild will do it for me. That's the crack that God flows into... How do the ordinary moments of your life continue to reveal the treasures of what Julian would call oneing? Oneing with God.”

Of course, not 'all things' are good or even ordinary. It is the way of the world that stuff happens even to the best of us. What about finding God even in our own pain and suffering? If this is you, please don't suffer it alone; find someone to talk to, who can be alongside you. God does not send stuff to test or refine us, nor does God wave a wand to protect us from stuff, but God sustains us in all things, whether it is through others or nature or poetry or protesting in prayer. God is in it with us.

And what about the world? Can God be found in all things, when the news is so dominated by bad news? But bad news sells; there is so much more that is good, which could be celebrated. Scratch the surface of the bad, even Covid or Gaza, and there is evidence of God at work. And if you struggle to see God there, put God there in your prayer, and then God will be there.

*This is the famous stone / That turneth all to gold;  
For that which God doth touch and own / Cannot for less be told.*

**Clare Bryden**



## Abseil Adventure

I am sure you are keen to know how much we have raised in total (so far) for the Abseil Adventure. I feel the need for a bit of a drum roll at this point, as I am pleased to be able to report that the grand total is over £89,000! This has surpassed all our expectations and is an astounding amount.

We are grateful to the 55 participants who conquered their fears but also to the over 1,600 of you who kindly sponsored them – this is a record amount of donations all of its own. Thank you to each and every one of you who made this amazing total a reality. The money is going to support the costs of a window in the new Cloister Gallery so will have a real legacy benefit for the Cathedral.

I belong to the Chartered Institute of Fundraising and thought that the Abseil day was so brilliant that it deserved recognition. Fortunately, a panel of judges agreed with me and last week we were awarded Highly Commended in the South West Chartered Institute of Fundraising 'Event of the Year' Awards. So, to paraphrase the advert, 'this is not just an abseil, this is an award-winning abseil'. The photo shows the Dean with the award certificate with abseilers Kit Reynolds, Matthew Cousins of Apex Scaffolding and Anne Eyre at the bottom of the North Tower.

On behalf of the Dean and Chapter, Anne and myself, thank you for all your support. This is such a memorable achievement, and we are all delighted; we hope you are too.

**Jill Taylor, Director of Development**  
[jill.taylor@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:jill.taylor@exeter-cathedral.org.uk)

## Outing to Stourhead House and Garden

We are arranging an outing by coach to Stourhead, a National Trust house and garden. The provisional date is **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October**. Please book the date. We want to fill the coach!



## **Renate Helmsley**

*Renate's funeral took place in the Cathedral on 26<sup>th</sup> June. It was a lovely service, and in his sermon, the Dean captured Renate's very special qualities and the gratitude of the Cathedral Community.*

May the words of my mouth and the thoughts of all our hearts give glory to the living God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

I was on a ski-lift in France, sitting next to an Israeli. Foolishly - I see that in retrospect - I asked him: *Why is it, when you Jews have suffered so much, that you cannot treat the Palestinians a little more generously?* He very nearly pushed me out of the lift.

I tell you that because it's the polar opposite of Renate. The story of her being left alone in Strausberg, just outside Berlin, in 1945 at the mercy of the Red Army is harrowing, courageous, inspirational. Her mother and her sister were evacuated, but being 15 precluded Renate from joining them. She had to fend for herself amidst great poverty and violence. And yet out of tremendous suffering there grew in Renate a fortitude, a generosity, a graciousness, a gentleness which were not just attractive and endearing for those who met her - they were contagious. In Renate's presence, you felt better about yourself and about the world.

Dom and Julia have painted for us two lovely pictures of their mother, and have evoked in each of us our own memories of her. My job this afternoon is to do two things. The first is to thank Renate, somewhat belatedly, on behalf of all of us here at the Cathedral, for all that she has been and done for this place and its community. A treasured guide, where her native German was invaluable. The most faithful steward and welcomer, turning up even when she was quite poorly, determined never to let us down. A beautiful reader of Holy Scripture - whose delivery showed how much each word meant to her. I remember how she came back early from a family holiday in Sandbanks because she was on the rota, and it was her duty to be here. Most of all, a serene, faithful presence, quietly sitting to one side, beloved by our congregation. Her being in our midst helped sanctify the whole. Like a little drop of yeast, giving life to the whole loaf. I know the Cathedral meant a great deal to Renate; she meant a great deal to us, and saying thank you for that is an important thing to do today. She was, as you all know, a fantastic thanker - this is our thank you to her.

My other job is to explore what our Christian faith might tell us about Renate, or perhaps more accurately to see what light Renate can shine on our Christian faith. And we've already been helped in this by St Paul: his great hymn to love we hear most often at weddings.

*Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

Just right for today, because Renate was full of love. She loved her family, and was inordinately proud of them and grateful to them. She loved her friends, and was the most generous host. She loved a party, throwing them, going to them. I don't think she ever turned up at our house without a gift of some kind. And at Christmas too - always a bottle of something delicious. Even this last Christmas: I thought she'd forgotten, understandably. But a week after, carefully wrapped, appeared the usual much appreciated Christmas gift.

It would have been so easy for those lonely, frightening, hungry days at the end of the War to leave Renate embittered and resentful. But miraculously, and to the benefit of everyone who met her, they had the opposite effect. She loved life and it rubbed off on the rest of us.

Perhaps I might read you a paragraph from her memoir of her flight to the West in 1945 after a ghastly episode at Russian hands:

*I knew I had to escape and at an opportune moment I just ran and ran and ran, no longer along a path but through the trees and the dense undergrowth in total darkness until I came to a clearing and beyond that a railway embankment. It was about 10 metres away, but there was no forest to hide and shelter me. My heart raced and my tongue adhered to the roof of my mouth. I wanted to cry, but knew that any sound would give me away. I ran across, clambered up the embankment holding onto bushes and thorny, stunted trees. Exhausted and in trembling fear I had almost reached the top when in front of me I saw a pair of black boots. This was it, it was all over. At that moment I really did not care any more. When I opened my eyes again I saw these boots were highly polished and above them were puttees and khaki trousers, something I had never seen a Russian soldier wear. Still on all fours I looked up again and I saw the typical British beret. The soldier smiled, helped me up and said something like "British zone."*

I honestly don't know if that was the transforming moment. But something generated in Renate a lifelong spirit of thanksgiving, a clinging to the love of God, a merciful disposition.

You may remember how in Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* Shylock asks the question: *Why on earth should I be merciful?* To which Portia responds:

*The quality of mercy is not strain'd,  
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven Upon the place beneath  
It is twice blest, it blesseth him that gives, and him that takes.*

Of which Renate has been living proof. For that merciful, humble, forgiving spirit was the most tremendous blessing both to her and to all those with whom she had to do.

Praise God most of us will be spared what Renate went through in her life. Maybe even she went through it on behalf of the rest of us. What I do hope and pray is that those qualities we've appreciated so deeply in her may live on in us, so that like her, we too may be a blessing to all those with whom we have to do. Amen.

**Jonathan Greener**

## **Pam Mawson**

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Pam Mawson. Pam was married to Canon Arthur Mawson, Canon Treasurer from 1979 to 1998. During her time in Exeter, she taught at the Maynard School.

Pam is fondly remembered, particularly for her kindness, for her generous hospitality and for her unstinting support for Arthur, her family and her friends in the Cathedral Community. Arthur and Pam retired to Oxford. To Arthur and to all their family we send our love and sympathy.

## **Canon James Mustard's Skydive: 17<sup>th</sup> July**

On 17<sup>th</sup> July, the Precentor will skydive from three miles up to raise funds for the Choir Tour to Normandy and Paris in 2025.

The Tour will take the choir to our link diocese of Bayeux/Lisieux, helping to cement our links there.

The total cost of the tour will be £40,000 so any donations will be gratefully received.

Please give generously. Website <https://tinyurl.com/MustardSkydive>



## Saint of the Month: 14<sup>th</sup> July John Keble, Priest, Tractarian, Poet 1866

The clues to this Lesser Festival are in the title.

John Keble was born in 1792 and grew up in Gloucestershire. He was something of an academic prodigy. At the age of 14, he won a scholarship to Corpus Christi College, Oxford where, aged 18, he gained a double first in mathematics and classics. He became a Fellow of Oriel College in 1811.

His ministry as a priest began with ordination in 1815. In 1835 he accepted the living of Hursley in Hampshire where he remained for the rest of his life.

It is as John Keble the Tractarian that he has an important place in church history, and for which he is probably best known. We keep his feast day on the anniversary of the Assize Sermon he preached on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1833 in the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford, the theme of which was “National Apostasy”. Space does not permit a detailed exposition. Suffice to say that the sermon had a seismic effect on the Victorian Church of England, the legacy of which is still with us.

Those who shared his views, notably John Henry Newman, published a series of papers, *Tracts for the Times*-hence “Tractarian”. From all this came the Oxford Movement, the revival of Anglo-Catholicism, many liturgical practices that are common today (such as altar candles, robed choirs and vestments), and sadly, at the time, much theological dispute, controversy, and even litigation.

John Keble the poet is best remembered for *The Christian Year*, a collection published in 1827, with a poem assigned to every Sunday and feast day in the church year. He was elected Professor of Poetry at Oxford in 1831. Keble also wrote hymns we know and love today, including *Sun of my Soul*, *Blest are the pure in heart*, and *New every morning is the love*.

It seems that John Keble was an unlikely revolutionary. He was a devoted parish priest, described fondly by those who knew him as kind, unassuming, and shy-with a bright smile and penetrating eyes. He loved Devon, especially Sidmouth and the view from Bulverton Hill, where it is said there was a bench called Keble’s Seat. Among his legacy is Keble College, Oxford, founded by subscriptions from his many friends and admirers after his death in Bournemouth in 1866.

## New Foundations Course

Foundations will be the introductory course for everyone in the Diocese of Exeter who is exploring their vocation (both lay and ordained) or who wants to understand Christian faith better. It is designed to help people grow in their discipleship and flourish as part of the Church. It is open to everyone who is a member of a church community, and it replaces the Foundations in Christian Ministry course (FiCM), which was previously run with great success by the South West Ministry Training Course (SWMTC).

The topics covered by Foundations are: Theology, The Bible, Spirituality and Ministry. The course will include a mixture of in-person and online teaching. There will be several intakes a year and it will run in different locations to make it as accessible as possible for a wide range of people across Devon. The time commitment will be three Saturdays and four evenings in person, plus some online study - but no essays!

[Please click here for more info about the course and to apply.](#)

## Many thanks...

..to Jake and Jess for these lovely photographs of their wedding on 8<sup>th</sup> June.

*Photos by Tara Statton Photography*

