



Canon Chris Humphries writes....

## The perspective of Easter

News reports at the moment are full of stories to disturb and alarm us. War and violence in Libya and Afghanistan, unrest and turmoil across the Middle East and North Africa, nuclear reactors in danger of melting down in Japan. At home we face cut backs and economic hardship. Life savings and pensions are eroded. Moral values are challenged or ignored.

Against this background it is vital that Christians proclaim the Easter message with vigour and confidence. Easter is not just "our triumphant holy day" but good news for all people, everywhere. It's a whole new perspective on daily living and changes our world view. For believers, the Easter message is both historical fact and spiritual truth and the consequences are far reaching...



**Death is not the end** – in fact our lives now are but a clue, a foretaste of a greater life that is yet to be.

**God is able to bring us through difficult experiences.** Jesus endured the worst kind of human cruelty and suffering, yet the power of his selfless, sacrificial love could not be overcome.

**We have access now to this resurrection life.** Let go and let God. Jesus trusted God his Father completely for the big and little details of life. There is a wonderful sense of joy and liberation in being a wholehearted believer in Christ.

## Stimulate the spiritual

Cathedrals have a great opportunity to engage with visitors, both young and old, in witnessing to the liveliness of our faith, and in awakening the spiritual side of our make-up as human beings. Many in this secular age are seeking answers to the big questions about the meaning of life and existence on earth. In our regular and seasonal worship, and in our programme of educational and special events, we can help people to experience the vital dimension of the spiritual and the holy. As St. Paul put it "Come close to God, and he will come close to you".

## Count me in

Some say that Cathedrals are places where you can be anonymous. I'm sure that is right as part of our overall welcome. By contrast, the invitation to worship through Passiontide, Holy Week and Easter is unashamedly participatory!

So please have a good look at the worship that we have planned in the Cathedral for the whole of this Holy season and consider how you can be a real part of it. For example:

- Offer to read one of the character parts in the Dramatic Gospel reading at the 10am service on Palm Sunday.
- Ask for an extra Palm cross to take to a housebound neighbour or a sick friend.
- Offer to have your feet washed as part of the evening communion on Maundy Thursday
- Look over the whole list of Holy Week and Easter services. Is there a service, large or small, that you've never experienced? The Three Hours service of meditation on Good Friday (12 noon - 3pm) is a particular opportunity for reflection and contemplation.
- Join the Churches Together for their Easter Dawn service at 6.30am on Easter Day (by the bandstand at the Groves, beside the River Dee)

Wishing you a blessed Holy Week and a Joyful Easter.

Chris Humphries

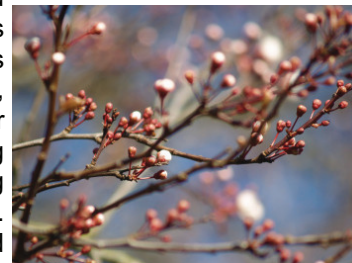
**Canon Chris Humphries has been appointed Vice-Dean by the Chapter of Chester Cathedral for a period of three months. This will give appropriate cover until the arrival of Canon Peter Howell-Jones.**

## CURATE'S CORNER

As the signs of spring are becoming really evident (for which I am very grateful) I am reminded that we worship and serve a God of Hope. This God of Hope sent his only Son to love the world and not condemn it, what greater hope is there than that?

On the afternoon of Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March I went for a walk around West Kirby boating lake as I often do when I only have a couple of hours and want/need a walk. I took my camera and got some lovely photos of the boats on the pond, but then I went into the local park. I had not been there before so didn't really know what to expect, but what I saw was a fantastic image of all age community being together, doing different things but all in a safe environment and in a place that was full of hope.

Why Hope?- because there was new growth everywhere from flowers to the trees and even birds building nests for their new offspring. There were even parents, grandparents and wider family and friends with their new offspring. As we go through Lent, although it is rightly a time for examining our lives in the light of Christ, it is also I think a time for hope, a time for looking forward to new growth in our spiritual lives. Perhaps that will mean for some of us a time for a retreat, or a new spiritual discipline. Perhaps it might mean giving something up that has become stale in our spiritual lives. Perhaps it might mean reading the Bible through in a year or reading the New Testament through in so many months. Whatever it means for you, do it with a joy that comes from knowing God loves you and wants the best for you and wants you to have life in all its fullness.



## Nave Platform Consultation Meetings

From the Dean:

"I promised in my recent Newsletter article that a congregation consultation meeting would be held to answer questions and receive feedback about the proposals for the new Nave Platform. This will inform the Chapter's submission to the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England [CFCE] which will be considered in mid-April 2011. For that reason, the consultation needs to be held very soon, with apologies for the short timescale. I therefore invite members of the congregation to attend a meeting at 1.30pm on Monday 4 April 2011 in the Cloister Room, OR a meeting at 7.30pm on Thursday 7 April 2011 in St Anselm's Chapel"

## A Message from Bishop Alan.....

Bishop Alan and David wish to thank members of the Chester Cathedral family for their prayers and for the messages of sympathy which they have received since Jennie's death. These have been a great support. Please forgive us for not acknowledging each individually but we have been overwhelmed by the number who have contacted us. Jennie loved Chester Cathedral and regretted that her ill health prevented her being more involved in its life.

There will be a Requiem for her in Blackburn Cathedral on Saturday 30th April at 11.00am

## Saints in the Cloister Windows

**St George.** Martyr.

Died c303. Feast Day April 23rd.

Thought to have been a soldier. Ancient cults in both the East where he was called "megalomartyros", and in the West where he occurs in the Martyrology of Jerome and the Gregorian Sacramentary.

St George occurs in Greek, Latin, Armenian, Coptic, Syriac, Ethiopian and Turkish cultures.

The famous story of George and the Dragon was passed on from the translation of The Golden Legend by Caxton. Initially two sheep were fed to the dragon to appease it, but then a human victim was chosen by lot. When it was the turn of the king's daughter, she was dressed as a bride and was about to be sacrificed but George attacked it and pierced it with his lance and led it captive with the princess's girdle as if it were tame. George told the people not to be afraid: if they would believe in Jesus Christ and be baptized, he would rid them of the monster. The King and his people agreed, so George killed the monster and 15,000 people were baptized.

George refused a reward but asked that the king would maintain churches, and honour priests, and show compassion to the poor. George was tortured and put to death during the times of the persecution of the Christians by Diocletian and Maximian.

The cult of George took on a new dimension for England during the Crusades when it is said a vision of Saints George and Demetrius preceded the defeat of Saracens at the battle of Antioch. Richard 1 placed himself and his army under George's protection, hence the cross of St. George appearing on the shields and armour of the Crusaders. After the battle of Agincourt when Henry V made his famous speech, St. George's feast day was raised to one of the principal feasts in the year.

St. George is Patron Saint of many countries, and was one of the "Fourteen Holy Helpers"

St. George has been depicted by many famous artists. He is the patron saint of soldiers, archers and armourers. He was invoked against the plague, leprosy and syphilis. He is regarded as the symbol of English nationalism and prowess in war.



## What's New In The Shop?

This image of St Werburgh is now available in post card and magnet form.



The mugs for musicians have now arrived along with ones for historians and artists.



Some very special real egg Easter Eggs are on display with a few other Easter Treats. (The Easter Egg Hunt is going to finish in the shop)

Also available are a variety of cards and gifts - call in to see our suggested selection.

## The Pillar Lectionary: New Readings for Midweek Evensongs

For some while cathedrals have been concerned that the lessons at midweek Evensongs can be obscure and difficult to understand. This is because the standard lectionary for Evening services seeks to read through the Bible in a fairly comprehensive way. This is suitable for regular congregations who can follow the flow of scripture day after day, but is less helpful for congregations where significant numbers of visitors are present.

After Easter we will use the "Pillar Lectionary" for midweek Evensongs. Many other English cathedrals are already using it. The readings are somewhat shorter and are appropriate to the season, but they are also "stand alone" and will make sense to occasional as well as regular attenders.

Canon Chris Humphries

## Have you visited the Cathedral Library recently?

If you want to see the current exhibition of the King James Bible in the library, contact Peter Bamford via the Cathedral Office, who works in the library with volunteers on Tuesdays. There is plenty to see, including a 'he' Bible, and the informative booklet written by Professor Philip Alexander offers all you need to know about each exhibit. If you don't



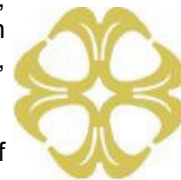
know what a 'he' Bible is, go and take a look! The Canon Theologian, Professor Loveday Alexander, introduced the exhibition with a lecture on a Saturday in January which attracted 250 people. Workshops were offered by Professor Philip Alexander on the same day and were oversubscribed. Those attending Wednesday Bible studies, led by visiting speakers were offered the opportunity to visit the library exhibition. With the support of Professor Philip Alexander, as the consultant, Peter Bamford as the librarian, and the library volunteers, the Canon Theologian has plans to continue with a similar pattern in future years. In 2012, there will be an exhibition on the 1662 Book of Common Prayer to commemorate its 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There will be a lecture in January 2012 with workshops on offer again. The Wednesday Bible talks during the Spring will be on 'Prayer' by visiting speakers.

The aim of the library exhibitions is to support the cathedral's mission to preach the Gospel and teach Christians. We hope to find ways of releasing the resources of the library to support this mission within the constraints of a limited budget. We are fortunate to have treasures in our midst and people of expertise who will help us to understand them. We hope to open the library more in the summer with the help of more volunteers. I am delighted to be the Canon Librarian at a time when the library is becoming more open and available to the public.

Canon Jane Brooke

## Song School News

Congratulations go to five of our cathedral choristers who recently took examinations in singing for Trinity Guildhall: Arran Fearn, Grade 4, Distinction 94/100; Olivia Hunt, Grade 8, Distinction 89/100; Lucy Rushforth, Grade 6, Merit 82/100; Isabel Wheatland, Grade 4, Merit 79/100; Sam Stratton, Grade 4, Merit, 75/100.



Very well done to all of them.

## Upcoming Events for your diary:


**Chester Cathedral**  
 The Friends of Chester Cathedral

The World's  
 foremost  
**Concert Organist**  
 returns to  
 Chester Cathedral

**7.30pm**  
**Saturday**  
**30<sup>th</sup> April 2011**

**Carlo Curley**  
 The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour  
on the Cathedral's Grand Organ - relayed on HD video screen

Reserved Best Tickets: Adult £22.50, Child £8  
 Available online @ [www.chestercathedral.com](http://www.chestercathedral.com)  
 from the Box Office and on 01244 509959

**THE CHESTER LITERATURE FESTIVAL**

**READERS NEEDED FOR READATHON**  
 Be a part of a community Big Read during the Literature Festival 17-30 October.  
 Celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the King James Bible by volunteering to read a chapter or two. We need readers of all ages to join in this ultimate storytelling event.

To take part send your name and contact details to:  
 Email: [info@chesterfestivals.co.uk](mailto:info@chesterfestivals.co.uk)  
 Tel: 01244 405605

SALT OF THE EARTH A LAND FLOWING WITH MILK AND HONEY THE LEOPARD CANNOT CHANGE HIS SPOTS AN EYE FOR AN EYE EAT DRINK AND BE MERRY FOR THE APPLE OF HIS EYE A LAW UNTO THEMSELVES SUFFER FOOLS GLADLY NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN A MAN AFTER HIS OWN HEART WHEELS WITHIN WHEELS TURN THE OTHER CHEEK ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH A FLY IN THE OINTMENT A HOWLING WILDERNESS

The King James Bible is a cornerstone of our culture and our language.  
 Andrew Motion  
 Poet Laureate 1999-2009


**17-30 October 2011**




### Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April 7.30 pm 'The Return of Carlo Curley'

The world famous American Concert Organist Carlo Curley will be appearing at Chester Cathedral as part of his 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour. The event will also feature HD Big Screen Video Projection for views of Carlo playing thus ensuring that everyone can both see and hear Carlo playing.

Carlo Curley is the self-styled champion of the classical organ, a large and charismatic figure who has dedicated his life to blowing the cobwebs out of the organ loft and bringing music to suit all tastes to the masses - and by all accounts, they're loving every moment of it.

When a musician boldly announces that 'Bach invented Rock and Roll', that a particular composition by Handel is a 'real toe-tapper' and that during the next piece his 'size 12's are going to go bananas with smoke rising from the pedalboard', it takes a strong will to turn a deaf ear!

Carlo last visited Chester Cathedral in 2008, and there was standing room only – so make sure you get your tickets early!

Tickets: Adult £12.50, Child £8 from the Cathedral Box Office, 01244 500959 or online at [www.chestercathedral.com](http://www.chestercathedral.com)

### Friday 13 May 6.30 - 10.00 pm 'From Abbey to Cathedral'

Chester Cathedral will be taking part in the national initiative 'Museums at Night' by opening late, providing refreshments in the Cloister Garden and presenting an extraordinary performance entitled 'Abbey to Cathedral' telling the story of this great Cathedral in modern words complemented by the appropriate historic choral music.

You'll hear about the foundation of the monastery in 1092 and then hear the choral music of the period sung by members of the Cathedral Choir. The continuing story will then follow through the centuries, right up to the present day. So you'll enjoy monastic plainsong, Renaissance masterpieces, Handel oratorios, thundering nineteenth century organ pieces and modern pieces especially commissioned for Chester Cathedral. The concert will then come right up to date with joyous singing by pupils of the Lache Primary School.

The Cathedral will stay open after the concert, for visiting and photography at this atmospheric time of night.

The Cathedral will open at 6.30 pm and Cathedral Guides will be on hand to answer your questions. Refreshments will be available in the Cloister Garden and the Friends Plant Sale will also stay open until 6.30 pm. The concert will be at 8.00 pm and the Cathedral will remain open until 10.00 pm for sunset photography – a really exceptional event!

Tickets: Adult £10.00 Children (Under 16 accompanied by one paying adult) £2.50. Entrance after 9.00 pm (for photography) £5.00 from the Cathedral Box Office, 01244 500959 or online at [www.chestercathedral.com](http://www.chestercathedral.com)

**For further information about either of these events, please contact: Nick Fry on 01244 500958 or e-mail: [fry@chestercathedral.com](mailto:fry@chestercathedral.com)**

### 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
- 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.*

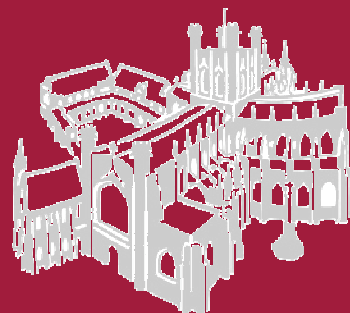
### In Residence - Day by Day

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

### DON'T FORGET:

You can always keep up to date with what is happening at Chester Cathedral by visiting our website. If you have missed the Sermon or just want to hear it again, then visit the website. There are also many other links to items such as the Cathedral Quarter Project

[www.chestercathedral.com](http://www.chestercathedral.com)



### Concerts & Services at Chester Cathedral

### Tickets

1 April	Kings School Spring Concert	7.30pm	01244 500959
2 April	Chester Bach Singers 'Samson'	7.30pm	01244 500959
11 April	Celtic Spirituality	10am-3.30pm	01244 500959
16 April	Chester Philharmonic Society	7.30pm	0151 632 1633
30 April	Return of Carlo Curley	8.00pm	01244 500959