



The Dean Writes...

COVENANT NOT CONTRACT!

I wish you a very happy New Year for 2010. The New Year is likely to be momentous for the Cathedral in at least two ways: the outcome of the General election, and the ongoing and deepening economic recession. For now, I turn to the topic of Volunteer Agreements which have proved to be contentious at a number of English cathedrals recently, necessary as they now are.



THE BIBLICAL COVENANT BACKGROUND

The fundamental form of biblical Covenant is this: "You shall be my people, and I will be your God." A Covenant begins with an exchange of gifts. The Cathedral offers to someone the opportunity to use skills and talents in the service of God, and the Volunteer offers those skills and talents. Next, a Covenant contains a Promise. The Cathedral promises to exercise a duty of care towards its Volunteers. Then, a Covenant requires acceptance of obligations and responsibilities; which is where the Volunteer Handbook and Agreement come in. Finally, a Covenant is renewed by an act of re-commitment between its partners; hence our annual Service of Volunteer commitment.

OUR DUTY OF CARE

Insurance cover is part of the Cathedral's duty of care towards its Volunteers; so, too, is provision of relevant Health and Safety training. In case of an accident we'd need to know basic information about our Volunteers, including age and next of kin. We might also need to know what specific Health and Safety training each had received. Those Volunteers who assist in our Worship as Readers, Chalice Assistants, and Intercessors will NOT need to complete a Volunteer Agreement. Only those directly supervising children and vulnerable adults will need CRB clearance.

THE PROBLEM WITH "ONE SIZE FITS ALL" FORMS

The Agreement Form may seem to request too much personal information. Only the very basic personal information is essential; and the rest is OPTIONAL, and is best suited to our assessment of new Volunteer recruits. The extra information will allow us to best match new people to roles, and even allow some to be flexible about their roles as appropriate, and always as mutually agreed.

BACK TO THE COVENANT AGREEMENT

The Volunteer Agreement is essentially a Covenant between the Cathedral and its Volunteers, for their mutual benefit and protection, and should bring us closer, not drive us apart! I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have already returned a signed Volunteer Agreement to the Cathedral Volunteer Co-ordinator. Can I make a plea to those Volunteers who have not yet done so, to return their Agreements as soon as possible?

For anyone who has further disquiet or questions about Volunteer Agreements, I propose holding meetings with Volunteers on 7 and 8 January at 10am in the Cloister Room. Please come if you wish. With me at these meetings will be Mr Edward Walton, the Volunteer Co-ordinator, and Mrs Sharon Price, the Cathedral HR Manager.

THE DEAN



Chester Cathedral

Saturday Singing Club

Open to all children ages 6-11 years

FREE OF CHARGE

10am-11.30am

Starts Saturday 30 January

For more information or to register,

contact Carmella De Lucia on 01244 325756 or
email: carmella.delucia@chestercathedral.com

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

"You are witnesses"

The next exciting event
is the Service
at Chester Cathedral



Sunday 24 January 2010 at
3.30pm

Our preacher is Revd Jonathan
Edwards, General Secretary of the
Baptist Union of Great Britain

ALL ARE WELCOME

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If you are a UK Tax Payer, your generous donations go so much (28%) further if you fill in your details on the Gift Aid envelopes provided. You'll need a pen of course!

Thank you so
much
for your
generous
support.

giftaid it

Chester Cathedral Nave Choir

Directed by **Ian Roberts**
with **Simon Walker**
and **Philip Rushforth** organ

Mostly Mozart

Programme to include
Mozart Missa Brevis in D
(KV 194)



Saturday 23rd January 7.30 pm

Tickets £10

From the Cathedral Box Office

www.chestercathedral.com

01244500959

George Chivers Retires

After twenty two years working in the Cathedral Library as a member of the volunteer team, the last five as Honorary Cathedral Librarian, Dr George Chivers has had to resign due to ill health. George took over as Cathedral Librarian from Canon Roy Barker in 2004. At the time many of the books were in boxes. The Library had had to be used as a choir practice room during the building of the Song School, and after the choir left, there was still a great deal to do. Much work was done during 2005 in the upper rooms, above St Anselm's Chapel, but the main Library Room needed repainting and its floor varnishing, special blinds had to be fitted to the windows, six sloping-top bookcases had to be refurbished, and three display cases, donated to the Cathedral by the John Rylands Library, had to be put in place and wired for lighting. Then the books needed to be unpacked and placed on the shelves, the biggest job of all. Under George's enthusiastic but gentle leadership, the team of Library volunteers worked very hard for a special opening in February 2007 with Professor Philip Alexander, and for the formal re-opening by the Duke of Westminster later that year. Since then the rebinding of some of the older books has continued, together with the rest of the work associated with the care of a very precious collection of books, that makes up what Professor Alexander described as 'one of the best libraries of its kind in the North West'. The Chapter as a whole, and I, as Cathedral Librarian in particular, are very sad about George's resignation and the reason for it. We wish him very well for the future, and thank him most warmly for all he has done.

Trevor Dennis

www.chestercathedral.com

The Dedication of Icons

Newsletter - January 2010

The icon of the Madonna and Child from our link Parish of Kondopoga in Russia was dedicated at the Cathedral Eucharist on Advent Sunday, in the presence of Mother Julia, who, together with Mother Irina, the wife of another of the priests in Kondopoga, had painted it. It stands in the



sanctuary of St Werburgh's Chapel, on a marvellous temporary stand designed and made by Tom Brodbelt. The design for the permanent stand will need to be approved by the Cathedral Fabric Advisory Committee, when it next meets. Mother Julia had flown in from Russia to restore the other two icons we had commissioned from her, which had got damaged in

transit. That she did, and you would never know any harm had come to them. They will be hung on the east wall of the Lady Chapel, behind the altar. Their themes have been chosen with that Chapel in mind: an Annunciation, and a Deposition - the taking down of Christ's body from the cross. Many icons of the Crucifixion or Deposition show Mary as a bystander.

Because the icon is going to hang in her Chapel, we chose a tradition that puts her centre stage, cradling the body of her son in her lap. It is a most poignant image.

The icons will be dedicated at the Epiphany Carol Service at 3.30pm on Sunday, January 10. We mean to process them into the Quire and lay them against or on the High Altar, and then put them in place in the Lady Chapel some time the following week.

The Friends of the Cathedral have not only paid for the icons and their despatch to the UK, but have also met all the costs of Mother Julia's visit. We are most grateful to them for their generosity, and for their enthusiastic support at every stage.

The icons come out of prayer and from a profound and extraordinarily energetic and compassionate Christian faith. They are works of very great power, and can take us deep into the presence of God. You only have to stand or kneel before them and hold your gaze, to appreciate what I mean. Aidan Hart, an icon painter who lives near Shrewsbury, and who knows Mother Julia of old, says this: 'The bright sadness of compassion; divine beauty; nostalgia for paradise; God's union with us in Christ and the subsequent possibility of our union with God; the communion of heaven and earth; humility. These are just some of the realities that create the world of icons.'

Certainly, all these realities are captured and held by our icons from Russia. They will be a constant reminder of our friends in Kondopoga, and will encourage us to pray for them and for their remarkable work in that town and region. Meanwhile, back in Russia Mother Julia is busy painting icons for the iconostasis in their own new church, and preparing for the children's winter camp at the dacha they have built. She said she was not at all tired after her visit to Chester. 'Quite the reverse. I was able to relax and came away with some wonderful impressions.' On 16 December, when she wrote, it was -23 degrees in Kondopoga. She hoped it wouldn't be quite so cold for the camp in early January.

Trevor Dennis

65 years and still going strong....

The Cathedral is extremely proud to congratulate Head Sidesperson **David Nield** on a remarkable 65 years of service here at Chester. David's duties began on Christmas Eve 1944, at the age of just 16. Since then, he has remained a steadfastly reliable member of our Cathedral community, and we are honoured to have him on our staff.

The world as we know it today is completely different to when David started here all those years ago. Back in 1944, the Second World War was still going on, television was virtually a brand new concept, and mobile phones were unheard of for at least another 40 years.

Technology aside, David has been here to see the Cathedral celebrate huge milestones over the past seven decades, such as the Distribution of the Royal Maundy Money during the Cathedral's 900th anniversary, which he describes as a "very fond memory". Here's to the next 65 years!



Confirmation Classes

As usual there will be a Confirmation Service in the Cathedral on Easter Eve and all those interested in exploring Confirmation, both old and young, are invited to make themselves known to the clergy. Those under 18 should submit their names to Canon Humphries on or before Sunday 24 January, and adults should give their names to our Priest Pastor, the Revd Christine Bull, by the same date.

If you are not sure whether you will wish to be confirmed or not, please still come forward. One of the things we will do is explore what Confirmation means, and you will be able to decide for yourselves whether to go forward. Preparation classes will be held during Lent and the far side of Easter.

Details of dates will be given once we have the lists of names and know more about when people will be available.

Chris Humphries

Cathedral Choir

The Cathedral Choir have taken their well deserved Christmas break and will be returning to sing on Thursday 7 January 2010.



Claire Chatterton Moves On

As many of you already know, Claire is leaving the Cathedral to return to working for the Open University. She will be able to work from home while continuing to recuperate from her recent illness.

When Claire arrived as Education Officer, she had a hard act to follow. Judy Davies, the Cathedral's first Education Officer, had developed the work to a level that was nationally recognised. Twice Judy had won the Sandford Award for excellence, and education officers in other cathedrals had come to see what she was doing here. Claire did a brilliant job. Like Judy, she was as skilled at looking after nursery children, or infants and junior, as she was with secondary, or university students. She sustained Judy's standards and maintained the proven successes, such as Pilgrim Days or the Sixth Form Conference, while expanding the work of the department in significant ways. She introduced puppets into some of the tours with younger children, and devised more quizzes for them, and began holiday activity days for families, and tours for groups of Scouts, Cubs, and Beavers. She and her volunteers were themselves given the Sandford Award in the summer, and thoroughly deserved it.

We will miss Claire greatly, and wish her a full and speedy recovery from her illness, and all the very best for the future.

While she has been off sick, members of staff in the Cathedral Office and her volunteers have done a marvellous job in maintaining the service to schools, and I would want to take this opportunity to thank them for all they have done. Now that we know Claire is leaving, we have begun discussing employing a temporary Education Officer, until such time (not too far off, I would hope) as we can appoint a permanent successor. The money is already in the budget for next year, and we are determined that the excellent work that Judy and Claire have done over the past 16 years should be continued and again developed further.

Trevor Dennis

Chester Cathedral

An Epiphany Celebration
with Carols and Readings

sung by

the Cathedral Nave Choir

Sunday 10 January 2010
3.30pm



'ANNE FRANK AND YOU' EXHIBITION

Chester Cathedral Newsletter - January 2010



To coincide with the 65th anniversary of the betrayal and arrest of Holocaust and the literary heroine Anne Frank on 4th August 1944, Chester Cathedral is proud to announce that the famous 'Anne Frank + You' exhibition will be coming to Chester Cathedral next year from 3rd-25th February. 'Anne Frank + You' is a touring exhibition presented by the Anne Frank Trust UK which examines the experiences of Anne Frank, and draws out the parallel context of British teenage life today. The exhibition is presented in two parts – contemporary and historical. The contemporary parts present post-Holocaust narratives and issues in modern British society.

The historical parts of the exhibition present the story of Anne Frank and her family, with a pictorial timeline charting the rise of Hitler, the Nazis and the subsequent Holocaust. We are looking for any extra Volunteers to assist with stewarding during the exhibition, so if you would like to offer your services, please contact Nick Fry on 01244 500958.



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Cathedral Shop
in 2010

£5 off

When you spend more than £25 in January

Please cut out this voucher and present it at the till

Please let us know your e-mail address so that we can send you the Cathedral Newsletter every month and let you know about forthcoming events and special offers

@ _____

No cash alternative, one voucher per transaction
Conditions apply

Dates for your Diary



7 January 13.10 Organ Recital

7 January 10.00 Volunteer Meeting

8 January 10.00 Volunteer Meeting

10 January 3.30pm Nave Choir
Epiphany Celebration and Carol
Service

14 January 13.10 Organ Recital

23 January 19.30 Nave Choir 'Mostly
Mozart' concert

28 January 13.10 Organ Recital

Worship in the Cathedral:

Weekdays:

0730 Morning Prayer
(St Anselm's Chapel)
1230 Eucharist
(1130 on Thursdays)
1730 Choral Evensong (said
service on Wednesdays)

Saturdays:

0900 Morning Prayer
(St Anselm's Chapel)
0930 Eucharist
1615 Choral Evensong

Sundays:

0800 Prayer Book
Communion Service (said)
1000 Cathedral Eucharist
1130 Sung Mattins (or Prayer
Book Eucharist 3rd &
5th Sundays)
1530 Choral Evensong
1830 Evening Service on 1st
and 5th Sunday
*All subject to occasional
variations as published*

Opening Hours:

Visitors:

Mon-Sat 0900 - 1700
Sun 1300 - 1600

Cathedral Shop:

Mon-Sat 0930 - 1700
Sun 1100 - 1600

Refectory:

Mon-Sat 0930 - 1630
Sun 1200 - 1600

NAME THAT CAPTION!

In light of Rhino Mania coming to Chester next summer, Rascal the Rhino has been posing for some festive photographs. The best caption to accompany this picture of him will receive a £10 voucher to spend in the Refectory.

Please send your captions to Carmella De Lucia at the Cathedral Office, 12 Abbey Square, Chester, CH1 2HU. The winner will be announced in next month's newsletter.



In Residence:

JANUARY

1st-9th The Dean
10th-23rd Canon Humphries
24th-31st Canon Dennis

FEBRUARY

1st-6th Canon Dennis
7th-20th Canon Humphries
21st-28th Canon Dennis

