

# CHESTER CATHEDRAL NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2018

ISSUE 38

## A Place One Goes To Be Restored

Dear friends, some Friday mornings I do the school run. I am awoken before the crack of dawn and enjoy the scramble of getting myself and two little people ready for the day. I take my eldest grandson to school experiencing the school carpark which reflects the whacky races. After which myself and my three year old granddaughter Connie find ourselves going to Booth's supermarket in Knutsford where we catch up with Gramps and a bacon bap is devoured by at least one of us. I actually find myself looking forward to this routine, but then I don't get out much anymore!

This does cause me to reflect though. A couple of weeks ago during the lull in the conversation I began to look around and noticed that many people there were alone. Many were elderly, though by no means all, but there they sat eating what looked like the main meal of the day, with nothing but their own thoughts for company. Of course we are all different and some relish their own company but for some eating alone can be miserable. What a great ministry some of our supermarket and garden centre cafes offer. I also include in this ministry Chester Cathedral's refectory.

A **refectory** (also **frater, frater house, fraternity**) is a dining room especially in monasteries boarding schools, and academic institutions. It derives from the Latin *reficere* "to remake or restore," via Late Latin *refectorium*, which means "a place one goes to be restored" (cf. "restaurant").

In the notices on 4th February there was an announcement that the Refectory was to close for two weeks and that there would be no coffee available after the services. An inconvenience of course but actually a greater loss and thank goodness only a temporary one. If it was only about the coffee after the service that would be simple.

For the ministry that takes place in the Refectory is immeasurable and I want to give thanks for it and commend those who offer it.

Each day young and old engage and are refreshed and many restored through the care and hospitality offered from staff and customer.

Business meetings take place where important decisions are made. People come each day to a safe place where they are welcomed. The stranger, the tourist, the child, the homeless are not turned away. All this is exactly what we should be doing and recognise this as the work of the Kingdom of God and goodness. Jesus using us amongst the most unlikely people in our everyday encounters in the refectory in the shop on admissions at the front door each and every one of us having a part to play.

The Cathedral was founded as a Benedictine Abbey in 1092 and a portion of the Rule of St Benedict is still said each morning at Morning Prayer at 8.30 am in St Anselm's chapel. The Rule is a set of 73 precepts as a guide for monks to live their Christian lives. Chapter 53 is about hospitality. In the bible Jesus had much to say about hospitality.

**Romans 12:13** <sup>13</sup> Share with the LORD's people who are in need. Practice **hospitality**.

**Hebrews 13:2** <sup>2</sup> Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown **hospitality** to angels without knowing it.



*continued inside...*

### In this issue...

- GIFT TO THE CATHEDRAL
- BISHOP BERTIN MWALE SUBI VISITS
- LEGO COUNT
- NEW CATHEDRAL CD RECORDED
- PAUSE FOR HOPE

## WORSHIP IN THE CATHEDRAL

### Weekdays:

- 08.30 Morning Prayer  
St Anselm's Chapel
- 12.30 Eucharist  
Lady Chapel
- 17.30 Choral Evensong  
Quire

### Saturdays:

- 09.30 Morning Prayer and Eucharist  
St Werburgh's Chapel
- 16.15 Choral Evensong  
Quire

### Sundays:

- 08.00 Prayer Book Communion Service
- 10.00 Cathedral Eucharist
- 11.30 Sung Mattins  
*(or Prayer Book Eucharist  
on 1st and 3rd Sundays)*
- 15.30 Choral Evensong
- 18.30 Evening Service

## IN RESIDENCE:

- Sunday: All clergy
- Monday: Canon Jeremy Dussek
- Tuesday: The Acting Dean
- Wednesday: Barry Wilson /  
Revd Denise Williams
- Thursday: Canon Jeremy Dussek
- Friday: Barry Wilson
- Saturday: Rotated clergy



J S Bach

# St John Passion

Good Friday 2018 | 8pm

Chester Cathedral Choir  
Eighteenth Century Sinfonia

Philip Rushforth - conductor

Robert Murray - Evangelist  
Tristan Hambleton - Christus  
Alison Rose - Soprano  
Marta Fontanals-Simmons - Mezzo Soprano  
Marcus Farnsworth - Bass

FREE - retiring donation

## Did You Know..? UPDATE FROM THE ACTING DEAN

- I am delighted that Chester Cathedral have been given 14 cartoons which are planning sketches by Eden of the cloister windows. They are a generous gift from the Grosvenor Estate and are currently stored in the library. We plan to display one shortly by the appropriate cloister window (further details in a separate article)
- Liz West's exhibition Our Colour Reflection in the Chapter House attracted many visitors especially photographers who enjoyed the changing light during the day and the month
- The interviews for the new Dean are taking place on Monday 5 & Tuesday 6 March. It is anticipated that he/she will be installed in September

Jane Brooke

## A Place One Goes To Be Restored continued...

**1 Peter 4:9** <sup>9</sup>Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

**Matthew 10:40-42** <sup>40</sup>Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup>Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. <sup>42</sup>And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."

At the time of writing this article most of us are unsure what the refurbishment will look like and no doubt there will be many opinions as to the décor and the menu and choice of furniture when the Refectory reopens.

However my attention was drawn to a popular legend that claims that the rule of Saint Benedict contains the following passage and I have to say I haven't found it yet but I do like it.

*If any pilgrim monk come from distant parts, if with wish as a guest to dwell in the monastery, and will be content with the customs which he finds in the place, and do not perchance by his lavishness disturb the monastery, but is simply content with what he finds: he shall be received, for as long a time as he desires. If, indeed, he find fault with anything, or expose it, reasonably, and with the humility of charity, the Abbot shall discuss it prudently, lest perchance God had sent [him] for this very thing.*

*But if he have been found "gossipy and contumacious" in the time of his sojourn as guest, not only ought he not to be joined to the body of the monastery, but also it shall be said to him, honestly, that he must depart. "If he does not go, let two stout monks, in the name of God, explain the matter to him."<sup>[8]</sup>*

I don't think that I have seen the two stout monks around but I shall keep looking in case we ever need them and continue to give thanks and pray for the growth in ministry of hospitality that we are called to give in Jesus' name.

Many Blessings

Rev'd. Denise (Priest-Vicar)

## Cathedral calls out for votes to bag a share of Tesco's bag fund

We're bidding to 'bag' a fantastic cash boost from the Tesco 'Bags of Help' initiative.

Tesco and Groundwork, through their community funding scheme offer grants of £4,000, £2,000 and £1,000 raised from carrier bag sales in Tesco stores. Our Bathroom Refurbishment project has been shortlisted in the Chester region for one of these grants.

Voting is open in all Tesco Chester stores throughout March and April. Customers will cast their vote using a token given to them at the check-out in store each time they shop. So we implore you to ask for tokens each and every time you're in a Tesco store, and to support our cause.

You may vote for Chester Cathedral now and through until the end of April at all Chester Tesco stores.

## Gift to the Cathedral

Chester Cathedral has been given 14 cartoons by Eden of the cloister windows by the Grosvenor Estate.

They show the artist's sketches for the windows. They will be exhibited, a few at a time, on easels near to the window they represent during the year. It is a very generous gift and very timely since a small group of volunteers are creating a guide to every window in the cloister. They consist of a retired surgeon from London, a photographer, a researcher and a historian. The final guide which will take at least a year to complete, will be available on the website and various sections will be used to create leaflets as guides and also provide extra information when we display the cartoons. Please look out for them!

**Jane Brooke**



## Bishop Bertin Mwale Subi visits

I was privileged to take Bishop Bertin Mwale Subi, Bishop of Katanga in the Democratic Republic of Congo around the cathedral last month. He was accompanied by Ellen Wolander who is the Chair of First Step Initiative - [firststepinitiative.org](http://firststepinitiative.org) and Ian Harvey who set up work to support street children in DRC in partnership with the Diocese of Katanga and now supports it from the UK via the Congo Children Trust a faith based UK charity - [congochildrentrust.org](http://congochildrentrust.org).

Bishop Bertin requested prayers for peace in Congo and for Christian Ministry. He also added a brick to the LEGO cathedral and enjoyed a 60 minute Cathedral at Height tour.

**Jane Brooke**

## Refectory Re-opens!

The refurbished Refectory Café has now re-opened and looks superb - with its new servery, brand-new chairs and tables. Credit must also go to the Refectory team who polished the Refectory floor before re-opening.

The Refectory Manager, Gianni, promises lots more exciting additions to the Refectory offering over the coming months! Do pay the Refectory a visit very soon, and let us know your thoughts.

## New Cathedral Choir CD coming soon...

The Cathedral Choir recorded a new CD in early February which will be available to purchase later in the year. Libby Burgess, the Producer of the recording, wrote afterwards:

*"Dear Philip,*

*Thank you for such a lovely few days with the cathedral choir last week. I was so impressed with the standard of singing and music-making, and was made so welcome by everyone. You are clearly doing a brilliant job; your approach engenders such a positive, focused atmosphere, and imbues all the singing with real spirit (something which is lacking in far too many cathedrals!).*

*Please thank the choir for me - organists, girls, boys and adults - for their hard work, focus, patience, friendliness, and above all their really excellent singing. I look forward to hearing the disc in due course and am sure it is going to be a good one!"*

We all know how much we appreciate the music in the cathedral but it is always good to know that others enjoy the professionalism and high standard achieved.

**Jane Brooke**

# Mission Group News

West Cheshire Foodbank is going through a transitional period. The Foodbank's three year start-up support funding is ending, and now the organisation is wanting to be put onto a sustainable financial footing. This would mean that as well as being able to collect the food needed, it will also be able to pay the organisation and distribution costs.

The Foodbank was set up in 2012 and provides three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred in a crisis. All referrals to the Foodbank are made by frontline professionals, such as social workers, health visitors, debt advisors, etc.

As well individual volunteers, the Foodbank is looking to partner with businesses, that could offer employee time to assist at the Foodbank, campaign, give access to premises and equipment or provide training. Recently, an employee of Essar gave a review of the health and safety provisions, and a local joinery business fixed the entrance door.

It is now imperative that assistance is given so that the Foodbank can keep providing a vital service within our community. To find out more, you can visit the Foodbank website at [westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk](http://westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk). You can also donate money directly via the website - whatever donations whether food or monetary, all work towards keeping the organisation going.

*Update:* as a direct result of the inspiration gained from a visit to the West Cheshire Foodbank last October, the cathedral's link parish in Kondopoga, north Russia, has now opened the first ever foodbank in Russia.

Rachel Kelly



## LEGO count

The brick count for the Chester Cathedral in LEGO project is now at **126,829** - still a good way to go! Do please encourage your friends and family to visit us - and contribute to the project. All funds help support the Cathedral Education Trust.

Also, if you use Facebook, do Follow us at [facebook.com/chestercathedralinlego](https://facebook.com/chestercathedralinlego)

Help us to reduce the amount of paper and ink we use to produce this newsletter by receiving it by email.

To do this, simply email me at [kevin.baxter@chestercathedral.com](mailto:kevin.baxter@chestercathedral.com)

Rest assured, you won't receive any other content, unless you ask to do so.

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Articles submitted by  
Friday 23 March

Newsletter published  
Sunday 1 April

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CHESTER  
CATHEDRAL

# Forthcoming Events

**Chester Christian Aid Lent Lunches** - organised by City Centre Churches Together  
Monday 12 Noon - 1.30pm (5, 12, 19 March)  
at the Quaker Meeting House, Frodsham Street, Chester  
Please join them for a simple meal - donations to Christian Aid

The cathedral team are hosting their Lent Lunch at the Quaker Meeting House on Monday 19 March; do please come and support us.

## Cake Stall in the Cathedral Cloisters

Saturday 10 March

The Cathedral Mission Group and Sunday School come together to offer cakes ready for Mother's Day on Sunday 11 March. Please come along, buy something beautiful and support the Mission work of the cathedral



## Pause for Hope

Pause for Hope returns to the cathedral on Sunday 3 June at 3.30pm. Bishop Forster will be celebrating together with RC Bishop Mark Davies and Rev'd. John Kingsley, URC chaplain to the Countess of Chester Hospital.

The aim of Pause for Hope is to bring together in prayer all those who have been affected by cancer or involved in its management or care - patients, families, carers, doctors, nurses, administrators and scientists.

The service is uplifting and consists of music, prayers and candle lighting. The music will be provided by the Cathedral Choir and Cheshire Chord Company. All are welcome.



## Are you a Friend of Chester Cathedral?

The Friends of the Cathedral support many aspects of cathedral life, including music and worship, the provision of flowers, future developments and more; the only qualification to join is a love of the cathedral and everyone is warmly invited to become a Friend. Visits to interesting places are organised regularly.

Application forms are available at the Welcome Desk. For more information contact the Honorary Secretary on 07543 879337 or email [friendsofchestercathedral@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofchestercathedral@gmail.com)