



From the Revd Prebendary Julian Ould, Priest Vicar

There is a saying: 'We all have our cross to bear'. Often this refers to someone or something that is a real burden to us!! But however we might use this term, we do so acknowledging that life is not without its problems, and that somehow we have to cope with them. This having been said, we read in Matthew's Gospel that we are 'to take up our cross', - which on first reading seems a fairly gloomy prospect, and as a child I could never

understand this, for it smacked of suffering. Which is odd, for if God is about love, why in heaven's name does he want us to suffer? In truth I don't believe that God does want us to suffer, but in struggles against sin it sometimes has to be.

During the course of the summer, we have enjoyed a steady stream of visitors, Devon being an attractive place for a holiday in the summer months, in spite of the potential for 'liquid sunshine'. One visitor that stands out for me is my youngest granddaughter who is three years old. Staying overnight, Bryher was billeted in my study, it doubling up as bedroom when needed. As she was being settled at bedtime by Grandma, Bryher remarked that she liked my room because it had kisses on the wall. Grandma looked bewildered and asked where the kisses were. Bryher responded, 'Granddad has lots of kisses, look.' She was pointing at the various crosses of various sizes and design. Granddad has kisses on the wall, which Bryher really liked, and I have looked at the crosses on my study walls in a completely new light and hence my reflection on the idea of a cross to bear and being asked to take up our cross. What sort of cross is it?

In Baptism we are signed with the cross, - we begin our Christian lives with it, - and from that point it stands as the foremost and central sign within our Churches. It is a sign that is universal, breaking through every barrier of language and creed, - it is a sign that stands as one of the few things that Christianity as a whole has never argued about, - it is the one thing regardless of denomination

that all share and have. It is therefore important that we understand the true significance of the cross.

It is an unfortunate legacy of our immediate ancestors that we have the saying: 'a cross to bear', for our scriptures do not say this! We indeed take up our cross, but to quote another passage from Matthew's Gospel: 'Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.' (Matt.11.29-30).

The cross is indeed the object of suffering and shame which we remember on Good Friday. But take heart, for we refer to it as Good, not bad Friday. And we do so because the cross stands for things that are so good that the suffering, whilst important, becomes secondary.

The cross is about many things, but I would like to highlight just four.

Firstly, the cross is a victorious sign. Jesus did indeed die, and the way of the cross has its sorrow. Jesus out of love gave everything! Jesus gave, and the ruling authorities, the people, rejected him, and they threw the ultimate weapon of evil at him, - that of death. Jesus offered life, the evil of our world could only wield the weapon of death, and yet it wasn't enough! For whilst physically Jesus did die, he had taught us that though our worldly life was important, that there was something more than just the physical, for as Matthew emphasises: 'what profit is it for a man to have gained the whole world and yet to forfeit or ruined his very self?'

Jesus as we know lived on! He didn't come back to life physically, but went beyond it, living the fullness of life that our very beings have, in our characters, our personalities, - in our deepest feelings. The sting of death had failed against Jesus's way, and so the Cross marks a sign of triumph, of victory.

Secondly, the cross is a gateway. The fear of death is something that is very great with many people, and no matter how strong our faith, physical loss is always hard. But the way of Christ through the cross offers hope. It will live with me for ever, the words of a young lady who sobbed in my arms at the death of her husband, having sat with him for weeks watching him die from cancer. She said: 'at least he is safe now, nothing more can harm him, he is home!' She recognised in her grief that the way of the Cross provided the next step on for her husband, - he was safe in God's family, - he was home!

Thirdly, the Cross is a light. We speak of Christ the light of the world. Jesus revealed to us the things that really matter. He put into perspective the real values of life, and the cross marks the culmination of this. In his light we can see that Jesus is indeed the way, the truth and the life, - life eternal.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the cross is a sign of love. It is by no

accident that Matthew precedes the passage to take up our cross with the revelation that Jesus is the Son of God. For in this we are shown: 'that God so loved the world that he gave his only son that we might have life'. Jesus gave in love, a constant outpouring, even in the face of death and beyond. He taught that in loving we allow for the capacity of receiving, a constant outpouring that facilitates the hope of receiving. A love so great that it softened the heart of many, like Pontius Pilate, whom we are told sought to release him. A love so great that some like the Pharisees couldn't cope, why else would they try to get rid of him. A love so great that the cross stands as the focal point of our Church today and has touched the hearts of mankind as no other point of our world's history.

So our Cross is a gateway, a triumphal sign of victory, a light to guide us and a beacon of love, or as my three-year-old granddaughter claims, 'it is a kiss.'

This is indeed a much more attractive cross to bear, but this is not to exclude the reality of suffering, for to love requires freedom, which allows for the potential of good and bad. Also, to love is to be vulnerable, for it is about giving with no guarantee of a loving response from those around us. We have love at the price of potential suffering, but as with Christ's victorious cross, - true love conquers all, the bonds of true love knowing no limits, they are eternal.

My study now has kisses on the wall, and I rejoice. Thank you Bryher.

Julian Ould

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.](#)



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.

Plea from Wednesday Kitchen

Alongside baked potatoes, we like to serve home-made cakes and flapjacks, and we would like to get more bakers involved. The cakes and flapjacks are added to the take-away bags, so each chunk/generous slice must be individually wrapped in clingfilm. We usually serve 50 pieces of flapjack as well as 50+ chunks/slices of cake each week. This is a simple but hugely appreciated way to actively support our homeless outreach service.

If you are able to help, even once every couple of months, please contact me by email penny@harris58.com

Thank you,
Penny Harris

**Posbury St Francis
Annual Lecture**

Radical Hope: the
roots of courage in
inevitable climate
change

**Bethany
Sollereeder**

Monday 7th October, University of Exeter

Queen's Lecture Theatre 1, 7:00 – 8:30pm

In a world where the climate has already changed, we need a hope that stretches beyond simply stopping change. This lecture will draw from theology, history, and the natural sciences to argue for ways we can build hope in a world where climate change is already occurring and will continue to happen.

Co-sponsored by EXCEPT the Exeter Centre for Ethics & Practical Theology

Bethany Sollereeder is a Lecturer in Science and Religion at the University of Edinburgh. She specialises in theology concerning evolution and the problem of suffering and is currently working on the theological aspects of climate change. Bethany received her PhD in Theology from the University of Exeter. She is the author of *God, Evolution, and Animal Suffering: Theodicy without a Fall* and *Why is there Suffering? Pick your own theological expedition*.



Devon Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride 14th September

This year the Devon Historic Churches Trust (DHCT) annual fundraiser is on Saturday 14th September. The Trust funds the repair and maintenance of our historic churches around the Diocese, preserving them for current and future generations. We're looking forward to this annual opportunity to support the Trust's work and to keep active at the same time.

This year, the Cathedral is planning two separate events; one for cyclists and one for walkers. Whether you ride or stride, you will have an excellent opportunity to visit some of our historic churches with other members of the Cathedral Community, while also raising money for DHCT.

Both events will start from the Cathedral. Riders, who will be led by Phil Wales will set off at **9.15am** and head off to the countryside. Striders, led by Cate Edmonds, will start at **10am** and take in some churches around the city.

If you would like to register your interest please contact Phil, preferably by email: phil.wales@exeter-cathedral.org.uk or mobile 07502 129288

What's on in September

Exeter Cathedral Stone Auction

Until 15 September 2024

Give a home to a unique piece of Exeter Cathedral's history by taking part in our online stone auction, with Exeter-based auctioneers, Bearnes Hampton & Littlewood. Join us for in-person viewing opportunities at Exeter Cathedral from 10-15 September, 10am-4pm. Find out more at bit.ly/ec-stone-auction

The Music of Elvis by Candlelight

5 September 2024 at 7:30pm

Elvis by Candlelight comes to Exeter Cathedral on Thursday 5 September. Enjoy iconic Elvis songs performed by tribute band, JD King & The Creoles. Book your ticket at bit.ly/EC-Elvis

The Music of Adele by Candlelight

Friday 6 & Saturday 7 September 2024 at 7:30pm

Featuring '*Hometown Glory*', one of the UK's leading Adele tributes with an incredible live band. Join us for an unforgettable evening packed full of best loved Adele Hits! Book your ticket at bit.ly/adele-ec

Cathedral Community Lunch

Sunday 8 September 2024 at 11:45am

All are welcome to join us for our Cathedral Community Lunch for a delicious hog roast and vegetarian options, celebrating the start of the new academic and choir year, and to welcome new Chorister parents. Book your ticket at bit.ly/ec-community-lunch

Summer Organ Recitals: Francesca Massey

Thursday 12 September 2024 at 7pm

Enjoy the awe-inspiring sound of the Cathedral's magnificent organ as the evening sun reflects on the unparalleled architecture of the nave during our summer recital series. International concert artist, Francesca Massey, will be performing works by Alfred Hollins (1865-1942), Francis Pott (b.1957), Healey Willan (1880-1968) and many more. Book your ticket at bit.ly/recital-francesca-massey

Exeter Independent Market: September

Saturday 14 September 11am-4pm

Join us for the final Exeter Independent Market of the year. Soak up the unique atmosphere of Cathedral Green with live music from local performers, while

discovering a rich variety of our region's finest makers and traders. Whether you are looking for handmade crafts, clothes and accessories, locally produced food and drink or vintage treasures, Exeter Independent Market offers a unique one-stop shop in the heart of the city. Find out more at bit.ly/exeter-independent-market

Army Benevolent Fund Concert

Saturday 14 September at 7:15pm

A spectacular concert to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Army Benevolent Fund. Find out more at bit.ly/abf-concert

Library & Archives In Focus: A Celebration of Ephemera

Thursday 19 September, drop-in between 11am–1pm

Ephemera is the stuff that was never expected to survive – cuttings, scraps, wrappers, notes, and souvenirs. Often overlooked, ephemera can be a great source of humour, joy and incidental information. Join us for this light-hearted look at some of the more under-appreciated elements of the archival record! Find out more at bit.ly/ephemera-ec

Russell Watson & Special Guest: Nancy May

Friday 20 September 2024, 7:30pm

Join multi-award winning tenor Russell Watson, accompanied by world renowned pianist/arranger/writer Mike Moran, in the magnificent setting of Exeter Cathedral. Book your ticket at bit.ly/EC-Russell-Watson

London Concertante: Music From the Movies by Candlelight

Saturday 21 September 2024 at 7:30pm

Step into the mesmerising world of cinema with London Concertante's Movies Concert! Immerse yourself in an unforgettable evening of music, as the acclaimed orchestra takes you on a captivating journey through some of the most iconic film scores of all time. Book your ticket at bit.ly/LC-movies

Uncovering the Civil War at Exeter Cathedral

Thursday 26 September at 2.30pm

The seventeenth century began with Queen Elizabeth I and ended with Prince William of Orange on the English throne. In the time between, the Stuart Kings came from Scotland to take the throne, and by the middle of the century the country was engulfed in a terrible civil war. Join us on an exciting brand new tour to discover stories of the Civil War in Exeter Cathedral's Library and Archives, and to take a closer look at evidence of the impact on the Cathedral building and decoration. Book your ticket at bit.ly/EC-Civil-War-Tour

An Opportunity to Wonder, Wander and Walk the Labyrinth...

Saturday 28 September 2024, from 11am until 3pm

A labyrinth is, a journey to the centre, a winding pilgrim path that is walked prayerfully and reflectively. There is no one way to use the labyrinth; each person experiences this pilgrimage in a different way. There are famous mediaeval labyrinths in some continental cathedrals, most notably in the nave at Chartres. Included in general Cathedral admission.

Find out more at bit.ly/labyrinth-sep24

The Music of John Williams

Saturday 28 September 2024 at 7:30pm

This sensational tribute concert features the full force of the renowned International Film Orchestra and the music of John Williams. Find out more at bit.ly/EC-John-Williams-music

From the Company of Tapisers: A Quick Lesson!

For much of the year – 33 or 34 weeks, in fact – the clergy wear green vestments for services. They wear green – the symbol for hope, life and anticipation – because, in the Church's calendar, this is 'Ordinary Time': a period in which Jesus' teaching and ministry are celebrated. The name 'Ordinary' comes from the fact that the weeks are counted in 'ordinal' numbers: i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd etc. The green set of vestments, made by the Tapisers, has a striking gold and red orphrey (decorative panels) outlining grapes and leaves. This special braid was bought in Rome and gifted to us by a former Precentor.

In case you are unsure about the colours of vestments worn by the clergy throughout the year, here is a quick reminder:

Red, worn on Palm Sunday, Good Friday and at Pentecost, remembers God's love, blood and fire and celebrates martyrs of the Church;

White or Gold, symbolises birth, resurrection, purity and light, is worn at Christmas and Easter.

The more sombre colour of purple is for penance, sacrifice and preparation and worn during Advent and Lent.

Rose is worn on two Sundays only: the 4th Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday) and the 3rd Sunday in Advent – to symbolise joy, hope, anticipation and to lift the gloom of these two seasons. The delicate embroidery on the Rose chasuble and stole reflects the timing of these two Sundays with a Christmas Rose and Easter Snowdrops.

It is a privilege for the Tapisers to be able to stitch vestments for the clergy knowing they are an important part of our worship.

Diana Symes, Chairman of the Company of Tapisers

Saint of the Month: Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, Visionary, 1179 Lesser Festival 17th September

Hildegard of Bingen, monastic founder, visionary theologian, and polymath, was formally recognised by Pope Benedict in 2012 as a Saint and a Doctor of the Church. But her importance has long been recognised in the Catholic Church and beyond. As one of her recent interpreters notes, it is difficult to encapsulate in a few words the many perspectives from which her work can be viewed: she was “a nun, a monastic leader, a preacher, a correspondent [with popes and leading theologians], a poet, a theologian, a visionary, a prophet, a composer, a scientist, a medical practitioner, a liturgist, a hagiographer, a cryptographer, and... a founder of her own convent” (Bain, 1).

Hildegard was born in 1098. She was the tenth child of a noble Rhineland family and seems to have been introduced to the spiritual life from her mid-teens if not before (she experienced a visionary understanding of God’s communication with her from a very early age). She was instructed by influential women spiritual teachers both before and after joining a religious community. In 1112 she and two other young women in their teens joined the Benedictine monastery at Disibodenberg: they were the founding members of a small women’s cell attached to the men’s community. About 25 years later, Hildegard was elected *magistra* - teacher – of this group and in 1150, in her early 50s, Hildegard moved the community, now numbering about 20, to a new site at Rupertsberg. She died nearly thirty years later, aged 81.

The break with the brothers at Disibodenberg and the founding of a new establishment was not without its challenges, but by this stage Hildegard was increasingly regarded as a religious authority, renowned for her visionary theology (which she has begun to write down in the 1140s, encouraged by Bernard of Clairvaux) and appealed to by churchmen and laity as a source of spiritual advice. She was an acute critic of popular Cathar religious beliefs, with their emphasis on purity and strict ascetic practice, which derived from a very negative view of the material world including the human body. Nor was she afraid to issue trenchant critiques of Christian clergy, not least because she felt their laxity and over-indulgence gave credence to the Cathars’ ideology. Although by modern standards Hildegard’s discipline and instruction to her own community seems extremely rigorous, she saw the Benedictine Rule as a middle way between moral laxity, which made room for all the vices, and an overly-harsh ascetic regime which denied the goodness of God’s material creation.

Hildegard was granted licence to preach outside her own religious house to both men and women, to clergy, religious and the laity and went on at least four preaching tours in the Rhineland and beyond. Although she was not the only

woman leader of a religious community to do so, her preaching is notable for its theological sophistication and depth of learning. Besides the profound influence of her own spiritual experience, Hildegard was deeply influenced by her reading of both Scripture and earlier Latin fathers, especially Gregory the Great, Augustine and Ambrose. Her theology is expansive and difficult to summarise: it is perhaps best understood as a Christian “theory of everything” in which God’s entire creation exhibits a complex set of connections both across space — expounded in Hildegard’s writings on philosophy and natural science — and time — seen in her constant recourse to the ‘big story’ of salvation history to explain even the shortest portion of Scripture. For Hildegard, humanity stands in the middle of all created life, a tangible symbol and reminder of the unity of immaterial and material being in the divine plan. Humans are both body and soul and — contrary to Cathar theology — both elements are good. Even though humans lost their original goodness in the fall, through the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ, humanity still stands at the centre of all things, as God redeemed the world through the one who was both human and divine. In some of her writings Hildegard expresses this ‘big story’ of creation, fall and restoration in terms which echo some aspects of Neoplatonic philosophies of cosmic outflow from, and return to, the divine principle. But Hildegard never loses sight of the goodness of material creation (on which some Neoplatonists were ambivalent) nor of the centrality of the Trinity for Christian theology.

Hildegard has been rightly lauded for the depth and extent of her learning, and her preparedness to stand up against those whom she thought were falling short of the standards required of the church. She was profoundly dedicated to her women’s community, and it was probably for their formation that she wrote her three long books of theology which expound her visions in the light of Scripture and the tradition of the church. At best, her preaching has the ability to rise up to the sublime and then to bring the reader’s feet back to the ground with careful reminders of the practical implications of her teaching. Her writings on medicine and music were also deeply connected to her devoted leadership of her community and its well-being in all senses. But there are some aspects of her thought which are quite difficult to translate into the present day. Quite apart from changes in the way we understand the physical universe, Hildegard’s attitudes to gender and class reflect the hierarchical assumptions of her own day. Her exegesis of simple Gospel passages shows the influence of medieval spiritual exegesis: it is profound and theologically rich, but also seems rather disconnected from an understanding of the historical importance of Jesus’s ministry. For example, her exegesis of Luke 19:41 — “When Jesus drew near to Jerusalem and saw the city he wept over it” — offers three interpretations,

according to which God draws near to the world as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Jesus's actual tears of compassion seem to be forgotten.

Nevertheless, there are other aspects of her theology which might prove more fruitful for today. Scholars have been probing the value of her vision of a thoroughly interconnected universe, which is both fundamentally good, but vulnerable to the effects of human selfishness. And Hildegard's "green" theology is also found in a rich understanding of "viriditas" – greenness, vitality or life-force. Drawing on a network of Scriptural passages which use metaphors of plant life, especially the Song of Songs, Hildegard uses "greenness" to express a spiritual liveliness which humans ought to have, but which they lose through neglect. This "greenness", like the life-force dormant in a plant root or bulb, can be revived due to the gift of moisture (divine grace). This metaphor works at the level of salvation history: creation in the image of God; the fall, in which "greenness" is lost; then the incarnation, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in which it is revived, like new shoots from a seed of grain. But the idea of "greenness" is also applied to the spiritual life of the individual and the community in which she lives: as recipients of God's grace, we are given "greenness" and the dew of the Holy Spirit to keep it green; we also need to pay attention to how we cultivate our garden.

Sources and further reading:

Hildegard of Bingen, trans. Beverly Mayne Kienzle. *Homilies on the Gospels*. Cistercian Studies Series, no. 241. (Cistercian Publications ; Liturgical Press, 2011)

Bain, Jennifer, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Hildegard of Bingen* (Cambridge University Press, 2021), (especially essays by Bain, Embach, Ginther and Loewen).

Marder, Michael, Marcia Sá Cavalcante Schuback, and Peter Schuback. *Green Mass: The Ecological Theology of St. Hildegard of Bingen* (Stanford University Press, 2021)

Revd Professor Morwenna Ludlow, Canon Theologian

The October edition of *Cathedral News*

We hope to publish the next edition of the *News* on Sunday 29th September 2024. The deadline for material is **Tuesday 24th September 2024**. Please send any contributions to hmm53@tiscali.co.uk or to any member of the editorial team; Heather Morgan, Rosemary Bethell, and Jenny Ellis.

Education Sunday 8th September

8th September is Education Sunday. Please pray for schools, colleges and universities, for all students, teachers, lecturers, support staff, parents and governors, and for all chaplains in the education sector.

**In Conversation with Christopher Southgate and Michael Winter
Sunday 13th October at 6.30 pm in the Nave (refreshments served
from 6.00 p.m.)**

**Tilling and Keeping the Garden of Earth: The human vocation in the
ecological crisis**



Christopher Southgate trained originally as a research biochemist, and has since been a house-husband, a bookseller, a published poet, and a lay chaplain in university and mental health settings. For sixteen years he helped to train candidates for ministry in the South-West, and since 1993 he has taught on the science-religion debate at the University of Exeter. He is now

Professor of Christian Theodicy at the University, specialising in ecotheology and also the poetry of T.S. Eliot.

His theological books include *The Groaning of Creation* (WJK) and *Theology in a Suffering World* (CUP), and his most recent poetry collections are *Losing Ithaca* (Shoestring) and *Rain falling by the River* (Canterbury Press).



Michael Winter took a degree in Rural Environmental Studies at Wye College (London University) in the 1970s, then worked on farms in Hampshire and Devon before embarking on a PhD in Rural Sociology and an academic career. He currently holds the Glanely Chair in Agricultural Change at the University of Exeter. He chairs the Devon Local Nature Partnership and was until April 2023 a board member of Natural England. His co-authored books include *The Changing World of Farming in Brexit UK* (Routledge), *The Real Agricultural Revolution* (Boydell) and *The Land between the Moors* (Beaford). He is a lay Canon of Exeter Cathedral and has been a licensed lay minister in west Devon for over thirty years.

Join us for a fascinating conversation...



Writing a New Chapter: The 2020s Development Appeal Project Update

The works are at their peak at the moment. The Friends Cloister Gallery has been revealed from behind the scaffold with the windows now installed and looking wonderful. The focus is now on fitting out all the remaining electrical and mechanical services inside.

The work in the East end is well underway. Following extensive archaeology that uncovered the Norman Apse of the original Cathedral, a route has been found through the floor for the heating and electrical services. The team are now starting to replace the ledger stones that were lifted as they complete the work in the first two of four 'bubbles' that will move around the Quire Aisles.

Work is also underway in the area adjacent to old shop. The solid concrete roof of the old Flower Arrangers store and Virgers office is being demolished, preparing this area to make way for new visitor WCs.

Outside the Cathedral the trenches have been dug and cables laid for the substation, and we're now all relieved that we're at the point they are being filled back in. Thank you everyone for your patience during this disruptive work.

Kit Reynolds Project Manager
& Amy Haynes Marketing & Communications Executive



Congratulations!

Many congratulations to Dr Sam Turner (a former chorister & server). We were delighted to hear from his proud parents, Chryssa and John, that Sam graduated this summer with a PhD in astrophysics, from Cambridge University.

The title of his thesis is 'Exploring the Variability of Accretion Discs with Stochastic Models'. He is now doing post-doctoral research at Cambridge.

Sam is pictured here with his sister Alex, also a former server. Alex has been teaching for almost nine years at an independent school in

Carlisle, where she is now Head of Biology.

We are always delighted to receive news of our former choristers, servers and Cloister Club members and to celebrate their achievements.

Cathedral Community Committee (CCC) 13th August

We discussed

- Mission Breakfasts and the need for the CCC and other members of the Cathedral Community to support these better and in greater numbers.
- The formation of an 18-40 group in the Cathedral which we hope will start in October.
- The action needed for the Cathedral to achieve Eco Church Gold status
- The CCC Awayday provisionally agreed for 9th November.
- The Community Lunch on 8th September.
- The outing on 16th October now proposed to be to Bath Abbey.
- Devon Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride. It was suggested that something be arranged for those who prefer to walk rather than cycle.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 10th September when Penny Harris will be with us to discuss how the wider Cathedral Community can support the Wednesday Kitchen (see page 4 for an immediate need. Please send any items for the agenda to hmm53@tiscali.co.uk

Heather Morgan, Chair CCC

News from the Cathedral Flower Arrangers

How wonderful to see the outside walls of the new Cloister! It looks so perfectly part of the whole that you wonder just how it looked before. It signifies the fact that the new Cloister Gallery draws ever nearer, and before long I suspect we will be arranging in there. So exciting!

This is one of four projects affecting all of us but, when you see the positive result of so much disruption you do feel proud to be part of history being made. We had a possible new arranger in on Friday who arranged a pillar beautifully, and will soon join us. In her thank you email, she reminded me how privileged we are to arrange in such a beautiful place.

This is the 4th change from our temporary home, and we have now got it down to a fine art. All the arrangers have to be in together for Health & Safety reasons because the boxes of silk flowers cannot be pulled out by one person alone. The new ladies who have joined us are very expert and we are thrilled with their work. We continue to recruit and are always happy to chat informally. If you know someone who might like to join us, please point them in our direction for an informal chat.

Plans are beginning for Bishop Mike's installation, and we intend to have a flower filled Cathedral to celebrate his arrival. Can you believe we are also beginning to plan the next Grand Nave Dinner for October 2025?! Having had a very generous benefactor for the flowers last time, we are considering how we can make the evening look as fabulous as before. We have a number of heads working on this and we hope to have an outline plan before, dare I say it, Christmas!

Flick Evans, Chair ECFA

Cathedral Community Lunch 8th September

There will be a Cathedral Community Lunch on 8th September at 11.45am following the Choral Eucharist. This will be a great opportunity to welcome all newcomers to the Cathedral, especially new choristers and their parents, and new adult members of the music team.

Lunch will be a hog roast and there will be vegetarian options. The charge is £10 per person (children can come for free!) which includes a glass of wine or soft drink.

Tickets are available from the Cathedral Shop or please book using this link: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/exetercathedral>

Exeter Cathedral Advent Series 2024

Words for the Word: Advent in prayers, psalms and preaching

Thursday evenings in Advent on Zoom, 7:30 – 9:00 pm

In this series of three talks Exeter Cathedral's three Canons Theologian will explore some liturgical responses to the Advent and Christmas seasons. We will introduce some new texts and will share some new perspectives on familiar ones.

Come and join us for one talk or all three, as we learn about and reflect on some beautiful seasonal words for the Word!

Thursday 5th December, 7:30 – 9:00 pm

The Revd Canon Dr Benjamin Williams: *"Exciting Collects! Praying through Stir-up Sunday and Advent"*

Thursday 12th December, 7:30 – 9:00 pm

The Revd Canon Professor Sue Gillingham: *"Psalms 90-106: An Early Advent Hymn Book?"*

Thursday 19th December, 7:30 – 9:00 pm

The Revd Canon Professor Morwenna Ludlow: *"Inventing Christmas: the First Sermons on the Nativity"*

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: 996 3898 5011 Passcode: 1F0puR

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



An Evening with Alexander McCall Smith

**Friday 4th October 2024
at 7:30pm**

Photo by Kirsty Anderson

Spend a delightful evening with worldwide best-selling author Alexander McCall Smith as he discusses his latest works in conversation with the Dean.

Travel with the master storyteller to catch up with Mma Ramotswe in Botswana as he discusses his latest No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency novel, *The Great Hippopotamus Hotel*. Then allow Alexander to transport you to the west coast of Scotland, the setting for his new stand alone novel, *The Winds from Further West*, which tells a tale of love, Scottish islands, and wolf cubs.

Finally, Alexander will whisk you to Edinburgh to learn about his brand new series, *The Perfect Passion Company*, which features a dating agency in the city's Old Town. While there, he might also introduce you to Isabel Dalhousie, Edinburgh resident and moral philosopher. You can read about her latest exploits in *The Conditions of Unconditional Love*.

This event will also include a Q&A session and book signing.

Tickets: £15 Available on the website

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/exetercathedral/t-noeomgm>

This event is kindly supported by Investec Wealth & Investment (UK) and is in aid of the Sound System Appeal.



The
EXETER CATHEDRAL
2020s DEVELOPMENT
APPEAL



SOUND SYSTEM APPEAL

Poems for the Path Ahead: Poetry Quiet Morning

Tuesday 24 September, 10am to 1pm, St Stephen's Church, Exeter High Street

Whether you're a beginner or an expert, a writer or a reader, you're warmly invited to join *Poems for the Path Ahead* for a half-day retreat of reading – and (if you choose to) writing – to mark National Retreat Week. This Quiet Morning includes a small pop-up poetry reference library.

It'll be a relaxed morning, with tea, coffee and biscuits on hand. There will be a chance to share any new favourite poems you find – and some prompts to inspire your own writing. Exeter poet Helen Evans will run the event, and also offer a handful of 1:1 slots where she'll 'prescribe' a poem you might like, or a writing exercise you might enjoy.

The cost is just £10 to cover venue and refreshments and spaces are limited so please book in advance if you'd like to come, at helen@helenevans.co.uk.

Apply for a grant to go on retreat

The Trustees of the Posbury St Francis Trust (PSFT) are holding a second round of grant applications this Autumn. This round will be confined to applications for contributions towards the cost of retreats. Grants can be awarded for up to 50% of the cost of a retreat (up to a maximum of £200 per applicant).

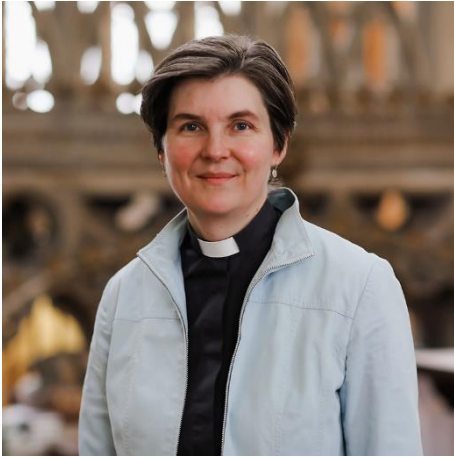
The application period is now open and will close on **Monday 30th September**. Decisions on applications will be made by the end of October. Application form available to download from 1 September. [Click here](#) for more information.



Welcome to our new Musicians

A very warm welcome to new members of the music team; to the new choristers and their families who will join us this month, to new members of the back row of the choir and to Adam Field, our new Organ Scholar.

Adam joins us after reading music at Selwyn College, Cambridge, where he held the Percy Young Senior Organ Scholarship. Adam is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists (FRCO). He previously held organ scholarships at Croydon Minster and Portsmouth Cathedral.



A little bit of history from the Ludlows

29th October 7:30 - 9:00 Sacristy
Canon Professor Morwenna Ludlow
“A brief history of the Church of England”

The Church of England is often described as ‘catholic and reformed’ but what does that mean? How has each tradition come together in this unique way? And how does this affect the way in which members understand their church today? Using her experience as a church historian Morwenna will begin to sketch

out some answers to these questions and she will suggest some ways in which we might all deepen our understanding of the Church of England and its historical contexts.

Morwenna Ludlow is Professor of Christian History and Theology at the University of Exeter and Canon Theologian at Exeter Cathedral. She specialises in the theology of Christians in the Roman Empire and she studies how it has been used by later generations, including Anglicans today. Among her books is *The Early Church* (2008). Her current project ‘God and Good Speech in Early Christianity’ looks at how Christians reflected on the ethics and theology of how to speak well, drawing on the Bible and classical rhetorical training.



12th November 7:30 - 9:00 Sacristy
Professor Piers Ludlow
“A brief history of Britain and Europe”

Brexit and all our recent rows and tribulations over our relationship with Europe did not come out of the blue. On the contrary, the debate about how Britain ought to relate to its European neighbours has been at the centre of British discussion and debate since the late 19th century at very least. Recapturing this past debate is important to understand both how we have ended up where we are today, what the likely effects of our current predicament

are, and, to some extent at least, what our options are when looking to the future.

Piers Ludlow is Professor in the Department of International History at the London School of Economics. His main research interests lie in the history of Western Europe since 1945, in particular the historical roots of the integration process and the development of the EU. He also works on the Cold War, and in particular West-West relations during the East-West struggle. His books include *Dealing with Britain: The Six and the First UK Membership Application* (1997) and *Roy Jenkins and the European Commission Presidency, 1976-1980: At the Heart of Europe* (2016). He is currently working on a book assessing and analyzing Britain's 40 plus years as member of the European Community/Union.

(We aim to make an audio recording of both talks and make them available on the Cathedral web-site.)



Fairtrade Devon & South West
invite you to our

30th Anniversary Conference

Saturday 14th September, 10am-3.30pm
In Exeter Community Centre,
17 St David's Hill, Exeter, EX4 3RG

30^{yrs} of the Fairtrade Mark Celebrate the amazing achievements of Fairtrade over the past 30 years

Be inspired by our Guest Speaker
Mr Patrick Kaberia Muthaura,
Fairtrade Tea Grower in Kenya

Discuss the challenges and opportunities facing Fairtrade over the next 5 years.

Meet people passionate about Fairtrade, create new networks, learn something new!

This is a **free** event, including lunch. Donations requested.
RSVP to dde@globalcentredevon.org.uk or book on:
www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/945669702537 or bit.ly/FTExeter30

The Community Centre is 8 mins from Exeter Central and 15 mins from St David's railway stations. No parking at the Centre but there are public car parks nearby.



Fairtrade Devon, Devon Development Education,
Exeter Community Centre, Exeter, EX4 3RG.
Charity no.1102233. www.globalcentredevon.org.uk