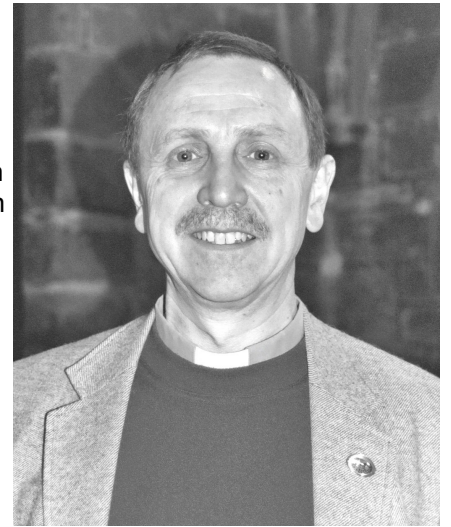


Canon Christopher Humphries Writes.....

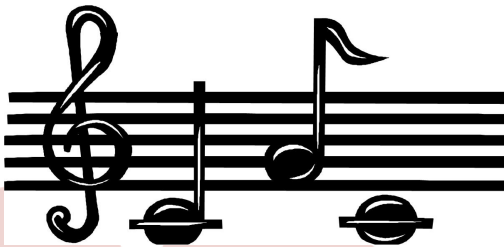
The Joy of Singing (and whistling!)

My Uncle Teddy was an inveterate whistler. At home or in his work as a painter and decorator a little snatch of cheerful whistling would announce his arrival. DIY music in the family also extended to the car, an old Morris 8 without a car radio. Particularly on excursions to the Essex coast, my father would lead the rest of us, mum, myself and my three sisters, in rousing renderings of everything from "One man went to mow, went to mow a meadow" to "Guide me O thou great Redeemer", a hymn that is still my favourite today.

Since the 1950s there have been enormous advances in the production of recorded and broadcast music of every kind. Music is piped into shops, restaurants and dental surgeries. If you're kept on hold on the phone, music is automatically played to keep you happy (or drive you mad!). But sadly this increase in artificial or second-hand music has led to a decrease in live music, whether organised, planned or spontaneous. Fewer secondary schools include singing in their Assemblies, and tradesmen like my Uncle Teddy turn their radios on instead of whistling.



I saw a T.V. programme recently that explored the long tradition of singing at sea. We heard groups of fishermen in Whitby, North Yorkshire, and in Cornwall still singing songs from their rich heritage of folk-songs and sea-shanties. They were boisterous, amusing, and sometimes sad. More often than not, they were born out of real life situations which included drownings, dramatic rescues as well as the actual and supposed romance of travel and life on the ocean waves. The Cornish fishermen sing once a week in the summer down by the harbour with large crowds attending. People are engaged and enthused. Adults, young folk and children all join in.



At Chester Cathedral we are inheritors of a particular kind of live music. Much comes from what is broadly called "The English Choral tradition" though this includes a far wider variety of music than is sometimes imagined. More than 40 boys and girls from across Chester are choristers here and are given confidence and delight in using their voices to the glory of God. Their experience is formative in so many ways, not least in having a positive encounter with the Christian faith. I follow the careers of former choristers with interest, see them grow and flourish, and most of them continue to pursue music-making in one way or another. Last years successful Chorister Outreach

project is a wonderful example of how this joy of singing can be shared with local schools, enthusing pupils, staff and parents. We very much hope that ways will be found to enable this project to continue for another year.

In fact all of us have a role to play in keeping music live. We should not underestimate the value of our own voices and abilities. The Scottish preacher and musician John Bell, from the Iona community, says to every participant in his workshops "You have the voice of an apprentice angel". Think about that. It may give you confidence to sing more heartily and less self-consciously at services in the cathedral. It might give you the vision to stimulate singing among the young, by singing a bedtime song with your children or grandchildren, nephews or nieces. We need to be alert to the opportunities for planned and spontaneous singing and music-making within our families and communities. Latest research shows that making music lowers stress levels and is generally beneficial for our health. Why ignore or under-value something that is such a natural blessing to us and to others? So go on, sing in the bath, whistle in the street, and keep music live!

Saturday Singing Club

The new term starts again this Autumn, so if you are interested in joining, please contact Carmella De Lucia on 01244 324756 for more information.

CATHEDRAL ARCHAEOLOGY

The next few weeks will be your last chance to look into the archaeological dig on the south side of the Cathedral before the pits are filled in. Nick Fry will be on hand at the dig on Tuesday 14 September to answer any questions about the investigations.



CURATE'S CORNER

Each month, our new Curate Dot Gosling will be writing a few words about her journey of faith at Chester Cathedral.

This month, she writes about the joys of Social Networking...

Facebook is a form of social networking that I use quite a lot in my work with my friends and students at the University.



Twitter is another form of social networking but is limited to 140 characters, which I have been using to keep up to date with a lot of my other church friends and the cathedral tweeters. The oldest tweeter in the world died a couple of months ago aged 104, so it doesn't just have to be the younger ones! I have started to use it here to give a sort of spiritual input to Facebook and Twitter from the Cathedral membership of both.

An example of how I use this from my own account is that after the sermon preached by Canon Christopher Burkett on the 1st Aug, I sent the following tweet:

'How much 'stuff' do we have that we don't actually need? Luke 12:14-21.' This was then sent to my 224 followers, who read it and could comment or retweet it to their followers!

Facebook is similar, in that people can comment on my status - which is either something I am doing or have seen or have thought etc, or they can share it with their friends. The difference is that I have 873 'friends' (and yes I do know all of them!), which means a bigger potential viewing of what I have posted.

This can be a great way of sharing the Gospel as well a way of praying for people when they ask for prayer on their status update. I have been able to pray for people on their Facebook 'wall' as well as at home or in church. If you have access to the internet you can have access to both and it is free!

Come and join us! But beware it is addictive!!

Exploring Prayer

Do you want to explore your relationship with God further?

Would you like to learn more about different pathways to prayer? Would you like to explore Christian spirituality in a real and practical way and discover more of the riches of prayer within the Christian tradition?

Revd Christine Bull and Karin Lyle will be leading six sessions exploring prayer and spiritual growth. These will offer the opportunity to broaden your experience of prayer, attend more deeply to your spiritual life and discern the presence of God.

The sessions will be held in St Anselm's Chapel on the following Monday evenings, starting at 7.30p.m. 27th September, 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th October, 1st November.

If you are interested please contact either **Revd Christine**, on 01244 699044 or **Karin** by email: karinlyle@btinternet.com Whilst not essential, it will be helpful to know in advance how many will be in the group. It will also be more helpful if you are able to commit to the whole six sessions.

COMING SOON TO THE CATHEDRAL

There are a number of unmissable events on at Chester Cathedral within the next few months. Book your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

18 September Fodens Brass Band Concert *in aid of the Countess of Chester Relative Comfort Appeal* 7.30pm

16 October Chester Bach Singers *Britten - St Nicolas* 7.30pm

28 October Friends' Annual Lecture by Stephen Broadbent 7.30pm

Tickets on sale from the Cathedral Box Office - 01244 500959

www.chestercathedral.com

RHINO MANIA IN THE CATHEDRAL SHOP



Rhino Mania finishes in Chester on 12th September with the auction of rhinos following on 5th October at Chester Racecourse, but the Cathedral Shop will still be selling some of the official Rhino merchandise, which includes ceramic mini rhinos, mugs, colouring books, keyrings and other souvenirs.

Make sure you get your hands on some now, while stocks last.

WARM WELCOMES... AND A FOND FAREWELL



Jane Brooke

This month we are looking forward to welcoming the Reverend Jane Brooke as a Canon Residentiary. It is planned that Jane will take the office of Canon Chancellor, heading up the Cathedral's Education work. She will live in Chester, work here part-time, and continue her important education advisory work in the Diocese. Jane will be installed during Evensong on Saturday 11 September. The new Archdeacon of Chester, The Ven. Dr. Michael Gilbertson will be installed at the same service. This will be held in the Nave and all are welcome to attend.

Also arriving this month is our new Organ Scholar, Laurence Lyndon-Jones. Laurence hails from St Alban's and was Organ Scholar at Pembroke College, Oxford.

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, we will bid farewell to Canon Christopher Burkett and his family on Sunday 12 September. Christopher will preside at the 10am Eucharist, after which Presentations will be made in the Refectory during coffee time. Christopher has been a great pastor, counsellor and friend to so many right across the Cathedral community and we will miss him and his lovely family very much indeed.



Christopher Burkett

TO ALL CHESTER CATHEDRAL VOLUNTEERS..... FROM THE VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATORS

Following a huge amount of work and discussion, the revised Volunteer Handbook and Agreement Forms are very nearly ready for distribution.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who has assisted in the preparation of these forms with our thanks going to Dean Gordon, members of Chapter, Team Leaders, representatives of the congregation, and a cross-section of volunteers. Our special thanks are also extended to Randal Hibbert, a well-known member of the Cathedral community and retired senior partner of one of Chester's leading firms of solicitors, for his additional input, research and expertise into what are now properly framed and acceptable Volunteer Forms. It is hoped that the new documents will be approved by Chapter in the September meeting, at which point we must ask all volunteers who have not yet signed to sign up, please!

The Cathedral has no option but to ask all volunteers to sign up to the Volunteer Agreement in order to fulfil Health and Safety regulations, for insurance purposes, and to comply with CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) directives. Volunteer details will assist the team leaders in their duties and demonstrate 'Best Practice' in our litigious age. By now, we must be one of the last Cathedrals to have completed this exercise.

Very soon the new forms will arrive through your letter-box, but this time the contents should meet with everyone's understanding and approval. If you have already signed and completed the original Volunteer Forms you do not need to do anything. However, if you wish to sign the new agreement forms you may do so and the old forms will be destroyed or returned to you if you prefer. If you have not signed any Volunteer Forms, when the new forms are distributed, please return them to the Cathedral Office or your team leader in the envelope provided and by the date requested. Full instructions for completion will be included with the revised forms.

We would also be very grateful for some assistance making up the 300 volunteer packs for distribution towards the end of September. If you have some spare time to assist, we would be very grateful and perhaps you would kindly advise your potential availability to the Cathedral Office with your telephone number or email contact details. A Volunteer Coordinator will contact you as soon as possible to discuss your availability.

The production of the revised Volunteer Forms has been long and arduous and it will be great to complete the task.

Edward Walton

Patricia Faraday

Volunteer Coordinators PS. We are also volunteers!

BRIAN GREENSILL

We were saddened to hear news of Brian's death on 17 August after a long and courageous battle against cancer.

Brian was the senior lay clerk here at Chester Cathedral for many years and had a beautiful tenor voice. He was appointed the first Lay Succentor by Dean Smalley. Brian had a strong Christian faith which added real depth to his musical ministry. He founded the Vale Royal Singers and then became Director of The St Cecilia Singers in 1985 until this year. Both groups have greatly enhanced and enriched the musical life of Cheshire.

Brian's funeral was held at the Cathedral on Friday 27 August, and morning services on Sunday 19 September will include music dedicated to Brian's memory.

We send our love and prayers to Marian, and to all the family.



CATHEDRAL CAMPS

Cathedral Camps, a group of Volunteers with a keen interest in conservation, have recently left us after spending a week working on the Cathedral Estate.

The 'campers', all aged 16-25, set up home in the currently vacant 5 Abbey Street for a week, and helped out on various odd jobs on the Estate. Read more about their experience in next month's newsletter.

'Exploring a New Calling'

Many people will know me as one of the Serving team during Sunday worship at the 10:00am Eucharist, and over the past 5 plus years I have been Head Server, a role that could not be done without the support and help of all who are in the Serving team.



From September I start a new part of my spiritual journey, as a Reader in training at the Cathedral, yet another new role for the Cathedral. Going to University to study over the next three years is I must admit a little daunting, as my previous academic studies finished when I left school 30 years ago.

So what is a Reader? Not just someone who reads the Bible in church!

Readers are lay people called by God, trained and licensed by the Bishop. They lead worship, preach and teach about Jesus and the Christian faith but they are also involved in a huge variety of other roles within the church, for example, pastoral work, leading house groups, baptism, confirmation and marriage preparation; school assemblies; hospital and prison chaplaincy and officiating at funerals.

(Source: Reader Ministry leaflet)

Readership is something that I have been considering for some time. After speaking to friends at the Cathedral about how I can serve God in another direction within the church, I feel that I have skills and gifts that I could offer to the church's ministry, especially with those who are in grief.

I am in the unfortunate position of being able to sympathise and try to understand those who are grieving after losing my dear wife Lisa to cancer in August 2008. It was our strong faith that kept us strong and able to accept as both being committed Christians.

I have a constant feeling that will not ebb away. A feeling of being called. Unlike some ideas that I have had over the years that I would like to try and then fizzles away, this is one that has stayed, and has continued to tap me on the shoulder to remind me that I have still to fulfil this calling. Both myself and my wife had talked about my yearning to do more within the ministry even before she was diagnosed, so it is not just a new calling but one that has been growing over many years. Deepening my theological learning and my faith is something that I yearn for.

God Bless.

Chris Jones

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Sunday School re-commences on Sunday 5th September, meeting firstly in Church at 10.00 a.m. After the initial welcome, children and young people will go to their activities. For those between 4 - 8 years of age, Godly Play takes place in the Education Room. Those between 9 - 11 years of age and our young people from 11 - 16 years meet in the Cloister Room.

Cathedral Tots is a new Sunday School provision, where we welcome parents with babies and children of pre-school age to the Chapter House. These sessions will take place initially on the first Sunday of each month and will consist of a Bible Story, prayer time and a craft activity. Parents and toddlers will join the congregation for the Communion. The Play Space will be available as usual on the other Sundays.

Visiting children are welcome to each of these departments.

Jackie Rainsforth (Sunday School Group Leader)

SUNG COMPLINE BY CANDLELIGHT

from September 2010, Sunday 6:30pm



From the beginning of September there will once again be a weekly Sunday 6:30pm service at Chester Cathedral. The Cathedral Clergy have re-introduced these evening services for a trial period of ten months. Services of Wholeness and Healing, Worship in the Taizé Style and various special services will continue throughout the year in their present form. In addition, there will be a new regular service of **Sung Compline** with the chanting of the office undertaken by the Cathedral Nave Choir. The ancient service of Compline can be traced back as far as St Benedict in the 6th Century and some scholars suggest that the service has 4th Century origins. The word Compline is derived from the Latin *completorium*, literally meaning the completion of the day.

For the Benedictine monks of the Abbey of Chester, it would have been the final spiritual devotion before retiring to bed.

Sundays at Chester Cathedral bustle with life. Along with our regular Cathedral services we often have services with special groups from the community in attendance or the celebration of civic events. As the organ thunders, we sing God's praises with strength and confidence. But on Sunday evening the Cathedral will remain quiet for prayer and reflection from 6pm. Some may like to just come, sit and enjoy the silence.

The simple service will then be sung (or occasionally said) in the Quire or Lady Chapel at **6:30pm**. Plainsong and other simple and quiet music will usually be offered. There will be psalms, a reading, homily and short time of prayer. This will be followed by a time of contemplation as a suitable piece of organ music is played. Following final prayers, the sung service concludes with the singing of a Marian Antiphon before all leave in silence.

If you are able to attend Sung Compline (the first will be on Sunday 12th September), we hope that you might leave having felt the presence of God in the stillness, silence, candlelight and music of an ancient monastic service in our ancient monastic Cathedral.

Seeking Volunteers for Front of House Management at Cathedral Events

Each year about 100,000 people attend special services and events at the Cathedral. They are managed by a small but dedicated team of volunteers who have a similar role to the Sidespeople who care for the needs of those attending services.

If you are linked with an organisation which uses the Cathedral, or would like to assist with managing the audiences and participants of events at the Cathedral, please consider being trained as a front of house manager. There is no charge for this two hour training session, but it will give you the skills and confidence to support the work of the Cathedral in this important area.

The next training will take place in the Cloister Room on Wednesday 29th September at 2.00 pm.

Please contact Ian Atkinson the Events Manager (01244500978 events@chestercathedral.com) if you wish to attend.

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 1st & 3rd Sundays)
1530 Choral Evensong
1830 Evening Service

All subject to occasional variations.

Fundraising Update

On 17th August, 22 members of the fundraising group were taken on a walk along the canal system by Cathedral volunteer Geoff Taylor, whose family owned Taylor's boatyard.

We had a very informative and entertaining talk, ending up with a good lunch at Telford's Warehouse and we raised £115 for Kondopoga and the Education Department into the bargain. Many thanks to Geoff for his time and expertise. **Jane Jones**

In Residence - Day by Day

From 19 September we will be adopting a new system of Clergy in Residence here at the Cathedral. Instead of covering duties for a period of two weeks at a time, clergy will be responsible for all services and events on a particular day of the week, as follows:

Sunday	All Clergy
Monday	Rev. Christine Bull
Tuesday	Canon Jane Brooke
Wednesday	The Dean
Thursday	Canon Chris Humphries
Friday	Canon Chris Humphries
Saturday	Rev. Christine Bull

