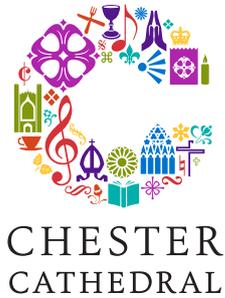


CHESTER CATHEDRAL NEWSLETTER



JULY 2018

ISSUE 42

Roses Grow On You

Absolutely Fabulous! Champagne moment! Nearest and Dearest! All my loving! You may wonder if I'm talking about my family. Certainly not. I'm talking about my roses!

They say that life can be just a bowl of cherries or is it a bed of roses. The lovely weather we've had this spring has probably encouraged us to spend more time in the open air. Perhaps in a garden or a park. If not can I encourage you to buy yourself a bunch of roses and reflect on their beauty and just how like them we are as human beings.

As Christians we accept that God wants good things for us. We talk about life as a journey with many stopping places on the way, people we meet, some stay with us, some come into our lives and go. We find ourselves in places, relationships and situations that were unplanned and it's unsettling and we struggle to find our way.

Perhaps we find ourselves having to make decisions that will affect the rest of our lives. We want to know where next to go in life.

One way of discerning God's way for us is to give ourselves a time for some reflection of our relationship with God and his endless love for us.

Perhaps a bunch of roses at this time of the year may just assist as we realise just how like us they are.

How do they grow? How do we grow?

- Things to remember first and foremost is that manure is good for them!!! And plenty of it. Though probably not what they would necessarily choose.

So in those moments when we find ourselves 'up to our neck in it' remember that is often the place where we will grow the most.



The place of enrichment.

- They bloom in the most unlikely places and are still absolutely beautiful. We may be asked to try something new that we've never done before. Or encourage others to have a go and find that we blossom. I see so many people in the Cathedral offering their time to others sacrificially and blossoming through those encounters with others.

- Roses don't need anywhere special to grow. They don't have to have a certain place or background or inner planting arrangements. Just put the roots into the soil in order to spread.

Consider their growth and our growth.

- They have thorns which can make them hard to hold - so do we. Sometimes we too are difficult and prickly and have to be treated and treat others with kid gloves. That's fine as long as we acknowledge that. Perhaps we can offer to God in our prayers some of our thorns which hurt others and those thorns which have hurt us and yet the relationship still blossoms.

- Some of the roses have some tightly curled up buds, there is no way of telling what they may come out like, or even if they will come out. They have to be given time and the right conditions.

Like us some of our hopes and dreams blossom, some don't. Some may just be a bud of an idea.

- They need light to get this far and lighter for them to continue to bloom - we need the light and knowledge and trust of God's love for us.

- Their flower is one of beauty, they give such joy to others and to God who created them. We too when we are kind and caring and offer our gifts unconditionally give such joy to those around us.

- They could go on to complete fulfillment of their potential and to live in all its fullness, or they could stay as they are; this will depend on many things.

However we are all called to flourish, to be whole and free from disease like roses, and to tend the other roses around us to watch for the thorns and the manure of life that may catch us out unaware and then yes maybe, life really will be a bed of roses --- and therefore sometimes very painful!

The rose is a rose,
And was always a rose.
But the theory now goes
That the apple's a rose,
And the pear is, and so's
The plum, I suppose.
The dear only knows
What will next prove a rose.
You, of course, are a rose -
But were always a rose.
The Rose Family

Robert Frost

**Denise
Priest Vicar**

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

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Sicillian Gala Evening

Saturday 21 July | 7pm

The 2018 series of Italian evenings continues with the 'Inspector Montalbano Gala Evening' – where celebrity chefs Francesco Gotti and Gianluca Tomas recreate classic dishes from the island of Sicily – the set of the detective drama.

£50 per person

Book Now – call the Refectory on 01244 500964

Did You Know..? UPDATE FROM THE ACTING DEAN



- The Vice Dean will become the Archdeacon of Montgomery on Saturday 6 October at 3.30pm at St Asaph Cathedral. Please let Barry know if you plan to attend
- We are looking forward to the Dean being installed on Saturday 8 September at 2.30pm. Please put it in your diary
- The staging has been approved as a moveable item in the cathedral. It will be lighter and easier to move and is funded externally. The staging is not the dais. When there are any designs for the altar and surrounding furniture, they will come to the congregation for consultation
- The Chester Cathedral in LEGO project passed 140,000 bricks this month; do please help this project along by telling friends and family about it, and encouraging them to take part

Jane Brooke

2018 Mystery Plays begin



Wednesday 28 June saw the 2018 series of the Chester Mystery Plays open to a full audience in the nave.

In total, there are nineteen performances, and a number have already sold-out, so if you are planning to watch, don't delay in purchasing your tickets.

During the run of the Plays, our 'Chester Cathedral in LEGO' team are calling upon the generosity of ticket holders in an attempt to build one complete module of the project before the final performance on Saturday 14 July.



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY



Jazzectomy in the Garth

Saturday 21 July | 7.30pm

A six piece band formed in 2013 from five medics and a lawyer playing an electric mix of traditional and modern jazz, swing, soul and a bit of pop with a Jazzectomy twist.

Tickets £15 (including wine and canapés)

Tickets available now, from the cathedral Welcome Desk or by calling 01244 500959

Calystegia sepium 'Philhurdmanii' Bindweed, Devil's Vine CONVULVACEAE

This is a plant entirely new to cultivation. It has never been seen before but has now been introduced to the Botanical Gardens of Chester Cathedral. Unlike many plants in the gardens this one is very easy to grow;- in fact it is virtually impossible not to grow, which makes a pleasant change. This magnificent plant would take over the world, given the chance, which is why it is incarcerated in impenetrable, subterranean plastic. It can never escape. *Calystegia* flowers throughout the summer months and makes a superb pot plant. This new and exciting cultivar, may (or may not), be submitted for a Royal Horticultural Society Award of Merit.



It grows fast, very fast, not quite fast enough to see but time lapse photography reveals a helical motion, like someone staggering in pitch blackness reaching out with arms for something solid for support. It is a process known as an autonomic nutation (a movement inherent within the plant, not dependent upon any external stimulus) – anti-clockwise circumnutation (in the Northern hemisphere). The stems will embrace and entwine any object for support given the slightest and briefest sensation of touch. This is thigmotropism, plant hormones stimulated by touch, promoting rapid cell division on the opposite side of the stem to the stimuli. It demonstrates the God given sophistication and complexity of plant life almost as if the plant has a consciousness. Soul? In this case, perhaps, malevolent spirit. *Calystegia* will strangle everything it touches. It is a strange dichotomy that something so beautiful can be so obnoxious and evil, no suggestion of parallelism intended. Iron railings will withstand the tight embrace but St. Werburgh Street will never be the same again.

In the days before 'gadgets' children would 'pop' the flowers from the sepals whilst chanting 'Granny, granny – pop out of bed'.

Phil Hunt
Custos Hortorum

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

On the 15 July (or thereabouts) persons, including children, (especially children) are cordially invited to go forth, down to the bluebell woods, and there to collect seed of *Endymion (Hyacinthoides) non-scriptus* – Bluebell. Picnic obligatory. The seed is small, black and the most perfect sphere. The establishment of a small bluebell glade is proposed on the Northern Edge of Dean's Field, adjacent to the City Wall for future generations to enjoy.

Mission Group Update A Reflection from Zambia

USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel) works with Anglican Churches around the world in faith initiatives that combat difficult issues of poverty and inequality. The cathedral supports USPG through its Mission Fundraising group.

USPG's latest Prayer Diary details the aims and success of the Zambia Anglican Council's Gender Justice Project over the last twelve months. The project has a focus on encouraging communities to combat gender-based violence (GBV). The project aims to equip church leaders, traditional leaders, community volunteers, police, and health personnel with skills for how to handle GBV issues.

The project also seeks to empower women economically, so they are able to work and support themselves financially, freeing them from dependence on men. The project also reaches out to men, exploring and challenging traditional gender roles. Bishop William Mchombo, of Eastern Zambia Diocese, said: 'There is a saying that once you teach a woman you educate the whole country, but if you teach a man [you teach] just an individual. So, we have deliberately taken up a policy in educating women. At the end of the day we are talking about a nation being developed because the women are looking after their own family. Most of the men don't have jobs, but if we empower women I think we are also helping their families.'

A prayer for the project: Loving God, like a mother, you gather your children to nurture, educate, protect and encourage. Inspire your church to eradicate all violence and prejudice against women, children and men, all created in your image. Extracted from USPG's Pray with the World Church.

Christine Burkett



Can you spare some time?

The Chester Cathedral in LEGO project urgently needs help from new volunteers. Can you help, or do you know someone who is up to the challenge of fundraising for our Education Trust?

Please get in touch with Martin Barber, Volunteer Project Leader at the cathedral - martin.barber@chestercathedral.com

The cathedral roof: a quiet nursery

Some cathedrals make the headlines for falcons nesting in their tower. At Chester Cathedral, we have not made the news, nor have we featured on BBC Springwatch, but still, we have quietly had a gull nest on our South Transept roof.

And in late May these eggs became two chicks. Chester Cathedral truly is many things to many people, and now we can add, rooftop cradle to that ever growing list.

We wish these chicks all the best!

Corentyn Smith

For more behind the scenes action at Chester Cathedral why not follow the Vergers on Twitter - follow them @AVergersView



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

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

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

July Newsletter
Articles submitted by
Friday 27 July

Newsletter published
Sunday 5 August

'Family Party'

Settling in for the family celebration, I'm cosying down with Daddy and Mummy, Baby centre stage, a miniature version of ancient Grandfather - slightly in the shadows, head almost with the angels. The organ family brightly reflects the audience - ready for action, ready to begin the party.

Gentle 'tinkering of the ivories', fingers tapping, feet pedalling, stops moving apparently unaided; then sudden, powerful, all-embracing sound booms out to the furthest corners of the mighty, majestic cathedral, people's stomachs and chests resonate.

Within minutes soft intricacies take over human ears and eyes; sounds are tiny, resembling a street organ. The party has begun, the family members each chattering away, voices of varying tones, timbres, volumes, chortling, laughing, joking.

Like all parties, there are dips, lulls, crescendos, (even missed notes), but the overall feeling is upbeat, exciting, celebratory, joyful, with a just a tad of warring dispute, as the reminiscences, remembrances and old childhood memories begin:

Seaside carousels with the hurdy-gurdy, hornpipes, foghorns, Rule Britannia, Tony singing Maria in West Side Story. Talk turns to travel memorabilia, to Sweden with Abba, Indiana Jones, Bach's roll into town in swing-time, hearty walks through England, Jerusalem.

It draws late, party guests' and hosts' thoughts turn to final goodbyes; but there are still many chattering voices in the final fond farewells. Then, stepping outside, drawing breath in the quietness and warm, light summer air, the party's over, families go home to bed.

Sitting next to me, enthusiastic Edward Dawson, choirboy, whose grandfather had been given a Grand Organ Experience by the family for his birthday, and who agreed the evening was like a party not a battle.

**Nikki Bennett, Battle of the Organs
Friday 8 June 2018**

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**CHESTER
CATHEDRAL**