

The Dean Writes....

NO TIME TO LOITER

Journalists have unfairly attacked Bishop Peter for spending too much time in the House of Lords. In contrast, I applaud him in participating in the government of our country, and bringing Christian principles and values to the debating chamber.

JUSTIFIED CRITICISM

Over the past 8 years, I have been repeatedly criticised for not being "visible" enough as Dean on the floor of the Cathedral. I must admit this is true, and I am haunted by my great predecessor, Dean Frank Bennett, who pioneered being available to visitors. My problem is this: too many expectations as Dean, and too little time to fulfil them! Nevertheless, I will try to be seen around the Cathedral a bit more.

WHAT 'DEAN OF CHESTER' MEANS

Let me explode some myths. The first myth is that I am Dean of Chester Cathedral! In fact, the Queen appointed me Dean of Chester. What's the difference? Quite simply, the job is bigger than the Cathedral alone, carrying much wider responsibilities and expectations. For example, next to the Bishop, I am the senior priest of the Diocese of Chester. I'm expected to relate to all kinds of organizations and groups, mainly secular, in City and County, in Region and Nation. In Chester I'm involved with the King's School, the University, the Zoo, the Criminal Justice Board, the Hospice, the business community, and several charities.

DETACHED ACADEMIC

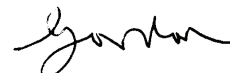
The second myth is that I spend much of my time as academic work, teaching and research. I wish I could! In fact, I spend on average 5 hours a week on academic work. Most of my time is spent interviewing people, dealing with correspondence, attending meetings, making appointments, writing reports or addresses, and general administrative or managerial activity.

DEAN AS PARISH PRIEST?

The third myth is that the Dean should operate as a parish priest. One response is that we are not a parish Church Cathedral, I've never been a parish priest myself, and I was not appointed to do that. A better response is that Cathedrals are organised as a clergy team, who deliver pastoral care through the Canon-in-Residence system. I believe that the Dean should do duty as Canon-in-Residence, and I have done 10 weeks' Residence in each of the last 2 years.

THINK 'TEAM' NOT 'DEAN'

Let's think 'Team' and not 'Dean'! We have had a strong ministerial team here at Chester who have worked well together to provide a 'presence' in the Cathedral for visitors, congregation, volunteers, and staff. We look forward to the arrival of our curate, Dot Gosling, this month, and of our Canon Chancellor, Jane Brooke, in September, and to the appointment of a new Vice Dean soon.



Calling all Volunteers

If you are interested in offering your services as a Volunteer at Chester Cathedral, please do not hesitate to call into the Cathedral Office for a Volunteer Enquiry Form.

Chester Cathedral Choir and musicians from the Kings School will perform a FUNDRAISING CONCERT

On Thursday 1 July at 7.30pm
In the Chapel and Long Room at Eaton Park
by Kind Permission of Their Graces
The Duke and Duchess of Westminster
Canapés, wine and soft drinks in the interval
Tickets £15 from 01244 683 678
or victoriahoughton@live.co.uk

Chester - The Giant City

Did you know Chester has a tradition of Giant Making that can be traced back to the 14th century?

It's no surprise then, that Chester has become known as 'The Giant City'.

Last month we hosted 53 Giants in the South Transept, some had come from Europe and a couple from as far away as Brazil.

The exhibition of Giants ended with two 'Midsummer watch Parades through the City, which coincided with an international Town Crier Competition as part of the summer 'Chestival' activities. Over 100,000 people visited the city at the weekend in glorious sunshine.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW CATHEDRAL CURATE - DOT GOSLING

Dot will be ordained here on Sunday 4 July at 10am, and we are looking forward to welcoming her to our Cathedral community.

Dot tells us a bit about herself... "I have felt God calling me to be ordained since 1991 I think, although others would say they saw it quite a bit before that. I went to university after having my two daughters and ended up gaining a degree in Religious Studies, Community & Youth Studies and Drama and losing a husband (through divorce) in the same year. I then went on to study for my professional qualification in Youth & Community Work. Around the same time, I joined the Iona Community as an associate member, becoming a full member of the Community in 2000. This both sustains and challenges me in my faith journey and I am very grateful, especially for the family group I convene monthly. I have become more involved in writing liturgy, leading the worship, planned and led the Taize worship at Greenbelt for two years, was responsible for the music and some aspects of the liturgy for the Blackburn lay conference in 1999.



On Wednesday evenings I will usually be found in the University Chapel leading the worship. I moved to Chester in 2001 to work as a part time lecturer in Christian Youth Work at the University and part time as Diocesan Youth officer. 2003 saw me moving full time to the University, which is where I will be remaining for the foreseeable future. It was not until 2007 that I finally went to the conference where they said yes. I think I was sure they were going to say no, so for the first two days after the yes came I was in shock! I am so amazed that God has chosen me to do this but also very apprehensive!

The Cathedral has been a place that has a special place in my heart since I first came to the Chester the foreseeable future. I am here because although I had hoped to be able to do a placement here while training it was not to be. So I asked if there was any chance to do my curacy here and the answer was yes so here I am! What does God want me to do? Who knows? I am open to hearing and learning what that will be but I have a heart and passion for empowering people to come to have a real relationship with God in ways that are relevant and right for them, and not necessarily the same as me! I love Cathedral worship, BUT I also love Taize, Iona and the more creative and tactile worship that other traditions have and which fits in with my kinaesthetic way of learning. My hair changes every 6-8 weeks, I am a 'geek' and tweet on twitter, use facebook and sometime blog. I like to laugh but am also quite serious and am an introvert who 'performs' when I have to do things like speaking in public!"



CONGRATULATIONS to chef Andy and his new wife Lucy, who were married last month. We wish them the very best for a long and happy marriage! Andy's monthly recipe will be back in August.

BCP Services

As a consequence of the Chapter's response to a suggestion in the Bishop's Visitation Report, the Chapter has agreed that, from September 2010, the BCP Choral Eucharists will be on First and Third Sundays of the month, whereas Choral Matins will be on Second, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays. Naturally, this will increase the number of Sundays on which incense is used for worship in the Cathedral. Chapter has additionally resolved that, as much as possible, the Preacher at the BCP Choral Eucharist will be different from the Preacher at the preceding 10 am Cathedral Eucharist on that day.

The Dean

Matters arising from the Cathedral Forum

Linda Banahan, the Chester Deanery Synod Observer, was unavailable to make her report. She attended 4 meetings over the past year at St James Christleton (Communion Service), St Marks Saltney, St John the Evangelist Ashton Hayes and Christchurch Newtown. A copy of her short report is available at the Cathedral Office upon request.

Following a request at the Forum, Nick Fry gave a presentation to members of the Cathedral Congregation on Friday 25 June to appraise them of the aspirations for the Cathedral Quarter Phase One developments. 20 members of the Congregation attended and discussions after the presentation touched on a number of issues, including Coach drop off points and volunteer provision. All feedback will be fed into any planning meetings.

Forthcoming Events

We are hosting **Chester Summer Music Festival** Concerts on the following dates: 30 June /5 July /8 July /9 July /14 July. For full details, please call 0845 2417868 or check on the Cathedral website.

Other Events to look out for

4 July	Deacons' Ordination	10.00am	01244 346945
7 August	EMSOC Concert	7.30pm	01244 500959
18 Sept	Fodens Brass Band Concert	7.30pm	07985 291991
28 Oct	Friends Annual Lecture	7.30pm	01244 500959

Tickets for the above concerts are on sale from the Cathedral Box Office, online at www.chestercathedral.com or on 01244 500959

Canons in Residence:

JULY

1st-10th - Canon Chris Humphries
11th-24th - Dean Gordon McPhate
25th - 31st - Canon Christopher Burkett

AUGUST

1st-7th - Canon Christopher Burkett
8th-21st - Dean Gordon McPhate
22nd-31st - Dean Gordon McPhate



From 5 July until 12 September 2010, there will be Rhinos roaming the Cathedral grounds as part of Rhino Mania - a city initiative for the summer. More information on the Rhino trail is available on www.rhinomania.co.uk