



Bishop Mike's New Year Prayer for 2025

Lord Jesus we ask in this New Year that:

By your grace flowing into our hearts you enable us to be lights in the dark places of this world.

By your love flowing into our hearts you enable us to pursue ever more energetically the flourishing, safety and security of all your children.

By your joy flowing into our hearts you enable us to witness your truth and grow in your image and likeness.

In Your name we pray, Amen.

Auf Wiedersehen!

On 6th January we will be travelling to the continent to begin a six month period of research leave in Germany. We will be visiting academics at the University of Mainz, attached to the History and Theology departments, respectively, where we have academic colleagues. The chance of two periods of research leave coinciding is pretty slim, so this was a chance to spend them together beyond the UK.

We're looking forward to some concentrated time for reading, writing and gaining some new perspectives on our fields of research. Mainz's central location will allow us to travel easily to visit colleagues and conferences elsewhere and we're hoping to have a bit of time to explore the Rheinland and beyond (including sampling the region's excellent wines!).

We'll miss Exeter Cathedral and its community very much, but we're looking forward to experiencing the strong German choral and organ traditions and finding out what the locals think of St Boniface (who was made Archbishop of Mainz in 745). There also seems to be a thriving Anglican (American Episcopalian) community in Wiesbaden just across the river. We look forward to seeing you all again on our return!

Piers and Morwenna Ludlow



From the Company of Tapisers:

Throughout my life I have been privileged to know some very special people: those who 'stand out in a crowd' for the joy and kindness they emanate towards others. Olive Eyles was one of these remarkable people.

Olive, who died recently at the grand age of 101, regularly attended services and was a valued member of The Company of Tapisers for many years. She enthusiastically worked on the Rondel cushions in the 1980s; then moved on to create the angel-wings design for the cushions and kneelers for St Gabriel's Chapel (see photo below) in memory of her beloved daughter; she stitched a section of the Quire cushions, as well as many smaller cushions. All these projects required careful attention to detail, accurate needlework skills and an appreciation of colour and design – and Olive excelled in all areas.



She continued as an active Tapiser well into her 80s and only stopped sewing when her eyesight began to fail. However, until 2020 she still came to our meetings to encourage and share her knowledge with us while chatting over a cup of coffee.

I first met Olive when she was a youthful 86 year old! She was

incredibly positive and practical and lived independently until after her 100th birthday! Her interests extended to all aspects of life: her family and friends, The News, the latest cricket scores, the natural world, crafts, the arts and Exeter Cathedral. She was blessed with an astonishing memory – she never forgot anything! Resilient, generous, gracious, kind and joyful, her love for others was genuine and warm – and she was greatly loved in return.

Dear Olive – may you rest in peace.

Diana Symes, Chairman of the Company of Tapisers

What's On in January

Reformation Tours

Wednesday 29 January, 1:30pm

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.

Roof Tours

Friday 17 January at 11:15am

Saturday 18 January at 2:15pm

Tuesday 21 January 11:15am

Saturday 25 January at 11:15am

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.

Onwards & Upwards Tours

Thursday 23 January at 11am

Thursday 30 January at 11am

Explore Exeter Cathedral at ground level to discover its finest medieval features, before heading upwards, into its fascinating roof space.

Find out more at bit.ly/special-tours.

In Conversation with Sue Wallace

Sunday 12 January, 6:30pm

January's "In Conversation with" topic will be Multi-sensory Prayer with Professor Sue Wallace. She will discuss why we started doing it, how it became popular, the prayerbooks, and what we found worked and didn't work.

Find out more at bit.ly/in-convo-jan25.

Uncovering the Civil War at Exeter Cathedral

Friday 31 January, 1:30pm

Join us on an exciting tour to discover stories of the Civil War at Exeter Cathedral.

Find out more at bit.ly/special-tours.

A Study Course on the Gospel of John

Wednesdays 15 January – 26 February, 2:30pm-4:30pm in Exeter Cathedral's Sacristy

Following on from his successful course on the Gospel of Mark last year, Revd

Professor Richard Burridge will now lead a new seven-week course on the Gospel of John.

Book now at bit.ly/burridge-study-course.

Library & Archives In Focus: Here be dragons

Thursday 16 January, drop in 11am-1pm

Join us on a quest through time to explore dragons in art, literature and science, from fiery beasts in medieval illumination to Renaissance sea creatures swimming off the Cornish coast.

Find out more at bit.ly/ec-dragons.

An Evening with John Allan

Wednesday 22 January 2025 at 7pm

Spend an evening with Exeter Cathedral Archaeologist, John Allan in conversation with the Very Rev'd Jonathan Greener, Dean of Exeter.

Find out more at bit.ly/evening-with-john-allan.

A Chance to Wonder, Wander & Walk the Labyrinth

Saturday 25 January 2025, 11am-3pm

A chance to pray and reflect as you walk the Labyrinth at Exeter Cathedral.

Included in standard Cathedral entry.

Find out more at bit.ly/labyrinth-jan25

Holocaust Memorial Day Service

Monday 27 January at 10am

Our annual service held on International Holocaust Memorial Day to remember the victims of the Holocaust and other genocides.

Book now at bit.ly/HMD25

Country by Candlelight

Thursday 30 and Friday 31 January, 7:30pm

Experience the biggest and best of country music, like never before – all performed live by candlelight at Exeter Cathedral!

Book now at bit.ly/country-candlelight.

AND....THE MOON IS BACK IN FEBRUARY!

***The Museum of the Moon* by Luke Jerram** is back in the nave of the Cathedral in February, having last been here in 2022. The seven-metre sculpture features detailed NASA imagery of the lunar surface. The installation is a fusion of lunar imagery, moonlight and surround-sound composition by BAFTA and Ivor Novello award-winning composer, Dan Jones. More details on the Cathedral website.

Homelessness Sunday 26th January at 4pm

This year's Homelessness Sunday service will be at 4pm on Sunday 26th January at St Petrock's church on Exeter High Street, with refreshments afterwards in St Petrock's centre.

This annual service is a space to bring together people from across the community, reflect on homelessness issues and remember people from Exeter's homelessness community who have died. This year's service will be led by members of Exeter Network Church.

All warmly welcome – please do share this information with those who might like to come.

The February edition of *Cathedral News*

We hope to publish the next edition of the *News* on Sunday 2nd February 2025. The deadline for material is **Monday 27th January 2025**. Please send any contributions to hmm53@tiscali.co.uk or to any member of the editorial team; Heather Morgan, Rosemary Bethell, and Jenny Ellis.

We are always pleased to receive articles about Cathedral events, anniversaries, and news from all the Cathedral congregations and volunteer groups.

News from the Cathedral Flower Arrangers

We have moved again! We are now in Camp 4 – St Paul's Chapel where we will remain until June at the earliest. The move would not have happened without the huge help of Heather Hagen who seems able to cope with any challenge, and the Virgers, Tom and Wendy who could not have been more helpful.

We made 30 Christmas wreaths in the Gallery on four tables, making a mess that looked like a playgroup. The result was 30 different wreaths that all travelled to new homes over the next day or two but in good time to “deck the halls” or front doors. We met many visitors who were keen to find out what we were up to, and a number would have bought them had we any spare. When we explained they were all pre-ordered, said they would look out next year!

I will write about Christmas in the February edition, but one result of Advent and Christmas arranging was the need to tidy and move some of our equipment into the downstairs store. We are hoping to sort this out following a busy time in the next few weeks, as it looks like a bomb has hit it. Time for a spring clean!

A happy and healthy 2025, and some peace and good things would be great too!

Flick Evans, Chair ECFA

Cathedral Lecture 18th March 2025: Professor Grace Davie *Religion in modern Europe: Some unexpected challenges*

The starting point of this lecture can be found in the work of Tomáš Halik, and in particular his most recent book *The Afternoon of Christianity: The Courage to Change*. Halik – a Czech Catholic priest trained in both theology and sociology – emphasizes the importance of context in understanding the place of religion in modern societies. Context is considered in terms of time as well as space and is constantly changing.

The second section draws briefly on an article that I published in 2006 which focused on the factors to take into account in understanding the religious situation in Europe at the turn of the millennium.

The third section indicates the changes that have taken place since then and the reasons for these. Some changes were expected; others less so, notably the growth of populism right across Europe and the place of religion in this. The mood is darker. The key to understanding these shifts is to *hold together* two much-studied phenomena: continuing – indeed remorseless – secularization and growing religious diversity. The implications are considerable.

Grace Davie is well known to many in the Cathedral Community, and she has lectured and led awaydays here on several occasions. She is Professor Emeritus in the University of Exeter. Her main area of research is the sociology of religion on which she has published widely. She is a Lay Canon in the Diocese of Exeter and has held posts in many universities in Europe and beyond.

Bishop Jackie's Farewell Service 18th January at 3pm

You are warmly invited to Bishop Jackie's Farewell Eucharist Service in the Cathedral on Saturday 18 January at 3pm, followed by refreshments. To give an indication of numbers and to book your seat, please [click here](#).

Bishop Jackie has been a huge blessing to this diocese over the past six years and we are grateful for all she has done as Bishop of Crediton and Acting Bishop of Exeter. We will be creating a leaving gift of a book of photos and messages from across the diocese. To upload a photo and/or a message (selfies appreciated!) for inclusion in the book please [click here](#).

If you would like to contribute to a gift for Bishop Jackie, please make a BACS payment to:

Sort Code: 56-00-49 Account Number: 00717673

Account Name: Exeter Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd

Reference: Bishop Jackie (please ensure you use this reference)



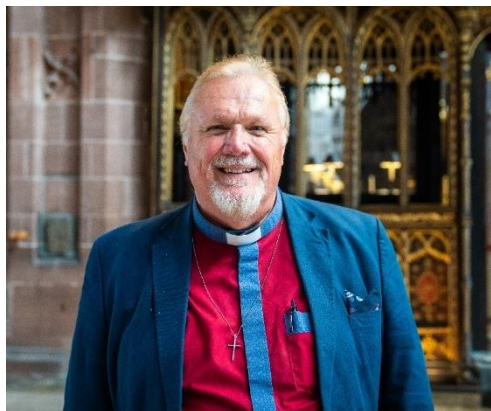
Thank you to Anne Foreman

Bishop Mike presented Anne Foreman with a thank you gift at her final Bishop's Diocesan Council meeting in December. Anne has served on BDC for 17 years. She was also Chair of our Vacancy in See Committee, overseeing the discernment process to select Bishop Mike, and is a former General Synod member and Youth Officer for the Church of England.

Bishop Mike said “The diocese is very thankful to Anne for the many other ways in which she has enriched our common life – some visible and some less so. Anne has a long and distinguished record of support for the Church in a number of dioceses. We are very grateful for Anne’s service, and the constructive, wise and sensitive spirit in which she has contributed to shaping vision and strategy.”

A Study Course on the Gospel of John with The Revd Canon Professor Richard A. Burridge

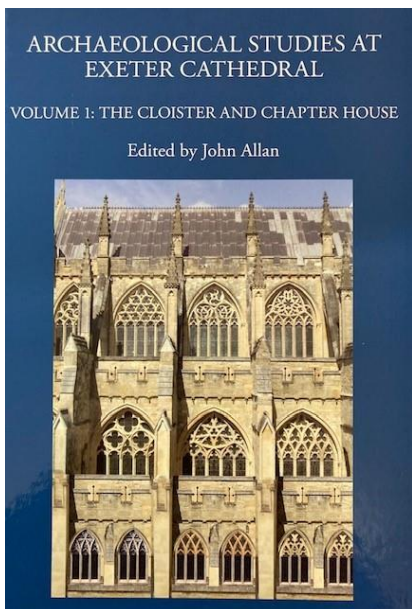
Wednesdays 15 January – 26 February, 2:30pm-4:30pm in the Sacristy, The West Wing, Exeter Cathedral Library and Archives, Palace Gate, EX1 1HY; the course is also repeated on the same Wednesday evenings, **6.30-8.45pm** in the Baptist Church, 25 South Street, Exeter, EX1 1EB



Following on from his successful course on the Gospel of Mark, last year, Richard will now lead a new seven-week course on **the Gospel of John**, which has been described as “**a book in which a child can paddle, but an elephant can swim deep**” – often given to new or young Christians, yet which has kept theologians and mystics studying and debating for generations.

The Revd Canon Professor **Richard A. Burridge** is an internationally recognised biblical scholar, ethicist, theologian and social commentator. He was Dean of King’s College London from 1993 to 2019. Now a Research Fellow in the Department of Theology at the University of Manchester, and a Visiting Professor at Virginia Theological Seminary, USA, he devotes his time to research and writing, as well as his public ministry lecturing and undertaking theological training for clergy and lay people. In addition to his academic work, his best-selling *Four Gospels, One Jesus?* has made biblical scholarship accessible to a wider audience, while *his Commentary on John’s Gospel* was adopted by Archbishop Rowan Williams as “*one of the finest and most accessible of modern studies*”, being given to all Anglican bishops who attended the Lambeth Conference 2008. His academic scholarship on Jesus and the gospels, and his contribution to the life of the world-wide church, was recognised when he was awarded the 2013 Ratzinger Prize by Pope Francis, the first non-Roman Catholic to receive this prestigious prize.

Please book your place by emailing Professor Burridge at richard.burridge@manchester.ac.uk, stating whether you wish to register for the afternoon or evening group, and if you want to attend in person or on line. You will then be sent further details.



A New Publication

John Allan: Archaeological Studies at Exeter Cathedral

The cloisters of Exeter Cathedral, designed by two major figures in the story of medieval architecture in England – Thomas of Witney and Robert Lesyngham – must once have been one of the key 14th-century buildings in the West Country. They were demolished in the Civil War, and their site is now occupied by various later structures, themselves of considerable architectural interest.

When in the late 1990s the Cathedral Chapter considered rebuilding part of the lost cloister, it was apparent that a much fuller understanding of the site's architectural history would be needed to inform the programme.

This led to a series of investigations of its standing buildings, accompanied by new documentary research and selective archaeological investigation below ground, where a sequence of Roman deposits and unexpected burials of the 7th/8th centuries AD were encountered. This volume brings together the results of archaeological work conducted on the site over the last 25 years.

Available from the Cathedral Shop £30 full price, £20 to members of the Friends of Exeter Cathedral

Cathedral Community Committee (CCC) 17th December 2024

We discussed the Safeguarding Audit report and reiterated the principle that we all share responsibility for safeguarding.

The value of Town Hall meetings was affirmed and it was agreed that a short written report of the meeting would be helpful for those who are unable to attend.

The Sound System Appeal has raised over £30,000 and further fundraising ideas were discussed. We agreed to ask all Cathedral Groups and congregations to organise a fundraiser on the first Sunday of the month. The Sundays at 6.30 congregation volunteered for February 2025—more details in the Weekly Sheet nearer the time.

Heather Morgan, Chair Cathedral Community Committee

Music Notes

Sabbatical Leave

Timothy Noon is now on sabbatical leave until early March. Michael Stephens-Jones will be the acting director of music in Tim's absence, assisted by Adam Field, our organ scholar. Our very best wishes to Tim for a restful and productive time away, and to Michael and Adam for their time at the helm.

The Cathedral Organ

The organ will be out of action until 21st February while essential maintenance work is done. The work will involve a complete renewal of the organ's reservoirs and trunking which provide wind to the instrument. Our service schedule will continue as normal and will be accompanied by our grand piano and chamber organ.

Adam Field's Fundraising Feast of Bach

Adam writes, *While the Grand Organ of Exeter Cathedral is out of action from January to February this year for some much-needed TLC, I have taken the opportunity to perform the complete Well-Tempered Clavier (BWV 846-963) by J. S. Bach. This is a collection of preludes and fugues in every key (on each of the 12 notes), major and minor, twice - thus, 48. I will be playing these as voluntaries before and after choral services in the Cathedral from 9th January to 2nd March, on the grand piano or on the Cathedral's 4-stop Tickell chamber organ of 2007. The last few performances will be on the Grand Organ after its return.*

This project will be in aid of the Cathedral Choir's tour to Normandy and Paris in July 2025. If you feel willing and able to support, then please do so [here](#). Otherwise, please do support by coming to any choral service to hear some lovely Bach!

We can look forward to a prelude before, and a fugue after, weekday Evensong (except Friday) and Sunday Eucharist, and a complete prelude and fugue before and after Sunday Evensong. By 2nd March this would tick off 41 of the 48. For the remaining seven, Adam will select some weekday Evensongs for a bonus prelude fugue. He will save some of the larger works for the last week of the schedule when the Cathedral Organ is back in action....and he can use his feet again!

[Donate to Adam's JustGiving page >](#)

Chorister Voice Trials 25th and 27th January

The application deadline for the 2025 Exeter Cathedral Chorister Voice Trials is 20 January. The auditions will be held on 25 January for external pupils, and on 27 January for pupils already attending Exeter Cathedral School. More information is available on the Cathedral website.

Exeter Cathedral Lent Course 2025

A Rule of Life: A Rule for My Life

A short course commencing with a guided afternoon's retreat on Ash Wednesday (5th March) in The Sacristy followed by three fortnightly meetings between 12.00 and 1.00 on 9th, 23rd of March and the 6th of April in the Richard Eyre Room. During this Lenten journey, we shall be giving time to exploring our relationship with God and giving practical tools on how we deepen our commitment to follow Christ every day of our lives.

Ash Wednesday (5 March): A Guided Meditation on 'A Return to Love' 2.30-4.00 pm

A time of guided contemplation and preparation to equip us for this Lenten journey and to enable those who wish to continue to examine and deepen their discipleship through Lent.

Session 1: Sunday 9th March 12.00 to 1.00: What is a Rule of Life and How Do We Live It?

In this session, we shall introduce the idea and practice of a Rule of Life, taking time to introduce the Cathedral's own Rule of Life and consider how habits can positively shape and nurture a life of faith. We shall take time to explore how rhythm and structure can enable growth even when the fruits of such practices are not immediately apparent or obvious. There will be opportunities for personal and shared reflection and time to consider how individual practices might be cultivated in the coming weeks.

Session 2: Sunday 23rd March 12.00 to 1.00: Session 2: Exploring the Examen

In this session, we shall dive deeper into a particular spiritual practice, the Examen, as a way in which we can pay attention to the moments in each day when we notice ourselves drawing close to or away from God. We shall think about how we might find ways to weave into our lives, times for candid self-examination, as well as reflect on times when we might overlook opportunities for gratitude. We hope that participants will be encouraged to try out the Examen in their everyday lives.

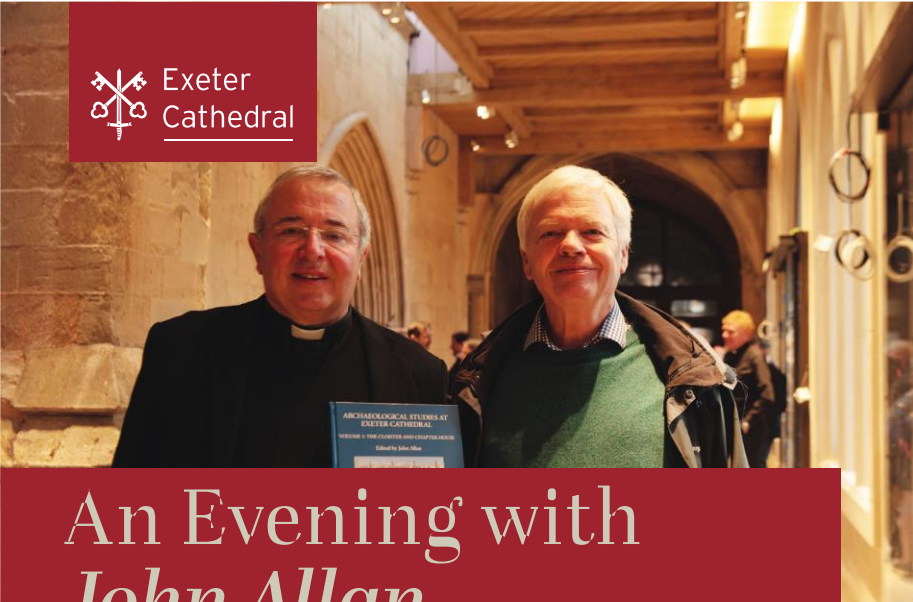
Session 3: Sunday 6th April 12.00 to 1.00: Your Personal Vocation

Here we shall consider our personal calling or vocation and ways to align it with service to others. We shall introduce ways in which we might reconnect with our unique calling and how we might align our lives with God's purposes for the world. In this final session, we shall revisit our personal Rule of Life and think through how we might commit to continuing to live it out during Lent and beyond.

To book a place, please contact deborah.parsons@exeter-cathedral.org.uk or phil.wales@exeter-cathedral.org.uk



Exeter
Cathedral



An Evening with *John Allan*

Wednesday 22 January 2025 at 7pm

Spend an evening with Exeter Cathedral Archaeologist, John Allan in conversation with Jonathan Greener, Dean of Exeter.

Learn more about John's fascinating archaeological career and new book which explores the recent excavations of the Exeter Cathedral Cloister and Chapter House.

Proceeds from the evening will support the Exeter Cathedral Sound System Appeal.



Tickets: £15
Booking: bit.ly/ec-john-allan
or scan the QR code

More talks in the *An Evening in Conversation With* series coming soon. Discover more at bit.ly/EC-Whats-On