



From the Canon Treasurer:

A friend of mine and spiritually wise person once said to me, I hope you fail in your Lenten discipline, otherwise you'll get to Easter Day guilty of the sin of pride.

Well, you might think he was giving us an easy let out, an excuse not to try hard. But actually I think he was right. Lent is the period of grace, not an exercise in achievement. Unless Lent leads us into the heart and love of God, it is empty of meaning. And this is true of the word “discipline” itself.

Whether we think of the traditional disciplines of almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, or of other ways of seeking God, the word discipline shouldn't be heard as a word of authority or control. Discipline is related to the word disciple: Lenten disciplines are ways of learning from Jesus, following him.

And Lenten disciplines, therefore, are relational. Our keeping of Lent draws us into deeper fellowship with God and God's people. Pride and boasting about our Lenten 'success' have the opposite effect, putting up barriers with others. The fruit of our Lenten observance, is not some individual virtuosity, but the strengthening of community. So our Lenten observances are about being good news for others. And the measure of our success is not that we get to Easter Day having succeeded, but that on Easter Day, the community of God's people is stronger.

And it's not just about God's people in the narrow sense of the church. Our fasting challenges the overconsumption that is destroying our planet. Our almsgiving challenges our greed or our anxiety about our future needs that leads us to amass possessions. Our practice of Lent is a call to raise our spiritual eyes to care for the wellbeing of future generations and the community of nations.

But equally, our practice of Lent is about being grounded in the moment and circumstances God has given us. We are called to consider the particular time, particular resources, and particular gifts that we will commit to this venture of relationship building. God is never in a theoretical world that we dream of, but in the actual people, actual tasks, and actual opportunities we have. It is with these that we must live this Lent.

So I pray that this Lent will be a time of being grounded, more deeply committed to the people and places God gives us, and allowing all that God has given us to be a means of God's deepening life within us.

Chris Palmer

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

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 at 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 9th 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 11th 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.

News from the Tapisers

As many of you know, it has been our aim over the years to make items for sale at Fairs, special events and the Cathedral Shop. These items have been made for people to use, enjoy and give as gifts: cushions, spectacle cases, needlecases ... and more.

One 'essential' item for anyone who does any kind of needlework, throughout history, has been a collection of pins. Mary, Queen of Scots, for example, used pins to hold sections of her clothing in place! Over a period of three months she ordered 27,000 of them! She and her companions must have needed a lot of pincushions?

Well, this year we are adding 'Biscornu' pincushions to our list of sale items.

If you are unfamiliar with this unusual word: 'Biscornu' comes from a French word which means 'quirky'! These pincushions are 'quirky' in shape – but make excellent repositories for your pins. They are being made in a variety of colourful designs – flowers, animals, geometrical patterns... Do have a look in the Cathedral Shop and see what you think of them.

Diana Symes, Chairman of the Company of Tapisers

Can you help the Wednesday Kitchen?

The Wednesday Kitchen is looking for sponsors to cover the "at cost" price of serving freshly cooked bacon baps on the last Wednesday of each month. We need to raise £50 for each occasion. If you can help, please send a cheque, payable to 'Exeter Cathedral' and addressed to: "Pippa in Accounts for the Wednesday Kitchen".

Thank you

Penny & the WK team

Can you be a Chalice bearer?

Sundays at 10am Choral Eucharist require at least 6 Chalice bearers (or Eucharistic Assistants) to administer the chalice alongside the priest.

For various reasons our numbers have dropped, and we would like to invite you to offer yourself for this significant part of the service. Training is provided - hopefully you could offer once or twice a month

You would be considered a volunteer and would be required to complete the necessary paperwork before you could start.

If you may be interested in following this up - please contact Chris Brathwaite at Tel: 01626 873807 or chrisbee3@btinternet.com

Cathedral Community Committee (CCC) 11th February 2025

We discussed plans for 2025 beginning with parties and hospitality.

The first dates to note are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week (14th-16th April) when soup will be served in the Cloister Gallery between Evensong and the Evening Service. On 29th June we will have *Hymns and Pimms* (with nibbles) after Evensong to celebrate St Peter's Day. We hope to have an event in early September to welcome new members of the Cathedral Choir and their families. On 24th October there will be a Harvest Supper. Shrove Tuesday 17th February 2026 has also been booked for a party.

We made plans for Mothering Sunday, including the candle project (see page 18), for a light breakfast following the Easter Vigil on Easter Day, and for Christingle. There will be an outing to Bath, later in the year, by coach if there is sufficient demand. The Dean gave details of the proposed visit to Bayeux/Lisieux in the autumn. Having spent a long time on the serious business of enabling the Cathedral Community to have fun, discussion on other projects for the year was adjourned to the next meeting.

A report from the Sound System Appeal was warmly received.

We had a brief update on Safeguarding and endorsed the request for all team and group leaders to remind colleagues to wear their lanyards, carry the safeguarding card and complete the necessary paperwork for new volunteers.

A small group has prepared a paper on raising awareness of dementia and how best to support those who are affected by that condition. After consideration by the Pastoral Care Team, the paper will come to the CCC at a future meeting

The next meeting is on Tuesday 11th March. Please send any items or questions for the agenda to amb@exeter-cathedral.org.uk or to hmm53@tiscali.co.uk

Heather Morgan, Chair Cathedral Community Committee

Bishop Marianne Budde

Readers may recall Bishop Marianne Budde's sermon at the National Prayer Service at [Washington National Cathedral on January 21](#) following President Trump's inauguration.

Our Canon Theologian, the Revd Professor Morwenna Ludlow has written an excellent and very informative article putting the sermon into its historical and theological context. For copyright reasons we are unable to print it, but please do follow the link below.

<https://theconversation.com/when-a-bishop-called-on-trump-to-have-mercy-she-was-following-the-old-christian-tradition-of-parrhesia-248494>

Olive Eyles



When you live for 101 years, you can do an incredible number of things, which is exactly what Mum did. Some of that history was captured in a radio interview in 2023 to mark the King's Coronation, where Mum described some of her life through the reign of 5 monarchs and her experience of 3 coronations. As the eldest child in a family of 9 children, she loved family life along with the ups and downs that went with it. She always had the most amazing memory and could remember exact details of events from many decades ago. Unlike me, she rarely forgot anything and, when I was at school, she could never quite understand how I could forget my rugby boots or

lose my French homework. She and Dad managed to juggle family life with full-time jobs mainly through cheerfulness, good humour and keeping us all very well organised.

When she was young, the family lived at Wingmore, about 2 miles north of Elham in Kent. When she went to school in Elham she was required to hand her return bus fare to the headmaster for safe keeping. One evening the headmaster was late in handing back the bus fare and she missed the bus. She then had to make her own decision whether to walk home or to wait 2 hours for the next bus. She chose the bus, and the next day was allowed to look after her own bus fare. This was 1928. She was 5 years old.

She was at Teacher Training College in Norwich in the early part of the war, where she studied English and PE. One night there was an air raid. Her building was hit with incendiary bombs, and they needed to escape. The only route out was through a long glass covered passageway, but the broken panes of glass were falling in all around. She knew that she had to get out and couldn't delay. She ran as fast as she could right through the middle and escaped. She had lost everything she owned but was given 10 shillings for a train ticket to get home to the safety of her family in Elham.

After the war she joined the WRNS as a Telegraphist and was stationed overseas in Cyprus and Egypt. She then moved to Culdrose in Cornwall, where she met my father, and worked alongside someone who many years later became my mother-in-law. She was good at sports and was selected to play netball for the Royal Navy. She recalled that the RN team only met each other for the first time on match day and were soundly beaten by the Army team, who had been

practising together for weeks. She was selected for promotion to Third Officer, achieving the highest grades of the year, but she decided that might not suit her and decided to leave the WRNS and return to teaching.

As a teacher in the 1960's, she could have taught several academic subjects but instead chose to spend her time teaching children to read. A few years ago, she was really delighted to meet someone whom she had spent a long-time teaching to read. He was so grateful for her skill and patience. He told her that because of her, he had learnt to read and had had a successful career and now owned his own business.

In retirement she became a committed member of the Exeter Cathedral community. She was a member of the congregation, she worked in the shop and as the years progressed was given the important responsibility of dusting the Bishop's throne. A naturally careful person, with an eye for detail she gained huge pleasure from being part of the team of tapisers who created the very detailed and magnificent tapestry kneelers that are used here in the cathedral, and which will endure as her tribute to the lasting memory of my sister Jane.

She was so proud of her grandchildren and her great grandchildren, who really gave her the greatest pleasure. Last year a large number of us celebrated her 100th birthday at lunch in Sidmouth. A bright sunny day, she loved chatting to everyone and finding out what everyone was up to, including via a Zoom call to her brother and niece in Australia.

She gained great strength from her faith, which sustained her through some very difficult times but also enabled her to remain cheerful as her health faded during December.

Through all her work, through her friendships and through her descendants she has left us a great legacy, and I think she would like to be remembered by inspiring us all to enjoy our lives in the way that she very much enjoyed her own wonderful life.

We are very grateful to Stuart, Olive's son, for allowing us to print this tribute which he gave at Olive's funeral on 26th February.

A New Artwork for the Cathedral

Textile Artist, Davina, has been preparing the fabric that will form the base of the triptych artwork that will be displayed in the new Treasures Gallery. The three panels are inspired by themes of birth (new beginnings/growth), marriage (union/love) and death (grief/loss) and feature prints of items from the Exeter Cathedral Library and Archives. The next step will be to sew on the 'jewels' created during workshops.

News from the Cathedral Flower Arrangers

It certainly hasn't been any warmer when arranging in the Cathedral, however many layers you might have put on. The ladies have come in with fingerless gloves, fur-lined boots, two layers of trousers and about four or five layers on the top plus scarf and hat – hardly able to move! But we have all laughed our way through these difficulties, been so, so grateful for the Chapter House coffee and the warmth of the underfloor heating.

We strip the building of flowers for Lent, leaving one pedestal in the Gallery and one in the chapel that has the Reserved Host. This has always been St Gabriel's Chapel to the right of the Lady Chapel, which has been closed for months. However, we will have the Lady Chapel and St Gabriel's back in use very soon, so Easter will see us spread around the Cathedral and some normality in our regular arranging. In Holy Week we will be arranging the Altar of Repose in the Lady Chapel, erecting the Easter Garden beside the West Doors and then the "full works" on Easter Eve. The Dean would love to have daffodils, which cannot really be arranged and have a very short life, so we hope to add some other colour to the lilies this year. Should anyone wish to sponsor the lilies we would be very grateful.

We have our AGM in early March when I shall report that we have lost five arrangers over the past year, and gained 2 so far. We are following up any whisper of a possible recruit with haste to try to add to the team. So if you know anyone who might be interested, please feel free to let me know as we can arrange an informal chat about what it entails. We do this over a hot cup of coffee or tea in the warm and cosy Chapter House!

Flick Evans, Chair ECFA

Cathedral Choir Voice Trials

There will be a second opportunity for children in Years 2-5 to audition for the chance to become an Exeter Cathedral Chorister. Children will receive an individual audition assessed by Timothy Noon (Director of Music) and Michael Stephens-Jones (Assistant Director of Music). The deadline for applications is Wednesday 12 March.

The April edition of *Cathedral News*

We hope to publish the next edition of the *News* on Sunday 6th April 2025. The deadline for material is **Monday 31st March 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.



Meet the Servers Sunday 9th 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 9th 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 9th. We can talk you through what you'll need to do in order to join a great team of volunteers!



Congratulations Adam

Many congratulations to Adam Field, our organ scholar, on his appointment as Sub-Organist and Assistant Director of Music at Bath Abbey. Adam will be responsible for playing the magnificent Abbey organ and accompanying the Abbey Choir. In addition he will direct the Melody Makers (a choir of children aged 6-11) and direct the Adult Chamber Choir. Adam will start his new job in August, with some commuting to Bath from May onwards midweek to start work with Melody Makers



and the Chamber Choir.

Further congratulations to Adam, for completing his progress through the whole of Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavier* (BWV 846-963), and our thanks for this musical treat. There's still time to donate to the fund for the Cathedral Choir's tour to Normandy and Paris in July 2025. Thank you to those who have already made a donation. If you would like to contribute here is the link

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

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.

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

Cathedral Confirmation Service 11th May

There will be a confirmation service led by Bishop Mike at the Cathedral on Sunday 11th 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 or Revd Prebendary Julian Ould julian.ould@exeter-cathedral.org.uk They would love to hear from you.

'12,000 Steps A Day' for Devon Historic Churches Trust

A member of the Cathedral Community, Robert Middleton, is walking at least 12,000 steps (9 kilometres) a day, between December 2024 and May 2025, to raise money for the Devon Historic Churches Trust.

Robert states that "supporting the DHCT is so very important, so that we can preserve our historic churches – for everyone, and for ever."

Donate to Robert's JustGiving page: www.justgiving.com/page/devonhct



The
EXETER CATHEDRAL
2020s DEVELOPMENT
APPEAL



Sound System Appeal

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Sound System Appeal, which is the Cathedral Community's contribution to the Development Appeal. The total we have raised so far is £41,000-almost half way to our target.

In addition to a series of "An Evening with...", the next guest speaker being Rob Rinder in May (see page 18), there will also be an opportunity to support fundraising by different groups and congregations.

More details as these events arise, which are likely to be on the first Sunday of the month.



The Coach and Horse – not a new Exeter pub

I recently acquired this old photograph of the West Front, as it wonderfully includes a coach and horse in front of the north entrance door. The photograph lacks any information other than location, but one can sketch some and dream of a bygone era.

Near where the edge of the current cobbled area would be, a man leans casually against the railing that lined part of the gravel roadway from Palace Gate up to Broadgate (the former Cathedral Close gateway between The Ivy and Pizza Express, demolished in 1824; you can see the stone marker and iron ring where it was – does anyone remember the iron rings at all the old gateway sites being used until the early 1970s to chain off the Close once a year to mark it as being private property, with entry ‘by request’ that day?). Was the man the coachman or just an idle spectator? A movement in the past is captured by the horse’s blurred head – with a blanket on its back, presumably to stop it catching a chill after working recently, the horse had moved its head while the photo was being taken. No coach passengers are evident. Are the man and horse waiting for those, now inside the cathedral? And where is everybody? No tourists or visitors. The splendid, large tree behind the man may have lasted long after this whole event, perhaps only succumbing when Dutch Elm disease caused the felling of all the elms in the Close during the 1970s.

The coach is parked by one of the two gas lights that stood along the front of the Cathedral. Soot and smoke from the city's fires have blackened all the stonework, not cleaned off until the 1960s. The Cathedral would itself have contributed to its own blackening, as at the time of the photo and until the mid-twentieth century, it was heated by several huge, iron coke-fired Gurney stoves with chimneys; though 'heated' was an overstatement – sounds horribly familiar at the moment! – but a former Head Virger, Ron Melhuish, told me that the stoves themselves were so hot that he occasionally caught people cooking sausages on them! In the photo, right at the top of the gable, is a predecessor of the modern St Peter statue, whose naked image caused such a stir when it was installed in 1984. Ivy grows over part of the first buttress in the cloisters area; modern conservators would not approve. The corner of St Mary Major church is on the right. This was demolished in 1971, followed by the archaeological excavations that revealed remains of the Roman bathhouse.

The photograph is undated, but was taken before 1906, as the West Window glass is the form installed in 1764. It was replaced by the current glass in 1906, as a memorial to Frederick Temple, Bishop of Exeter (1869-1885) and later, Archbishop of Canterbury until his death in 1902 – clergy retiring was not common until years later! Temple had been brought up in Devon and attended Blundell's school at Tiverton. One of his sons, William, was born in Exeter. He and Frederick share the unique achievement of a father and son both being Archbishops of Canterbury; William 1942-1944. Next time you leave the Cathedral, look at the bottom right-hand corner of the West Window and you will see an image of Frederick. He also has a memorial plaque to the left of the doorway as you leave.

The 1764 window was apparently one of the most ambitious and expensive projects of its type in Britain at the time. In time-honoured fashion, the Cathedral raised the money from donations, which in the case of the window were largely from Devon families. And like our recent 'buy a stone' for the new cloisters, the families who donated towards the window were rewarded with their coat-of-arms within the glazing. The Cathedral dignitaries also had their coats-of-arms portrayed (presumably 'free of charge!'). Several of these coats-of-arms were moved to the late-nineteenth century Pearson cloisters. When you visit the Cathedral shop you can see them in the windows opposite you as you walk into the shop.

A black-and-white image maybe, but a view into the Cathedral's colourful past! Perhaps the bar at the next Christmas market should be called 'The Coach and Horse'?

Mike Dobson (former Lay Vicar and current Sidesman)



A letter from Mainz

The two most memorable aspects of our first month and a half in Germany have been a ring-side seat in a crucial general election campaign and experience of the extraordinary Mainz carnival. It turns out that there are some surprising connections between the two.

Being in Germany for a crucial general election campaign was intriguing, especially less than a year after our own country's equivalent and we could observe

some of the differences with a level of detachment. In Germany the poster war is not fought with party signs in the windows and front gardens of citizens willing to display their allegiance, but instead with virtually every lamppost commandeered for electoral displays. In virtually all cases, the poster featured a prominent photo either of the party's local candidate or their national leader, and a pithy slogan – but no abstract or thematic pictures that often dominate British billboards. The AfD, the controversial far-right challenger party, placed all of their posters much higher up the lampposts than anyone else, presumably out of fear that they might otherwise have been torn down or vandalised. And certainly the level of local feeling against the AfD was noticeable, from the two elderly ladies riding a tricycle bearing the huge slogan 'Omas gegen faschismus' (Grannies against fascism), to the fairly sizeable demonstrations held in Mainz and other local towns to protest against the CDU leader, Merz's controversial decision to pass a parliamentary resolution against immigration with AfD support. The debates around the AfD and free speech have made it an interesting context for both of us in research terms. The final striking contrast was the way in which, in a country where coalitions are the norm, there is a long hiatus (which we're still in) after the electoral outcome, during which a new government has formed. The posters have largely vanished, but Scholz is still Chancellor, as Merz his successor seeks to form a new government.

The other memorable feature has been the Mainz carnival, one of the most famous and lively in all of Germany. The main focal point was the five-hour long procession through the town centre yesterday – *Rosenmontag* – with marching bands, floats organised by many community groups (including the football team), and people wearing grotesque giant papier-mâché heads, all watched by



huge crowds, most in elaborate costumes. But while all of this was very colourful and great fun, we were intrigued to discover that *Fastnacht* or carnival in Mainz at least has very clear political overtones. So running throughout is a vein of political satire, with amateur local comedians poking fun at national and international politicians in long speeches, often in rhyming couplets, and several large satirical floats featuring in the parade. And at a deeper level too the carnival recalls Germany's political past, since all of the members of the *Carnivalverein* (the associations who organise the event) dress in the uniforms of the various invading armies who have at one point or another controlled

this city. So we had French Hussars, Russian Tsarist soldiers, Prussian troops, Austrian guardsmen, and even a few Roman legionaries.

On Sunday we attended the huge carnival mass at the cathedral. Every member of the congregation apart from the two of us was in fancy dress, the various *Vereine* standards, banners and papier-maché heads were paraded down the aisle at the end – and the sermon was in rhyming couplets...

Morwenna Ludlow

Appointment of the Archbishop of Canterbury-Consultation

There is still time to respond to the public consultation about the next Archbishop of Canterbury. The deadline is 28th March.

To make an online submission. [Complete the online consultation form.](#) You can also send your submission by post to the address below:

Canon Stephen Knott
The Archbishops' Secretary for Appointments
Canterbury Crown Nominations Commission (CNC)
Lambeth Palace
London
SE1 7JU

Worship and the World:

Songs about Creation from Around the World

Saturday 29th March 11am-4pm at South Street Baptist Church

You are invited to the annual Iona Community South West England Gathering which will be led by Ian McLarty, Music Resource Worker for the Iona Community's Wild Goose Resource Group. The Wild Goose Resource Group exists to encourage, enable and equip the shaping and creation of new forms of worship that are relevant, contextual and participatory. During this event there will be Iona-style worship, news of the Iona Community and a bring and share lunch (please bring a food contribution!) Coffee and tea will be provided. Everyone is welcome. **To book your free place, please email: swengland@iona.org.uk. Booking is free but donations are welcomed to cover costs.**

Welcome Isobel

We are delighted to welcome Isobel Taylor-Hart, who has joined the Development Project Team as Project Intern. Isobel is a First Year History student and has joined via our partnership with Exeter University. In the future, Isobel would love to work in charity and conservation. Please join us in welcoming Isobel to the Cathedral.

Richard's Grizzly Fundraising Attempt

On Sunday 9th March, Exeter Cathedral's Marketing & Communications Director, Richard Remington, will be running the Grizzly. A famous race on the East Devon coast, with 3,000 feet of ascent included in its 20-mile distance, along with pebbly beaches, bogs, and something called the 'Stairway to Heaven' (a steep path up the side of a cliff).

Richard is using this remarkable challenge to raise money for TOFS, a charity that provides lifelong support for people born unable to swallow due to Oesophageal Atresia (OA) or Tracheo-Oesophageal Fistula (TOF) – rare congenital conditions of the oesophagus and/or trachea. Richard's son, Ned (now 19) was born with the conditions. Please consider making a donation – it is an excellent cause and our Marketing & Comms Director is going to need all the encouragement he can get!

[DONATE >](#)



An Evening with Rob Rinder : Wednesday 14th May 2025 at 7pm

Join us for a fascinating evening with barrister, broadcaster, author, advocate and musician, Rob Rinder MBE.

Rob will be discussing his life and work in conversation with The Very Revd Jonathan Greener, Dean of Exeter. He will also be answering questions from the audience and signing copies of his *Sunday Times* number one best-selling novels, *The Trial* and *The Suspect*.

This event is exclusive to Exeter Cathedral and we anticipate huge demand, so please book now to avoid disappointment.

Tickets: £15 – £25

A Candle for Mothering Sunday

We have a plentiful supply of candles for members of the various Cathedral congregations to take to our friends, neighbours, work colleagues, etc. with an invitation to write on them the name of their mother, or another person they will remember on Mothering Sunday.

The candles are to be returned to the Cathedral and they will be lit during the Choral Eucharist on Mothering Sunday. There will be a prayer card to give to people to remind them that their loved one will be prayed for, and that a candle will be lit in their memory on that day. We suggest a donation of £1 for the candle, if that is an appropriate request to make at the time.

There will be bags of candles available after services on the first three Sundays in Lent. Please take a bag and bring back the signed candles, and also any donations that have been made. This is a great way to reach out to people who may not usually come to church, but it is also an opportunity to invite them to come to the Cathedral on that special day.

Harriet Monsell

Founder of the Community of St John the Baptist, 1883

Commemoration 26th March

Harriet Monsell is a notable figure in the history of the Church of England. She was the first Mother Superior of the Community of St John the Baptist at Clewer, near Windsor, when it was established on 30th November 1852. This was one of the earliest Anglican religious orders. The sisters follow the rule attributed to St Augustine of Hippo, centred on the daily Eucharist, the Divine Office throughout the day, and private prayer and meditation.

Harriet was born in 1811, the daughter of an Irish baronet and after his death in 1837 the family moved to London. She married Charles Monsell in 1839. After his ordination to the priesthood, they moved to Oxford where they were much influenced by the Oxford Movement. Charles died in 1850 and thereafter Harriet dedicated her life to the service of God. She moved to Clewer, was clothed as a Religious in 1851, and took her vows the following year.

The Rector of Clewer, Thomas Thellusson Carter was already Warden of the House of Mercy which provided refuge for former prostitutes and single mothers. Harriet and two colleagues were originally known as the Sisters of Mercy, until they changed the name of the community in honour of St John the Baptist, to reflect their inspiration from his call to penitence.

The size of the community more than doubled within five years and under Mother Harriet's leadership, the sisters expanded their work to schools, hospitals, orphanages, mission houses in parishes and even church needlework. The community spread far and wide, with branches in the USA and India. In 2012, the sisters moved to Ripon College Cuddesdon, where they endowed the Bishop Edward King chapel. In 2020 during the pandemic, the remaining sisters chose to move to the convent at St Mary's Chiswick. There is a thriving community of CJSB in Mendham, New Jersey.

Mother Harriet was known for her energy, humour and sense of hope and joy. Her work was looked on with favour by Queen Victoria, who visited Clewer. Harriet retired to Folkestone in 1875 for health reasons and died on 25th March 1883, which was Easter Day that year. Shortly before her death she observed "Easter is such a lovely time to go home."

What's On in March

Library and Archives In Focus: Come Rain or Shine – Weather Stories from the Archives

Monday 10 March from 2pm-4pm

Join Exeter Cathedral's Librarian and Archivist as they look at how archives across the world have been contributing historic weather data. Find out more at bit.ly/in-focus-weather

Heritage Careers Fair

Wednesday 12 March from 11:30am-3pm

We are hosting a FREE Heritage Careers Fair showcasing over 20 different careers associated with Exeter Cathedral and related heritage crafts. Find out more at bit.ly/heritage-careers

Exeter Philharmonic Choir: Mozart Great Mass in C minor

Saturday 15 March at 7:30pm

Exeter Philharmonic Choir will be joined by the renowned London Mozart Players for this all-Mozart programme at Exeter Cathedral. Find out more at bit.ly/epc-mozart

National Lottery Open Week

Saturday 15 – Sunday 23 March 2025

To celebrate National Lottery Open Week and to say thank you to National Lottery players, we are offering free entry into Exeter Cathedral from 15-23 March when you show your National Lottery ticket, Instant Win Game, or scratchcard (physical or digital). Find out more at bit.ly/ec-open-week

Devon Youth Orchestras Spring Concert

Friday 21 March at 7:30pm

The exciting sound of some of Devon's most accomplished young orchestral musicians will fill Exeter Cathedral. This is a celebration of orchestral music performed by young players from all parts of Devon. Find out more and book your ticket at bit.ly/ec-dyo-spring

Exeter Chamber Choir: J.S. Bach's St John Passion

Saturday 29 March at 7:30pm

Exeter Chamber Choir, Orchestra and Soloists present J.S. Bach's dramatic setting of the Easter Passion according to St. John, at Exeter Cathedral. Find out more and book your ticket at bit.ly/ecc-st-john-passion