



Exeter
Cathedral

Cathedral News

October 2024 – No. 748



From the Canon Treasurer

This year the feast of St Edward the Confessor falls on a Sunday – 13 October – and we will celebrate him in our services that day. Edward, of course, was king of England shortly before the Norman Conquest, and we celebrate him as the founder of Exeter Cathedral. The foundation charter of the Cathedral in his name is still in the Cathedral's possession and one of our best treasures. Edward himself, with his queen Edith, came to Exeter to install the first bishop Leofric in the first

Cathedral, an existing Saxon minster.

We remember these details from 1000 years ago with great affection because they show that being a Cathedral today is rooted in a long history – and also a holy history. Because as well as being our founder, Edward was canonised by the church as a saint. The claims for his sanctity are disputed and it is possible that his canonisation had a political element. But still the church commemorates him as a hero of the faith and a person whose legacy is an important contribution to the Christian story of our country.

So much of our long and holy history is all around us – in our building, in our music, in our Library and Archive, in our liturgy, in our learning, in key roles and governance. All of these have daily activity, thought, and care attached to them. We sing and worship and repair and improve and welcome and teach and preach and govern in a tradition that extends back through the centuries. This gives us a sense of both the significance and insignificance of what we do: significant because we carry a wonderful tradition; insignificant because in centuries to come we will be just a moment in a far longer story.

This significance and insignificance is mirrored in being church - worshipping God and welcoming others – in a wider sense. We are enormously significant as people created in the image of God and called by God into relationship with him; God holds each of us in his loving regard and saves us at the cost of his son. But we also need the humility to see that we stand before God with the huge mass of humanity, each of us one of billions of people, all equally precious; we are not



privileged or distinguished among the human race – indeed the Gospel of salvation would not be good news at all if it preferred some to others.

Personally, I find that this liberates us to be ourselves in this moment. We don't need to labour to secure a legacy (even if we do happen to create one) or prove ourselves, because the only future that matters is God's heart of love. Instead, we are called to worship God and welcome others in a tradition that stretches back on the Cathedral site for 1000 years. And St Edward's feast day, like every other day, is a great day to do just that.

Sovereign God,
who set your servant Edward
upon the throne of an earthly kingdom
and inspired him with zeal for the kingdom of heaven:
grant that we may so confess the faith of Christ by word and deed,
that we may, with all your saints, inherit your eternal glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Chris Palmer

Our thanks to Chris for a front-page article that also features our Saint of the Month!

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

The November edition of *Cathedral News*

We hope to publish the next edition of the *News* on Sunday 3rd November 2024. The deadline for material is **Tuesday 29th October 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.

**Posbury St Francis
Annual Lecture**

Radical Hope: the
roots of courage in
inevitable climate
change

Bethany Sollereeder

 Posbury St Francis Trust



University
of Exeter

Exeter Centre for Ethics and
Practical Theology (EXCEPT)

**Monday 7th October, University of Exeter
Queen's Lecture Theatre 1, 7:00- 8:30pm
(drinks reception from 6:15pm)**

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.

Event co-sponsored by the [Posbury St Francis Trust](#) and the [Exeter Centre for Ethics & Practical Theology](#)

Please [register](#) for a free ticket in person or on-line.

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

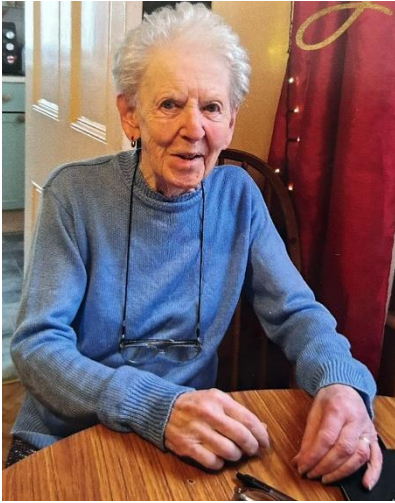


**Devon Historic Churches Trust
Ride and Stride 14th
September**

The Cathedral Community rode and strode to great effect on 14th September. The cyclists, led by Phil Wales, ventured to Exmouth and back, ending with fish and chips at the pub. The striders, led by Cate Edmonds, visited five of the city centre churches, including St Olave's, where Cate and Fiona Moffat studied the history.

It's not too late to donate. Fiona would be very pleased to receive more sponsorship.

Photo: Jane Mountford



Margaret Craigie Smith (1933-2024)

Margaret was born in Hastings. She was an only child and spent a happy childhood with her many young cousins and her adopted sister. She remembered long summer months in Montacute, Somerset, her mother's family home for centuries.

After a course in office and secretarial administration in London, she worked for commercial companies before becoming practice manager to a firm of solicitors in Gray's Inn. At the age of 35, she became a Justice of the Peace based at Hampstead and Clerkenwell. She also became a Freeman of the City of London.

While on her administrative course, Margaret married Leonard Smith, an ex-Grenadier, but sadly, after three years, Leonard was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumour. After he died, Margaret and her mother decided to move to the Westcountry to begin a new life.

Her mother quickly became a volunteer at the Cathedral, while Margaret began her work at the *Express and Echo* first as a copytaker, and later as secretary to the Editor, a post she held until the paper relocated from Sidwell Street to Sowton. For many years, she was one of the paper's classical music reviewers.

Margaret next worked for the County Council before being offered the post of Personal Assistant to the Dean of Exeter, at that time the Very Revd Keith Jones. She also worked for Keith's successor, the Very Revd Jonathan Meyrick.

Margaret joined the Chaplaincy Team at the RD&E Hospital Wonford in 1988, serving as a ward visitor and as Sacristan at the Chapel. She continued to serve the Cathedral as a Holy Duster and leader of the Cathedral Ropemakers; and she also read for blind people for a small charity, The Church and Blindness.

Margaret's friends and family were always important to her, especially her six godchildren, and she had a succession of beloved cats.

At the Cathedral, we remember Margaret for her devoted service to this place, for her friendship, her tact and discretion, her efficiency, her good humour, and her kindness.

May she rest in peace.

Margaret's funeral was in the Cathedral on 19th September. The Very Revd Keith Jones gave the address, and it was very good to be able to welcome back Keith and Viola.

What's on in October

Exeter Cathedral Autumn Fair

Tuesday 1 October: 6:30pm – 9pm

Wednesday 2 October: 10am – 3:30pm

Support a diverse line-up of small local businesses in the captivating setting of Exeter Cathedral. Discover delicious artisan food and drink, handcrafted jewellery and clothing, stoneware, ceramics, hand-made crafts and much more. Find out more at bit.ly/ec-autumnfair

Reformation Tours: October

Tuesday 1 October 11:30am, Saturday 5 October 11:30am, Thursday 10 October 11am

Take a closer look at some of the damage inflicted during the Reformation and learn how the lives of the Cathedral, and its inhabitants, were changed forever. Find out more at bit.ly/special-tours

The Music of Fleetwood Mac by Candlelight

Thursday 3 October, 7:30pm

Join a cast of West End Singers and a live band at Exeter Cathedral as they perform Fleetwood Mac by candlelight. Find out more at bit.ly/fleetwood-mac-ec

Onwards & Upwards: October Tour

Thursday 3 October at 11am

Explore Exeter Cathedral at ground level to discover its finest medieval features, before heading upwards, into the fascinating roof space. Find out more at bit.ly/special-tours

An Evening with Alexander McCall Smith

Friday 4 October 2024 at 7:30pm

Join worldwide best-selling author Alexander McCall Smith for an evening of sheer delight at Exeter Cathedral. Find out more at bit.ly/ec-ams

Roof Tours: October

Saturday 5 October at 2:15pm, Thursday 10 October at 11:15am, Friday 11 October at 2:15pm, Tuesday 22 October at 11:15am, Thursday 24 October at 2:15pm

This fascinating behind-the-scenes tour takes you into the roof void, high above the Nave, the South Tower, the Lead Room, the Ringing Chamber and then through the spaces in the North Tower. Find out more at bit.ly/special-tours

Evensong and New Cloister Gallery Reception

Sunday 6 October at 4pm

On Sunday 6 October at Evensong, we shall be celebrating and giving thanks for the new Exeter Cathedral Cloister Gallery.

Book now at bit.ly/cloister-preview

Kings and Queens Tour at Exeter Cathedral

Monday 7 October 1:30pm-3:30pm

Join us to discover the stories of Exeter Cathedral's royal patrons and visitors on this special new tour.

Find out more at bit.ly/kings-queens-ec

Stones & Bones: October Tours

Tuesday 8 October 11:30am, Tuesday 15 October 11:30am, Tuesday 22 October 11:30am

Discover the secrets of Exeter's cemetery (you may be surprised) and uncover the medieval murder of a local priest.

Book now at bit.ly/special-tours

Romanesque to Gothic: October Tour

Thursday 10 October, 1:30pm

Take a closer look at Exeter Cathedral's exterior and learn about its successive phases of building work, starting with a Norman Cathedral and culminating in the decorated Gothic Cathedral we can see today.

Find out more at bit.ly/special-tours

Fun With Fabrics Workshops at Exeter Library

Saturday 12 and Saturday 26 October, 1:30pm-4pm

Get creative with Exeter Cathedral's Textile Artist in our Fun with Fabrics workshops taking place at Exeter Library.

THIS EVENT HAS SOLD OUT.

In Conversation with Christopher Southgate and Michael Winter

Sunday 13 October, 6:30pm with optional refreshments served from 6pm

Join us for a conversation on Tilling and Keeping the Garden of Earth: The human vocation in the ecological crisis.

Find out more at bit.ly/in-conversation-oct

Library and Archives In Focus: Things we used to know

Thursday 17th October, drop in between 11am-1pm

We've all probably had at least one lesson on Pythagoras' Theorem. Join us at Exeter Cathedral to discover other things you used to know.

Find out more at bit.ly/in-focus-oct

West End Musicals by Candlelight

Thursday 17 October, 7:30pm

Get ready to experience an unforgettable night of musical theatre as live orchestra London Concertante are joined by some of West End's greatest singers at Exeter Cathedral.

Find out more at bit.ly/candlelight-westend

Isca Ensemble South West Autumn Concert

Saturday 19 October, 7:30pm

The popular Isca Ensemble South West returns to Exeter Cathedral to present a very special Autumn Concert.

Find out more at bit.ly/isca-autumn24

Trafalgar Day Service

Sunday 20 October, 11:45am

All are welcome to join us for this year's Trafalgar Day Service at Exeter Cathedral, organised annually by the Exeter Flotilla.

Find out more at bit.ly/trafalgar-day-24

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

Saturday 26 October 2024, from 11am until 3pm

A labyrinth is, a journey to the centre, a winding pilgrim path that is walked prayerfully and reflectively.

Find out more at bit.ly/labyrinth-oct24

Harvest Thanksgiving Service

Sunday 27 October, 7pm

Join us for a celebration of this year's harvest, bringing together the farming community.

Find out more at bit.ly/harvest-service-24

Exploring the Archives: Historic Wills

Tuesday 29 October, 1pm-3pm in the Exeter Cathedral Library & Archives Reading Room

Explore and learn from historic wills found in the Exeter Cathedral Library & Archives.

Find out more at bit.ly/ec-historic-wills

A brief history of the Church of England

Tuesday 29 October, 7:30pm in Exeter Cathedral's Sacristy

Canon Professor Morwenna Ludlow explores our understanding of the Church of England and its historical contexts.

Find out more at bit.ly/COFE-history

Family Lego Workshop

Tuesday 29 October, 10am-3pm

Design and build your very own LEGO creations under the guidance of experts from Brick Ideas – design and technology workshops for schools.

Find out more at bit.ly/LEGO-ec

From the Company of Tapisers:

Ropes have been made, by twisting fibres together, for thousands of years. I wonder what image comes to mind when you think of a rope-maker? Personally, I imagine burly fishermen, with well-developed forearms, sitting beside the sea surrounded by ropes and nets. Very fanciful, I know!

However, others– less burly – can make ropes, too. When The Company of Tapisers was formed in 1933, among the groups that were thought to be important for the Cathedral was a rope-making one. Over many decades Tapisers made red ropes by hand from a strong, but flexible cotton thread. These were positioned around the Cathedral to keep people away from the High Altar and the Lady Chapel Altar, the Bishop's Throne and the Pulpits ... as well as showing worshippers where they should and should not sit etc.

It was only in 2012 that Tapisers stopped making ropes, for two reasons: first, the special red thread ceased to be manufactured, and no satisfactory substitute could be found (not even online), and secondly, as customs changed, fewer ropes were deemed necessary.

Our last rope-maker was Margaret Craigie-Smith, who died recently. She was a quietly-spoken, gentle lady – (not at all 'burly!') – who took great pride and pleasure in making ropes for the Cathedral she loved. She was particularly skilled – with dextrous fingers she ably maintained an even tension on the threads and produced very fine ropes. We appreciate her work and the hours she spent to produce it. Thank you, Margaret, may you rest in peace.

Diana Symes, Chairman of the Company of Tapisers

Welcome...

...to everyone from the parish of Lewtrenchard and beyond, who will be visiting the Cathedral on 13th October as part of the commemoration of the centenary of Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924) - hymn writer (including *Onward Christian Soldiers*, and *Now the Day is Over*), antiquarian, novelist, collector of folksongs and lover of Dartmoor. He was both vicar and squire of Lewtrenchard from 1881-1924.

I looked for you, Lord **by Michael Hosking**

I looked for you, Lord, and found you ...
... in the beauty of flowers in a sunny summer garden

I looked for you, Lord, and found you ...
...in the faltering footsteps of my first grandchild

I looked for you, Lord, and found you ...
... in the voices of children playing in the snow

I looked for you, Lord, and found you ...
... in the glorious views of the Devon countryside

I looked for you, Lord, and found you ...
... watching the winter waves crash on a lonely Cornish beach

I looked for you, Lord, and found you ...
... in a kind word from a fellow member of the congregation

I looked for you Lord, and found you...
... in watching a shaft of sunlight through a stained-glass window

I looked for you, Lord, and found you ...
... in the voices of the cathedral choir floating out from the West Wing as I
walked past

I looked for you, Lord, and found you ...
... in the sound of a solo violin, floating over the orchestra

I looked for you, Lord, and found you ...
... in the fellowship of a Sunday lunch with the family

I looked for you, Lord, and found you ...
... in the quiet, reading a book after supper

I looked for you, Lord, and found you ...
... watching my grandchildren playing together

I looked for you, Lord, and found you ...
... in the austere beauty of the tors on Dartmoor

I looked for you, Lord, and found you ...
... in a hug from my oldest friend

I looked for you, Lord, and found you ...
... in the sound of my choir singing together

I looked for you, Lord, and found you ...
... talking quietly to a very old friend

I looked for you, Lord, and found you ...
... in the depths of the eyes of my true love

I looked for you, Lord, and found you ...
... in the buzz and excitement of Christmas together

I looked for you, Lord, and found you ...
... walking the clifftops of the Cornish coastal path
I looked for you, Lord, and found you ...
... when gazing at the stars on a summer night
I looked for you, Lord, and found you ...
... when remembering past friends and past loves.

Lord, when I learned to look for you, I found that you are there beside me, whatever I am doing, whoever I am with, wherever I am going. Go there with me, Lord, hold my hand, and lift me up so that I can know you, and know your purpose for me, and for your world of which I am a part.

Cathedral Community Committee (CCC) 10th September

Our main topic was the Wednesday Kitchen, which serves hot food to homeless people every week from a trailer outside the West Front of the Cathedral. Penny Harris told us about what it does, how it works and the regular team of helpers. Looking to the future, we need to recruit people who can help with the management of this work, and also more people to participate in preparing and serving food. In addition to looking within the Cathedral Community, it was suggested that we invite people from other churches in the city to help. We hope to raise the subject at the next meeting of Christianity Deanery Synod.

Thanks were expressed to all who had helped at the Community Lunch on 8th September.

The CCC Awayday is booked for 9th November.

The next meeting of the CCC will be on Tuesday 8th October. Please send any items for the agenda to hmm53@tiscali.co.uk

Heather Morgan, Chair CCC

Interfaith Week

All at the Mint Methodist Church

Saturday 9th November

1.30-2.30 pm Universal Peace Prayers

Saturday 9th November 3.00-4.30pm

Eleanor Nesbitt: *Why is interfaith understanding so important in today's world*

Saturday 16th November

2.00-4.00 p.m. Meet a Muslim, Pagan, Buddhist, Jew, Humanist, Christian

For more information see <https://devonfaiths.org.uk>



Prayer at/on the edge

“Come to the edge. We might fall. Come to the edge. It's too high! COME TO THE EDGE! And they came, And he pushed, And they flew.” – Christopher Logue

Jesus lived on the edge of empire. He mingled with all-sorts from the in-crowds to the outcasts, but mostly with those in need. He spoke prophetic truth to power, but also withdrew frequently to the desert. What might living on the edge look like for us today?

Politics on the edge practises the art of the possible. It spends political capital on behalf of the common good and lifts up those who are more vulnerable. For our part, citizenry on the edge is being unwilling to view the world in black and white, or live in an ideas bubble, or act out in tribes.

Research is typically on the edge, pushing the boundaries. But specialism over the centuries, while generating extraordinary discoveries and innovation, also led to blinkered thinking. So the tide is now turning towards research on a different set of edges involving cross-pollination between disciplines.

Agriculture and conservation on the edge recognise that the edges and margins where habitats meet generally foster greater biodiversity and productivity.

Churches on the edge are porous, going out and welcoming in. Churches where all are equally welcome and there are no barriers to entry or relationships or accessing God. Where it is OK to be on the edge, whether juggling questions of life and faith, or sitting at the back unsure about becoming known or joining.

Faith on the edge commits to dwelling in the fertile borderlands; persistently gazing on the mirror, however dim, and seeking the heart of things; being open to doubt and uncertainty; living in the questions and not being satisfied with glib answers; watching and waiting on the unfamiliar God at work, responding and following, imagining new possibilities, calling the community beyond the status quo into the unknown.

Prayer on the edge recognises the line running down the middle of our lives connecting our ordinary reality with its deeper roots. It is willing to go beyond the veil and plunge into those depths. It seeks time in silence, when we place our minds at the threshold of consciousness, and invite God to draw our being beyond into encounter, healing and transfiguration. Come to the edge. Fly.

Clare Bryden

L. William Countryman, *Living on the Border of the Holy*
Maggie Ross, *Silence: A User's Guide*, Vol.1

**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.

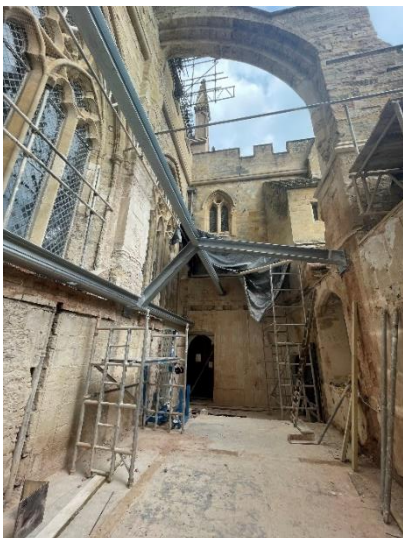
His theological books include *The Groaning of Creation* (WJK) and *Theology in a Suffering World* (CUP), and his most recent poetry collections are *Losing Ithaca* (Shoestring) and *Rain falling by the River* (Canterbury Press).



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 Friends Cloister Gallery is drawing close to completion. All of the wooden roof panels have been installed, and the railings around the stair down from the Cathedral are being fitted. The next step is to complete and commission the mechanical and electrical systems, together with the new WCs and external landscaping.

The work in the first East end bubble is nearing completion with the ledger stones replaced, and the heating pipes and cables installed in a new trench. This first bubble will be dismantled shortly, and a new one formed in the South Quire Aisle.

In the area adjacent to the old shop, the original roof has been removed and the metal structure for the new roof has been installed. The old vault including the door weighing over 2.5t has been removed by crane. This is all to prepare this area for new visitor WCs.

**Kit Reynolds Project Manager
& Amy Haynes Marketing & Communications
Executive**



Synod Meetings

Please pray for the deliberations of the new Diocesan Synod on 12th October, and for Christianity Deanery Synod, which meets on 16th October.

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!

Tuesday 26th November, 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"*

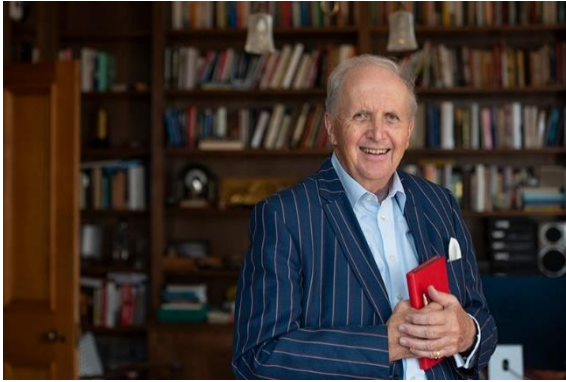
News from the Cathedral Flower Arrangers

Whilst we are in our temporary home, we have received a number of questions or requests. Is this your base? Are they really silk? What a lot of boxes? Where do you get your flowers from? Are those sweets in the boxes? Why not fresh flowers? You must be saving such a lot of money? Is it different arranging silk rather than fresh? However do you manage? We enjoy talking to our visitors and volunteers as it tells us a great deal of how much our work is appreciated by people who walk around our beautiful building.

Last week, we were planning how and when we will arrange for the Bishop's enthronement; personnel, timings and sorting flowers and foliage in advance. Now there are fewer arrangers, and not everyone can manage some of our ideas, it is reassuring to know the core of the team are just that – team players.

An early call for anyone wanting to order a fresh Christmas wreath from ECFA as part of our fundraising. We are making a limited number, to order only, at £35, They will be available for collection from Wednesday 13th December. We will be making them in the Pop-Up Chapter House café. We intend to advertise these at the October Fair so if you would like to purchase one, please let me know or fill in the form on the October Fair table. We would appreciate your support hugely. We will also have some small fresh and dry arrangements for sale at the October Fair, in easy to carry home size pots.

Flick Evans, Chair ECFA



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 standalone 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



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.

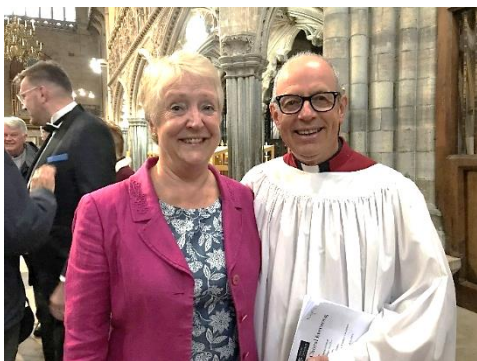
Piers Ludlow is Professor in the Department of International History at the London School of Economics. His main research interests lie in the history of Western Europe since 1945, in particular the historical roots of the integration process and the development of the EU. He also works on the Cold War, 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 analysing 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 website.)

Sunday 8th September: Choral Evensong

During Evensong on 8th September, we welcomed the Revd Prebendary Nigel Guthrie as a Priest Vicar. The Senior Choristers were invested. Adam Field, Celia Stoddart and George Haymes were installed as Organ Scholar, Lay Vicar and Choral Scholar, respectively. The music included Charles Wood's 2nd Service in E flat and Brahms *How Lovely are thy Dwellings*, and the Precentor preached a fine sermon - a very special occasion.



Nigel and Tina Guthrie



Celia Stoddart

The Senior Choristers cutting their cake



Adam Field (right) with Michael Stephens-Jones



We are very grateful to James for allowing us to print the text of his sermon.

Last week, I was pleased to bump into Elvis outside the Cathedral Office: he was unmistakable in his mirrored sunglasses and assertive jet-black sideburns. We exchanged pleasantries. The next day I had a similar encounter with Adele. I'm told Meat Loaf was around, too, but sadly I missed him. For, in Exeter Cathedral we have enjoyed in recent months a rich diet of tribute acts, playing to large audiences in the nave.

Clearly, I'm in a minority, but I just can't get my head round the popularity of tribute acts. For it seems to me they are the musical equivalent of Madame Tussauds – waxworks being another attraction that has no appeal for me. For in a waxwork, while one can appreciate the skill of the wax-worker and the dresser, what one inevitably notices are the imperfections, the failure of the likeness. In fact, waxworks, rather than being a flattering tribute, often tend toward the grotesque, and I think the same is true of tribute acts.

So the reason tribute acts make me squirm is not because of the lack of talent, or the lack of skill or preparation of the performers, it is their inevitable failure to be as good as the people they imitate. Such is the destiny of slavishly mimetic art: it's never as good as the original. The tribute will always fail.

But, of course, it need not be the case that their performance is a failure. I look at the young men and women working their socks off to entertain the crowd and wish that, rather than trying to be someone else – something they will never achieve – they would just be themselves. The songs are great, they have skill and talent. I want to hear what THEY have to offer in their own voice.

That is the message I have for our newly-installed musicians, senior choristers, and indeed our new priest vicar: we want to hear what YOU have to offer. We don't want you to try to be someone else! The reason we want to be yourselves is twofold. First, if you try to be someone else, to be something or someone that you're not, or to be the musician that you're not, you'll end up being a tribute act to someone else, and that would at the very least be a shame.

Second, if we really are confident that everyone one of us is made, uniquely, in God's image, then each of you, in being yourselves, and not trying to be someone else, will show us something of God. The image of God in you expressed in the ministry of your presence, your voice, your personality, your musicianship and your ministries of sacrament and song.

We want you to be yourselves because this place of worship and the Christian Faith is rooted in God becoming God's true self in the person of Jesus. Jesus is not a tribute act to God, or a waxy imitation of God, but the living, breathing, speaking, singing, paradox of God Almighty, creator of heaven and earth, made flesh and being truly, uniquely, and fully, God's self among us.

Of course, it's the vocation of all of us to be ourselves. It's not always easy, and it means we might have to let our guards down, which can be uncomfortable. That's why, in church, we have choirs and ministers to lead us. Choirs expressing feelings or prayers in song that we might struggle to do ourselves. Clergy gathering the people in prayer, praise, confession or thanksgiving, gathering a community and expressing things that may be difficult to say otherwise.

That said, there is one tribute act - uniquely - which is never less than its original, a tribute act that shapes this community above all other, where art and life co-exist in a perfect circle of brittle bread. For the Eucharist, our sharing of bread and wine, is the one perfect tribute act, shaping us and this whole community day-by-day and week-by-week. In the abstract artwork of a perfect circle of bleached bread the infinite possibility of God made flesh for us is brought to the heart of this community. God is made present for us in the art of sacrament and song.

So that is the daily work of this place, and all churches: both to be places where, in being ourselves, we become closer to God and neighbour and, curiously, where, in getting closer to God and our neighbour, we become more ourselves. In our worship and our community, life imitates art and art imitates life.

All that is by way of saying to our new musicians and the newly-invested, we welcome you. We welcome you unconditionally and we want you to be fully yourselves in this place and in the work and worship you offer here. This is not Madame Tussauds, and, though we may look a little pallid from time to time, this is not a place of waxworks! We worship the living God with ourselves fully alive! For that, thanks be for all of you, and thanks be to God. Amen.



Cathedral Community Lunch

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the Hog Roast lunch on 8th September. Over 100 people enjoyed excellent food, wine, conversation and entertainment, and we were able to welcome our new musicians.

The Canon Precentor is now Canon "Mild" Mustard, according to the label on the jar he is holding!

Photo: Jake Hibberd

Graham Charles writes....

Earlier this year, Kate (Catherine) de Brett, my late wife, died from Motor Neurone Disease. She was a nurse for over 40 years and helped with the Cloister Club. She was a member of the Company of Tapisers.

In her memory, I am raising funds for the Motor Neurone Disease Association. Information regarding fundraising can be obtained by clicking on the link:

[JustGiving MND Fundraising Remembering Kate](#)

Payment may also be made by scanning the QR code on the attached poster.



Graham's fundraiser for the Motor Neurone Disease Association

Motor Neurone Disease is a cruel disease, it TAKES everything. On the 29th of October 2024, with the assistance of Exeter Rotary Club, we will be planting thousands of Crocus bulbs in Exeter Cathedral's Green as a tribute to Kate and to raise money for the MND Association. Please GIVE generously to help others. Thank you

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