



The Dean writes...

GOING GREEN !

We are in the middle of the Trinity season, marked liturgically by the colour green, which reminds us to value what is ordinary in our lives. In a society that emphasises too-much high profile events, celebrations, and celebrities, it is increasingly difficult to value so much that we simply take for granted, so much that is ordinary, the people and things that actually make our lives tick! The natural world, also represented by the colour green, is an important example of what is ordinary and taken for granted, yet too often is not much valued.



THE NATURAL WORLD AS A PLAYGROUND

When Western Art moved away from painting Bible scenes, the focus moved to three main themes – the myths of ancient Greece and Rome, aristocratic portraits, and hunting. The classical myths promoted a lack of responsibility, the portraits promoted selfish individualism, and hunting scenes promoted the natural world as a playground.

The idea of the natural world as a playground, here for our use and abuse and pleasure, was extended beyond hunting to exploration and mining. There seemed to be no limits to the rape of Nature, until perhaps the 1960s, when the first men went to the Moon. Only then did we come of age, realising the limitations of our world and its shrinking resources, and our waste of those resources.

THE NATURAL POWERHOUSE OF GREEN PLANTS

It's really quite simple. All life on Earth ultimately depends on sunlight, water and plants. The green pigment chlorophyll in plants not only removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and replaces it with oxygen, but makes food for all living things in the process. Waste of water is irresponsible, and threatens life on Earth. Destruction of plants (especially jungle forests) is irresponsible, and threatens life on Earth.

ACTING TO SAVE THE WORLD

I recently stayed in a hotel in Paris. In my bathroom was a notice suggesting that if I did not insist on changing my towels every day, it would save further unnecessary waste of the World's precious water. The notice also told me that the hotel was committed to planting 5 trees for each guest who cooperated with their ecological action plan to save water.

Action may mean using less of precious resources, or recycling resources, or becoming self-sufficient in energy. For example, Coventry Cathedral is installing solar panels on its roof.

CHANGE OF ATTITUDE

Theologically, this is God's World rather than our World, and we are called to be responsible stewards of it. Green action to save the World from ecological disaster has to start from a change of attitude in ordinary people everywhere, not from Government pronouncements. We must each be personally committed to action, and also committed to action as a Cathedral community.

Prayer for October

Our God and Father, you have revealed to us the secrets of the earth, the sea and the sky.

You have enabled us to discover the animal, vegetable and mineral resources of this planet.

Teach us now to use them wisely, effectively and to the benefit of us all,
so that we may in unity enjoy the riches which you have provided,
In justice, peace and prosperity;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



CURATE'S CORNER

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

Last month I wrote about power. This month I want to write about Grace! I have now preached twice about Grace and it is still something that is on my heart and mind. I have recently become the chaplain at the University for 2 days a week and still teaching three days a week and I think I will need to be reminded very often about his Grace. Any power I have in terms of the Chaplain's job, has been given to me by the University, but ultimately it is God who gives me his strength and power to do everything I need to do. When we think we can do what we do in our own strength and power we push God out of the equation and that is never good. Keep God at the centre and we won't go far wrong.

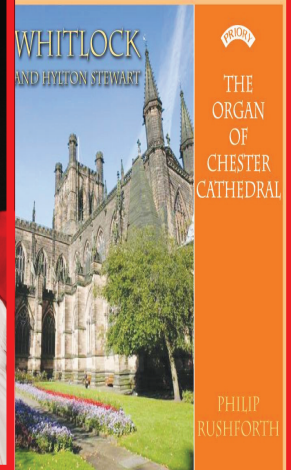


THE GRACE OF GOD upon my life
Is not dependent upon me,
On what I have done
Or deserved,
But a gift of mercy from God
Which has been given unto me
Because of His love,

His love for me.
It is unending, unending,
Unlimited, unmerited,
The grace of God
given unto me.

Judy Pruett
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kingswaysongs.com

PHILIP RUSHFORTH'S LATEST CD ON SALE



Featuring, for the first time on any recording, the organ music of Charles Hylton Stewart, organist at Chester Cathedral from 1930-1932 .



CHARITY BEGINS

That was the working title of a documentary to be screened on the Community Channel about the work of St Gregory's Foundation, the small London based charity through which we send our donations to the cathedral's link parish in Kondopoga. In August I travelled to London to be interviewed with Sarah Gale (nee Dennis) about our work in support of this charity. The interviewer asked



me why we raised money for a charity working abroad when there was so much poverty in Britain, and if abroad then why Russia? She asked whether our supporters also gave to other charities and of course I was able to say yes without hesitation, for myself and for others I know. I also pointed out that half our fundraising is for our own Education Department – real 'charity beginning at home'. We have also helped the work in Melanesia through donations of books, money to ship books and a dedicated stall in the forthcoming Extravaganza in November.

I recounted the experiences of the pilgrims who have travelled to Russia twice and our shock at the poverty we found there. I also said that when I give talks and PowerPoint presentations the overwhelming response is 'we had no idea'. We have been constantly impressed and encouraged by the wonderful work being done in Russia with relatively small amounts of money, a drop in the ocean compared with some of the larger charities, and by the ongoing friendships we have established there. People see the few Russian oligarchs with so much wealth and do not see the villages without running water in the countryside that we have visited, or the children as young as three living on the streets.

One day our giving will not be needed, as Russians are increasingly being enabled to raise their own money (which was illegal until a few years ago). When they become self-sufficient St Gregory's will become redundant – the aim surely of all charities. In the meantime we will support the selfless, giving people we have met as much as we can, while continuing to give to other good causes whenever it comes up. To this end we will all be supporting the Missionary Weekend in October and hope that our church will continue to be what Frank Field praised us for being – an 'outward looking church'. Jesus never told us to just look after our own!

St. Luke

Greek Physician, disciple of St. Paul, author of the St. Luke's gospel and the Acts of the Apostles. One of the first members of the Christian community at Antioch. Believed to have lived to the age of 84. In



Luke 1-2 he wrote of the Virgin Birth of Christ, and the parables of the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son, and recorded the words of Christ in the Passion to the women of Jerusalem and to the Good Thief

Many of his observations on the links between sacred and profane history have been confirmed by archaeology. He is believed to have been a painter and to have painted several icons of the Blessed Virgin Mary, but these cannot be authenticated.

As a result he is the Patron Saint of Artists as well as Doctors and Surgeons.

He is sometimes depicted with an ox which is believed to be as a result of his reference to the sacrifice in the Temple at the beginning of his gospel. Translations of his relics are claimed in both Constantinople and Padua. His Feast Day of October 18th has traditionally been celebrated by services being held for members of the medical profession.

Koinonia

At the time of writing the last of the Koinonia clay figures are being collected and taken back to the schools, nursing home, business and community groups where they were made back in June and July. Many thanks to all who made a figure and let us borrow it for the clay community that totalled 5,064.

The exhibition in August provided visitors with an additional place to reflect, many leaving prayers for their own communities and the troubled world. Families and visiting children joined education volunteers in activities on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and learnt about the roles the Benedictine Monks may have played in their community. Children became scribes, gardeners, candle makers and cooks. The Cathedral was invited to display a small section of the exhibition on the family day of 'Celebrate Cheshire' at Chester Racecourse on Saturday 17th September. The day gave excellent opportunities to meet local families and share with them some of the activities on offer at the Cathedral.



Choristers 'Footsteps'

The Cathedral clergy, Readers in training and the Education Officer have begun a programme of Bible Study with the probationary choristers. The boys will meet on a Monday and the girls on a Tuesday for a 40 minute session using a Christian Union publication as the starting point for the study.

Pilgrim Week

The Education Department is finalising plans for this year's pilgrim week which will take place in the first week of October. 729 Year 5 pupils will come on Pilgrimage from their schools to the Cathedral to be welcomed by a huge team of volunteers. Please pray for the volunteers, teachers and pupils who will take part.

Each child is given a Pilgrim Badge as they listen to the St Werburgh's Story in the Lady Chapel as a memento of their day. The education department and the shop have re-designed the Pilgrim Badge this year. It is available for £2.50 from the Cathedral shop, I could suggest it would make an excellent stocking filler but perhaps it's too early to mention anything Christmas related!

You can see the new badge on the back page of this issue.

Worship in the Cathedral:

Weekdays:

- 0830 Morning Prayer (St Anselm's Chapel)
- 1230 Eucharist (1130 on Thursdays)
- 1730 Choral Evensong (said service on Wednesdays)

Saturdays:

- 0915 Morning Prayer (St Werburgh's Chapel)
- 0930 Eucharist (St Werburgh's Chapel)
- 1615 Choral Evensong

Sundays:

- 0800 Prayer Book Communion Service (said)
- 1000 Cathedral Eucharist
- 1130 Sung Mattins (or Prayer Book Eucharist 1st & 3rd Sundays)
- 1530 Choral Evensong
- 1830 Evening Service

All subject to occasional variations.

In Residence - Day by Day

Sunday	All Clergy
Monday	Canon Peter Howell-Jones
Tuesday	Canon Jane Brooke
Wednesday	The Dean
Thursday	Canon Chris Humphries
Friday	Canon Peter Howell-Jones
Saturday	Canon Chris Humphries

Chester Cathedral Nave Choir

...is recruiting singers!

A mixed-voice choir, the Nave Choir sings on Thursday and Sunday evenings, and at other special occasions throughout the year.

As well as singing for services in the cathedral, the choir regularly performs in concerts and tours, and has a very active social life.

To find out more about joining, please contact Benjamin Chewter:

Telephone: 01244 500977

Email: benjamin.chewter@chestercathedral.com

Bible Talk Lecture Series Autumn 2011



Bible Talks are a series of lectures and discussions that take place in the Cloister Room of Chester Cathedral from 1.10pm until 2.00pm. There is no charge for attending, although donations towards the work of the Cathedral are welcome. This year's Autumn series will focus on:

Virtues and the Bible



Wednesday 12th October	The Dean of Chester, The Very Revd Professor Gordon McPhate
Justice	
Wednesday 19th October	The Vice Dean, The Revd Canon Peter Howell-Jones
Prudence	
Wednesday 26th October	The Revd Canon Chris Humphries
Self Control	
Wednesday 9th November	The Vice Dean, The Revd Canon Peter Howell-Jones
Perseverance	
Wednesday 16th November	The Revd Canon Jane Brooke and Nicola Preston
Faith	
Wednesday 23rd November	The Archdeacon of Chester, The Venerable Dr Michael Gilbertson
Hope	
Wednesday 30th November	The Revd Dot Gosling
Love	

Future series will be in Spring 2012 focusing on the 1622 Prayer Book and in Summer 2012 on the Sermon on the Mount.

If you would like to be added to the Bible Talk mailing list, please contact our Education Officer, nicola.preston@chestercathedral.com.

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The Friends' Autumn Lecture

"The Dead Sea Scrolls and Communities of Faith"

An illustrated lecture by
Professor George Brooke



Tuesday 11 October 2011 at 7.30 p.m.
in the Chapter House

Professor George Brooke is the Rylands Professor of Biblical Criticism and Exegesis at the University of Manchester and has written several books about the Dead Sea Scrolls and their interpretation. He is married to Canon Jane Brooke and is a Friend and a member of the Congregation.

In this talk, he will be looking at the history of the Scrolls and discussing a number of issues including the understanding of the community as temple, the place of right order in worship, the joining of heaven and earth, incense offerings, the priesthood and the messianic status of the whole community and other ideas.

Tickets: £5.00 pp. including light refreshments in the Refectory after the lecture. Available from: The Cathedral Box Office, 01244 500959 or www.chestercathedral.com

Cathedral Biscuits!

The Cathedral is looking into commissioning a range of Cathedral Biscuits, sales of which will be exclusively targeted at addressing the legacy debt of the Song School. On Sunday the 16th October 2011, we will be serving refreshments with a selection of biscuits in the Refectory after the 10am Eucharist, and we would welcome your comments. A big thank you to Janet Walker for her continued assistance.

Shop News....

They're back. After many years absence the Chester Cathedral Pilgrim badges have been reborn. Or should that be re-hatched?



The Pilgrim badge reminds us of the miracle performed by St Werburgh, who brought back to life the bones of a goose after it had been stolen, cooked and eaten by a servant. If you would like one of these pilgrim badges, they can be purchased in our Cathedral Shop for £2.50.

The Cathedral Retreat 2011

The Art of Advent

Praying Advent with painting, poetry and prose

From 6pm Friday 25th November until 2pm Sunday 27th November

Led by Canon Jane Brooke and The Revd Christine Bull

Foxhill Retreat and Conference Centre Cost £98

Booking forms now available from Canon Jane, Revd Christine or the Cathedral Office

Missionary Weekend

The main fundraising event will be an afternoon with;

**Tea & Cakes
On Saturday 15th
October
At
8, Leahurst Close, Hoole
from
2pm—4pm**

Payment will be by donation.

Concerts and Events at Chester Cathedral

Tickets

08 October Rhos Orpheus Male Voice Choir 7.30pm 01244 500959
In aid of British Heart Foundation's "Mending Broken Heart's Appeal"

11 October Friends Autumn Lecture 7.30pm 01244 500959
The Dead Sea Scrolls, Illustrated by Professor George Brooke

On Sunday 16th October there will be a retiring collection after the 10am service. All proceeds will be for the Bible Society.