



Exeter  
Cathedral

# Cathedral News

February 2025 – No. 752



## **From the Canon Chancellor: A New Perspective by Canon Deborah Parsons**

I've just finished reading Katherine May's beautiful book: "Wintering." Conversations with friends in recent years have been peppered with praise for this short book and in the wet, wild and windy days of recent weeks, it was just the winter-warmer that I needed. There's nothing quite like snuggling under the duvet with a good book to chase away the winter blues.

It tells of how some winters arrive mid-sun, when we are catapulted into winter unexpectedly as a result of illness, or sudden bereavement, or a failure or humiliation. Others creep upon us slowly, like the drip, drip of a leaking tap, but most winters arrive unbidden.

I've never thought about "winter" as a verb, yet the present participle "wintering" seems an appropriate way to describe the protracted nature of winter, which we can encounter at any time of the year and in any season of our lives.

In the Christian tradition, we willingly practise "wintering" in Advent and Lent, so that when we are catapulted into our wintry wildernesses at other times in the year, we recognise what season we are in, and through fashioning our lives on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, recognise our Good Friday or silent Saturday seasons and know that Easter joy will eventually come.

Katherine May explains that so often we think of our lives as linear. A movement from birth to death but actually life meanders. We have seasons when we flourish and seasons when the leaves fall, and we are stripped bare. Yet if we wait long enough, new growth does come. Rather than seeing Winter as the death of the life cycle, we can see it as its crucible. The daffodils of March are paid for by the



January snow. Without the shadow of suffering, we would not know the light of joy.

Last week, I joined others for a contemplative, noticing walk in the Pleasure Gardens opposite St Thomas's Church. I haven't walked in that park before but walking slowly and taking time to notice the multi-sensory feast that the park had to offer when we slow down was like seeing the world again through beginner's eyes. The ancient, gnarled trees; the incessant bird song; the new buds latent with potential. Unity in diversity.

When President Abraham Lincoln was chairing difficult late-night meetings, he would often pause and invite those present to step outside and look at the skies. It gave a new perspective and reminded those around the table of a bigger reality.

The Astronaut Major Tim Peake said "It's impossible to look down at earth from space and not be mesmerised by the fragile beauty of our planet." Spaceflight gave him a new perspective.

This month, at Exeter Cathedral, we are hosting Luke Jerram's art installation of "The Museum of the Moon." If you haven't seen it before do come. It's a deeply moving and awe-inspiring experience. If you have seen it before do come again. The experience will be different because you are in a different place. What new perspective might it offer you?

## **Zoom Morning Prayer**

If you are not able to join us in the Cathedral for Morning Prayer, you may like to join Zoom Morning Prayer. This takes place every weekday at 9am. It is lay led and participative, using the Daily Office of Morning Prayer from Common Worship. Whoever is leading that day leads the group in short pertinent prayer. Zoom Morning Prayer is an engaging 20-minute drop in. There are regulars, but also occasional visitors, and the parishes who are noted in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer occasionally join as well. So why not give it a try, a wonderful way to start the day and ideal for those who are unable to travel to the Cathedral.

Zoom contact 99638985011 Password 1F0puR

For further details please contact Canon Cate Edmonds

[Cate.edmonds@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:Cate.edmonds@exeter-cathedral.org.uk)

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

A few months ago, I was contacted by the Worshipful Company of Upholders in London. They wish to celebrate their 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of receiving their Royal Charter by commissioning a piece of embroidery. This perhaps sounds unremarkable until you know that they want this to be stitched as 'Opus Anglicanum' needlework.

'Opus Anglicanum' is fine needlework of the medieval period - very detailed and precise stitching used on ecclesiastical vestments and hangings. It is incredibly rich – using gold and silver threads on velvet material. It is called 'Opus Anglicanum' (English Work) because English needlework was famous across Europe as being exceptionally fine. It will be a rare privilege to be involved in this project and create stitching in this style.

The aim behind this initiative is to attract people with enthusiasm, but not necessarily a high level of skills: this should not deter prospective participants as all stitching will be closely supervised. Also, it is hoped that they will be able to pass on their newly-learnt skills over the coming years.

The Press Release tells you a little more. If you are at all interested in this project and would like to know some more details, then please contact Ian Morter on [ian.morter@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:ian.morter@exeter-cathedral.org.uk)

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### **Press release: Exeter Cathedral volunteers in historic Opus Anglicanum embroidery project.**

The Worshipful Company of Upholders, a City of London Livery Company which dates back to 1360, is sponsoring a major project that will include a volunteer embroidery team at Exeter Cathedral as participants in the production of a textile masterpiece, using traditional craft techniques last used on such a scale over 500 years ago.

Working in a dozen cathedrals in English cities, twelve volunteer teams will be formed to undertake this embroidery. Designed by internationally known iconographer, Aidan Hart, the project will make the volunteers' activities more widely known and encourage more enthusiasts to learn new skills and, hopefully, join their local cathedral group.

Over two metres in diameter The Circle of Life will be the most significant piece of Opus Anglicanum embroidery produced since the Fishmongers Pall in 1530. The ancient craft techniques used represent the pinnacle of hand stitch craft. Potential new recruits may be confident that specialist embroidery skills are not essential, since the project will be fully supported by the Royal School of

Needlework, who will provide participants with all the necessary mentoring and training.

Production of the artwork will commence at each of the twelve locations starting in April and will be completed a year later. Once assembled, the finished work is planned to be unveiled at the Guildhall in the City of London as part of the celebrations to mark the 400th anniversary of the grant of the Livery Company's Royal Charter. It will then be exhibited at venues around the country, including Exeter, as one of the participating cathedrals.

Speaking for the Exeter Cathedral team, Diana Symes, chairman of The Company of Tapisers and team leader for the project, said: *"We are delighted to be part of this unique national initiative. We hope that it will encourage those with a passion for embroidery to come forward and join our group, whilst learning new skills and helping to create an historically significant masterpiece."*

**Diana Symes, Chairman of the Company of Tapisers**

### **Cathedral Lecture 18<sup>th</sup> 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 Europe and has held posts in many universities in Europe and beyond.*



**In Conversation with Mackenzie Robinson  
on: The Shroud of Turin  
Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 6:30pm The  
Chapter House, Exeter Cathedral**  
(Refreshments served from 6.00pm)

Mackenzie Robinson is a licenced lay minister in the Ashburton and Moorland Mission Community. He was formerly a Benedictine oblate of Buckfast Abbey and teaches meditation in the Christian tradition. He has studied, written and lectured on the Shroud of Turin for a number of years, drawing on his 20 years of forensic experience as a criminal defence lawyer, and now

tribunal adjudicator.

Mackenzie will give a presentation on the Shroud of Turin, examining its provenance, and whether it could be the burial shroud of Christ. He invites you to set aside your preconceptions and follow the evidence to wherever it leads.

Join us. Everybody welcome.

**In Conversation with Kathryn Timms on: Creative Grief  
Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025 6:30pm The Chapter House, Exeter Cathedral**  
(Refreshments served from 6.00pm)



Kathryn will be speaking about *Creative Grief*, exploring how art can serve as a vessel for memory, loss, and remembrance. Currently studying for an MA in Fine Art at Plymouth Arts University, Kathryn's work focuses on the importance of acts of remembrance and the narrative power of significant objects—those that carry both memory and meaning.

With a background as a teacher and school chaplain, Kathryn brings meaningful insight into the privilege of chaplaincy: the act of walking alongside others in their journeys of loss and healing. Her practice weaves together personal and communal grief, considering how creativity can help us hold and process the stories we carry.

Join us for an evening of reflection, conversation, and exploration of the ways art and faith can help us remember, honour, and heal.

## **What's On in February**

### **Museum of the Moon**

*1 February – 1 March*

The moon is back at Exeter Cathedral! In February, the stunning Museum of the Moon installation by world-famous artist Luke Jerram, returns to the Cathedral. Find out more [bit.ly/exeter-moon](http://bit.ly/exeter-moon).

### **A Study Course on the Gospel of John**

*Wednesdays 15 January – 26 February, 2:30pm-4:30pm in the Sacristy*

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. Find out more [bit.ly/burridge-study-course](http://bit.ly/burridge-study-course).

### **Onwards & Upwards Tours: February 2025**

*Thursday 13 February at 11am*

*Thursday 20 February at 11am*

*Thursday 27 February 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 [bit.ly/special-tours](http://bit.ly/special-tours).

### **Queer Religion Photography Exhibition**

*9 - 16 February*

An award-winning photography exhibition by acclaimed photographer Frances Marshall.

Find out more at [bit.ly/queer-religion](http://bit.ly/queer-religion).

### **Roof Tours: February 2025**

*Tuesday 11 February 11:15am*

*Friday 21 February 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](http://bit.ly/special-tours).

### **The Book of Riddles Community Choir**

*Every Wednesday from 12 February – 23 April 2025, 7pm-8:30pm*

Join our weekly songwriting choir for the chance to co-write songs inspired by the Exeter Book.

Find out more at [bit.ly/riddle-choir](http://bit.ly/riddle-choir).

### **Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata with London Concertante**

*Friday 14 February at 7:30pm*

Join London Concertante at Exeter Cathedral on the most romantic day of the year for a performance of Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata*.

Find out more at [bit.ly/moonlight-sonata-25](https://bit.ly/moonlight-sonata-25).

### **Aspects of Love: Lunchtime Concert with Iryna Ilnytska**

*Saturday 15 February at 1pm*

Mezzo-soprano Iryna Ilnytska will be performing a lunchtime concert in the magnificent nave of Exeter Cathedral to raise funds for Ukraine.

Find out more at [bit.ly/iryna-ilnytska](https://bit.ly/iryna-ilnytska).

### **Library & Archives In Focus: Making a meal of it**

*Tuesday 18 February, drop in 2pm-4pm*

Savour centuries of food and drink in the Exeter Cathedral Library and Archives from old recipes to local records of brewers and bakers.

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

### **Silent Disco Under the Moon: Friday 21 February at 7pm**

Following three sell out events, Silent Disco returns to Exeter Cathedral. This unique event will take place in the nave of the Cathedral, underneath Luke Jerram's famous art installation, *Museum of the Moon*. So, grab those headsets, flick that switch, and be prepared to sing and dance the night away. With two channels of music led by DJs in fierce battle, it is time to immerse yourself in *Silent Disco under the Moon*. Find out more on the Exeter Cathedral website

### **Crosstown Concerts presents Seth Lakeman at Exeter Cathedral**

*Saturday 22 February at 7:30pm*

Westcountry singer-songwriter Seth Lakeman comes to Exeter Cathedral as part of his 2025 tour.

### **The Music of Pink Floyd by Candlelight**

*Friday 28 February at 7:30pm*

Join us for the ultimate tribute to Pink Floyd, performed by Candlelight at the beautiful Exeter Cathedral.

### **Cathedral Community Committee (CCC) 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

The CCC had an evening off in January, having had an extra meeting in December. The next meeting is on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February. Please send any items or questions for the agenda to [amb@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:amb@exeter-cathedral.org.uk) or to [hmm53@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:hmm53@tiscali.co.uk)

**Heather Morgan, Chair Cathedral Community Committee**

## **The March edition of *Cathedral News***

We hope to publish the next edition of the *News* on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025. The deadline for material is **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025**. Please send any contributions to [hmm53@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:hmm53@tiscali.co.uk) or to any member of the editorial team; Heather Morgan, Rosemary Bethell, and Jenny Ellis.

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**

I promised a report on our Christmas arranging in the last month's article, so here goes. We arranged on the 20<sup>th</sup> – rather earlier than usual because of a variety of events and works in the Cathedral. We were still in Camp 3 and needed 12 arrangers to get it all done. Gold and white was the theme, and as the Dean likes bling, we had glitter – and it went everywhere! Being mindful of the position a Cathedral holds in the minds of most people it had to be understated bling, so we used foliage that was gold sprayed and other ready-made mechanics that had gold and crystals structured onto the frames. There were six pillars, but no need for anything at the High Altar as there were Christmas trees already there. It never ceases to amaze us just how much material you need to make the big arrangements that the Cathedral needs, and we ended up using almost all the white silks we have and everything that had gold spray on it. We finished by sparkling-up the nave pulpit with gold soft ruscus and gold lotus seeds, with a Norfolk fir and some eucalyptus – simple but elegant. It was an exhausting morning, but we were able to have hot coffee in the Chapter House to warm up.

This was not the same when we arranged on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January. We seemed to have all professions and trades on site doing vital things for the building works at the same time! We coped!!! We went for orange flowers to perk things up a little and hinting at warmth perhaps! One of our newer arrangers starred as lead pillar for the first this time.

Another change of colour was made on 31<sup>st</sup> January, to dark red with pale yellow. Another newer arranger was lead and did an impressive job. We managed to arrange at the same time as the Moon was launching in the Nave, with co-operation from the in-house works team doing terrific things under some pressure. We are really encouraged by the talent of our newer ladies and are actively trawling for more recruits. We hope that the need for thermals and our current, but temporary, difficult working arrangements do not put off people joining us!

**Flick Evans, Chair ECFA**





## Meet the Servers Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March

Could YOU fill one of these spaces?!  
Have you ever considered what servers actually do?

Do you wonder what it's like to swing a smoking thurible? Or wear the various fantastic vestments? And just how heavy IS our beautifully ornate gold cross?! Or one of our lovely banners?

Come and 'meet the servers' on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March (the first Sunday of Lent), over coffee after the 10am Eucharist.

You can ask all these questions, and more, of the members of the serving team - all you've ever wanted to know, but didn't know who to ask! We will also have a thurible available to demonstrate.



We're currently looking to expand the serving team, so if you think you could fill any of the spaces in the photos above, please make yourself known to one of us on March 9<sup>th</sup>. We can talk you through what you'll need to do in order to join a great team of volunteers!



## Canon Arthur Mawson

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Canon Arthur Mawson on 17<sup>th</sup> January. Arthur was appointed as Canon Treasurer of the Cathedral in 1979, and from 1981-1987 he was also Diocesan Director of Ordinands. Before coming to the Cathedral, he had been Vicar of Holy Trinity, Millhouses, Sheffield from 1966-73, and Selection Secretary of the Advisory Council for the Church's Ministry from 1973-79.

Arthur's role here included oversight of pastoral care. Many people in and around the Cathedral were grateful for his kindness and wisdom. He chaired the then Cathedral Fellowship Committee with enthusiasm and grace, which enabled social events, outings and all congregation activities to flourish. From a distance, in retirement in Oxford, Arthur continued to take an interest in the Cathedral and its people. Shortly before his death he said how much he looked forward to coming to see the result of recent work in the Quire and Cloister.

We send our love and prayers to his family and many friends.



## More from the Company of Tapisers:

Just before Christmas we had the privilege of presenting Cloth of Gold vestments to the Cathedral.

It is always satisfying to be able to offer our work to be blessed – and for people to see our work close up.

Cloth of gold, a very expensive and rarely-made fabric, is just THAT: a real GOLD thread around a silken core. It is very difficult to sew because it frays so easily – so we had to bind all the edges of the fabric before we could start stitching. All the work we do is by hand – even though we do possess a sewing machine, we don't use it unless we absolutely have to!

The design within the fabric is called the Richard II design – with the sun in splendour and a stag with a crown chained around its neck. When the light catches the fabric the pattern shines beautifully.

As Tapisers it is a joyful, if sometimes stressful(!?), experience to be able to work on such luxurious fabric knowing we are following in the traditions of many centuries of vestment making.

**Diana Symes, Chairman of the Company of Tapisers**

## Olive Eyles

In last month's edition of the *News*, Diane Symes spoke for us all when she paid tribute to Olive. Olive's funeral will be on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm. All are welcome.

## Goodbye ...and Welcome

The Cathedral Community was sad to say farewell to Luke Stevenson, Custos (Head Virger) at the Choral Eucharist on 2<sup>nd</sup> February and at a well-attended reception in the Chapter House on the following afternoon. The Dean expressed thanks on behalf of us all. Our very best wishes to Luke for the future.

A very warm welcome to Harvey Andrews, who has joined the Virger Team as a Floor Manager, whom some may recognise from the Christmas Market Security Team.

## **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 (5<sup>th</sup> March) in The Sacristy followed by three fortnightly meetings between 12.00 and 1.00 on 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> of March and the 6<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:deborah.parsons@exeter-cathedral.org.uk) or [phil.wales@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:phil.wales@exeter-cathedral.org.uk)

## **Hope in a Messed Up World**

Pinhoe Road Baptist Church, Exeter EX4 7HZ, will host three talks by Rev Dr Helen Paynter from the Centre for the Study of the Bible. Helen is an acclaimed author on the use and abuse of scripture to justify violence. These three talks in our Hope in A Messed Up World series are open to church leaders and concerned Christians from across the South West. The three evenings are from 7.30-9.00pm. There's no need to register. Please just turn up. The three talks will each explore the nature of the problem and what can be done in response. The talks are:  
25 March 2025: The Bible and the Israel-Palestine Conflict.  
More information is available on our website and by contacting John Heathershaw ([johnheathershaw@gmail.com](mailto:johnheathershaw@gmail.com))

## **Exeter Bach Choir: Bach's Mass in B minor**

**Saturday 8 March at 7:30pm**

Join Exeter Bach Choir and Orchestra, to celebrate its 30th anniversary for this exciting performance. A first-rate team of soloists will include well-known local singers including Thomas Hobbs, Bethany Partridge and Tim Mirfin. The choir's chosen charity for this concert is Exeter Community Initiatives and there will be an opportunity to make donations during the evening.

## **Cathedral Confirmation Service 11<sup>th</sup> May**

There will be a confirmation service led by Bishop Mike at the Cathedral on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 10am and he would like to confirm as many people as possible! [Find out more about confirmation.](#)

If you are considering being confirmed or would like to find out more about what it involves, please contact:

Revd Prebendary Nigel Guthrie: [nigel.guthrie@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:nigel.guthrie@exeter-cathedral.org.uk) or Revd Prebendary Julian Ould [julian.ould@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:julian.ould@exeter-cathedral.org.uk) They would love to hear from you.

## **Malcolm Pomeroy**

Malcolm died on 21<sup>st</sup> January. In a future edition of the News, we will celebrate his immense contribution as server, virger, sidesman, reader, eucharistic minister to name but some of his roles. Above all, he was a much loved and trusted friend to many in the Cathedral Community. His funeral, a Requiem Mass will be on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 12 noon in the Cathedral. All are welcome.

## Music Notes

### Adam Field's Fundraising Feast of Bach

Adam is delighting both midweek and Sunday congregations as he makes progress through Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavier* (BWV 846-963). He is playing the complete work in voluntaries before and after services until 2<sup>nd</sup> March. This project is in aid of the Cathedral Choir's tour to Normandy and Paris in July 2025. Thank you to those who have already made a donation. If you feel willing and able to support, then please do so here. If not, please offer your encouragement by coming to any choral service to hear some lovely Bach!

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

### Choral Scholarships

Applications are now open for our Choral Scholarship programme provides exciting opportunities for university-aged singers who are interested in immersing themselves in the life of a professional Cathedral Choir. Application deadline is Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.



### Journey to the Moon:

#### Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 7pm

Join us for an immersive musical journey with Luke Jerram's *Museum of the Moon* and the Choir of Exeter Cathedral.

Bring your cushions, camping chairs and blankets, and follow the Cathedral Choir as they lead you through the Cathedral performing masterpieces by Elgar, Parry,

Purcell and Bruckner.

Tickets: £5 – £20, see booking page for more information.

Proceeds from this event will be used to help fund the future of Exeter Cathedral Choir. [Book your ticket](#)

### Spring Spectacular with Exeter Cathedral Choir

#### Saturday 8 March, 5pm at St Mary's Church, Abbotskerswell

A great opportunity to hear the Cathedral Choir in music from Mozart, Goodall, Ireland, Fauré and more. There will also be vocal and instrumental solo performances from our talented Choristers.

**Tickets:** Adults: £12 Children: £5 [Book your ticket](#). Any remaining tickets will be available to buy on the door at the Church using either card or cash. Proceeds will be split 50/50 between Exeter Cathedral Choir Association and Abbotskerswell Parish Church.

## **Bach St John Passion at Holy Cross, Crediton**

**Saturday 15 February at 6pm**

There will be a special performance of J.S Bach's choral work directed by Tina Guthrie at Crediton Parish Church. The soloists, choir and orchestra will be drawn from Devon and the Netherlands, two places with shared links to Crediton's own St Boniface. 100% of the proceeds from this event will go to Second Sight, a zero-overheads, UK-based charity which works to eradicate and prevent blindness in Bihar, North East India. There will be refreshments on sale and a retiring collection, all in aid of Second Sight. Tickets will be £12 with children and students free. [Click here](#) to book your place

## **Poems for the Path Ahead: Quiet Morning**

**Tuesday 11 February, 10am-1pm at St Stephen's Church, Exeter**

You are invited to the Poems for the Path Ahead Quiet Morning on Tuesday 11 February from 10am-1pm. This half-day retreat will give you the opportunity to read and if you would like to, write poetry in the centre of Exeter. Whether you are a beginner or an expert, you are welcome to come along! The morning will be led by Exeter based poet, Helen Evans, who will also offer 1:1 slots where she will 'prescribe' a poem you might like, or a writing exercise you might enjoy. Places cost £10 per person- limited spaces available. To book please email: [helen@helenevans.co.uk](mailto:helen@helenevans.co.uk)

## **Open Day at SWMTC**

**Saturday 1 March at the Marjon, Plymouth**

The South West Ministry Training Centre (SWMTC) invites you to their next Open Day on Saturday 1 March. This is an opportunity to see SWMTC in action, meet with staff and current students, and find out more about their community and the training on offer. If you would like to come along, or would like to find out more information, please email Lizzie and Liz at: [admin@swmtc.org.uk](mailto:admin@swmtc.org.uk)

## **Vacancies at the Cathedral**

### **Safeguarding Officer**

The Cathedral is seeking a Cathedral Safeguarding Officer to maintain and build on the strong culture of safeguarding at Exeter Cathedral and carry out an effective safeguarding role as a key visible member of the Cathedral team. Application deadline is Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February

### **Riddler in Residence**

We are looking for our final [Riddler in Residence](#)! Thanks to funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, we are now inviting applications from writers, performance poets, storytellers, spoken word artists and lyricists, to become Exeter Cathedral's final Riddler in Residence. Application Deadline: Monday 17 February 2025

## **Saint of the Month: George Herbert, Priest, Poet, 1633**

### **Lesser Festival 27<sup>th</sup> February**

George Herbert was born at Montgomery Castle, on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1593. His family moved to London when he was eight, and he was educated at Westminster School, where he was a scholar. George's mother was famous for her hospitality; luminaries such as John Donne and William Byrd were family friends.

In 1609, Herbert became a scholar at Trinity College, Cambridge. In 1619 he became a Fellow of Trinity and Public Orator of the University, a post he held until 1627, and which included an oration before King James I. During the 1620s he served briefly as a member of Parliament. On 5<sup>th</sup> March 1629, Herbert was married to Jane Danvers at Edington Parish Church.

The following year he resolved his struggle to discern his true vocation, forsaking academic and political life. He was ordained priest and became Rector of Fugglestone St Peter with Bemerton, two villages close to Salisbury. It is well worth the short diversion from the main road into Salisbury to visit Bemerton Church. Herbert loved music and regularly attended Evensong at Salisbury Cathedral, walking across the meadows to do so.

George Herbert wrote poetry from an early age and at school, he was greatly influenced by Lancelot Andrewes, then Dean of Westminster, and later Bishop of Winchester. It is for his poetry that Herbert is best remembered today, some of which we sing in hymns such as *King of Glory*, *King of Peace* and *Let all the World*.

We must be grateful that shortly before he died, Herbert gave his collection of poems in English, Latin and Greek to his great friend Nicholas Ferrar, founder of the religious community at Little Gidding, and even more grateful that Ferrar decided to publish all his poetry in English, under the title *The Temple*. In his religious verse love is an abiding theme, for instance in *Love bade me welcome* which has often featured in *Cathedral News*.

Although he was a parish priest for only a short time – he died on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1633 – Herbert is also famous for *The Country Parson* in which he sets down “the form and character of a true pastor”. He was much loved, though strict with his parishioners, who were no doubt grateful that he believed “nor should the sermon go beyond an hour”. But perhaps today we might envy them the experience of listening to George Herbert for an hour, or even longer.

For a detailed account of Herbert's life and his wonderful poetry, John Drury's *Music and Midnight: The Life and Poetry of George Herbert* is an excellent biography of this remarkable priest and poet.