



The Revd Christine Bull writes:

## Remembering and moving on

During my time working with the arts in health movement I had a colleague who specialised in Reminiscence with frail elderly people. It was always a joy to watch how talking about the past- their past- brought them alive, and re-connected them with the present. It is a simple truth- we all have stories to tell and we all, at some level, appreciate the chance to share some of our own history. My colleague had a deceptively simple filing system- three drawers labelled, Now, Then and Before Then. It worked!



Our Christian faith is based on this fundamental issue of remembering. We rehearse our story in the stories of the Bible. In our own lives we need to tell our stories, they explain who we are and where we have come from. Remembrance is the central act of our Christian worship, making real, bringing into the present, acknowledging that it is through the struggle, the pain, the total self-giving sacrifice of the cross, that our redemption is won. Faith is not on firm foundations if it cannot face the real horror of the world that Christ died for, and in November our Remembrance services help us to do that, to know and acknowledge our history and recognise that we are shaped by it.

But there is a more personal, shall we say intimate, remembering which touches us all. Remembering our own loved ones, those who have cherished us, inspired us, shaped our lives, peopled our stories. The hole that is left in our hearts when someone we love dies; a space for remembering, even though that remembering hurts.

Remembering those who have died might well lead us to think how we may wish to be remembered. It is a salutary spiritual exercise to try writing your own obituary notice. Far from being morbid this can be a real opportunity for self-assessment. What do you hope people may say about you? And is there a gap between the hope and the reality? If there is – and I suspect that is true for all of us- whilst we may regret the past we cannot stay there; we must move on. 'If only' is a pretty useless reflection; we did what we did and that's that. The past is the past- Then and Before Then, in my colleague's system. But we can learn from the past and we can live Now-this moment given to us to live as well as we possibly can. How much time do we spend responding to the urgent that presents itself, and filling our lives with the trivial and the inconsequential instead of paying attention to the most deeply important matters?

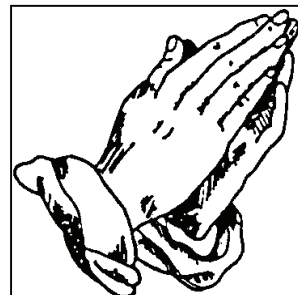
There is a marvellous Jewish Hasidic saying: Rake the muck this way, rake the muck that way, it is still muck. Why stand brooding here, when you can be on your way stringing pearls for the delight of heaven?

Let's remember the past but not be weighed down by it. We can move on, and try with all our hearts to live lovingly, creatively and compassionately, trusting that whatever posterity makes of us, we are held forever in the mind and heart of God, which is the greatest reality of all.

### Prayer for November.....

Lord of heaven's reach,  
of earth reborn;  
you call us from starless graves  
to sing under infinite skies:  
we praise your name  
for those who have walked this way  
unheralded and unnumbered

but known to you,  
their beginning, their end,  
their joy in life;  
give us the same grace  
to be unbound  
and take the step of faith;  
through Jesus Christ, the alpha and  
omega. Amen



## CURATE'S CORNER

What is the Gospel? 2 Corinthians 12:9

Jesus came flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone, wept, walked and washed feet!

Jesus touched the suffering, listened to the ignored, gave the depressed something to hope for, the broken he loved unconditionally and healed their brokenness..

Jesus came to bring good news to the poor... To proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free... But who are the poor, the captives? Who are the blind and the oppressed?

He came to be 'the way, the truth, the life', but sometimes 'the way' becomes a little too hard.

When Jesus said come and don't bring anything with you, when he asks us to meet and touch people who think differently, believe differently to us...instead of keeping with him, we, like the disciples before us, often like to take the soft option and opt out of loving our neighbours and ourselves....

When 'the truth' becomes a little too hard to cope with, when what we have been led to believe by others is only a fraction of the truth, because they can't cope with the whole truth

That God in Jesus LOVES everyone,

That it is more about giving not receiving,

That God is present in those we don't get on with as much as those we do.

We become good at keeping the half truth going....

When 'the life' becomes too demanding,

Because Jesus said turn the other cheek, don't worry about what to wear, and lay down your life in order to receive it again -we become good at finding another life...

Jesus said 'love God with your whole heart, your whole body, your whole mind

And love our neighbour as ourselves...

This is what the Gospel, the good news is...

Perhaps the very people who are poor, captive, blind, oppressed are us, because we believe in half a gospel, we can cope with sort of loving God, sort of loving our neighbours as long as they are like us, or are living in the developing world, and not those who go to different churches or are seen as too different from us, and as for loving ourselves...

The Gospel, the good news is God loves us unconditionally.... No matter how many times we fail him, no matter how uncomfortable we feel, no matter how worthless we feel next to the 'mega Christian' we think we live with..

Jesus came to say that everyone is worthy, especially the unworthy, Jesus came to say that we all need healing of our arrogance, our lack of love for the other, ourselves and God  
Jesus came to say Love is the key...

This IS the Gospel of the Lord...



## November's Saint....

### Andrew

Initially, with his brother Simon Peter, a follower of John the Baptist

A fisherman from Capernaum, he was one of the first four Apostles, known particularly for his share in the Feeding of the Five Thousand, and with his brother, the miraculous haul of fishes following a day of poor fishing. He was

called by Jesus to be "A Fisher of Men" and is known for bringing people to Jesus. The fish was also the secret sign which Christians scratched on rocks, on walls and in sand to identify themselves during the years of persecution.

He is said to have preached in Greece, at Patras before moving on to Scotland, but there is no real evidence of his actually having been there.

It is claimed he was crucified at Patras, bound to the wooden beams used by fishermen to dry their nets (the saltire) and is said to have carried on preaching even from there. He was eventually released by the consul after two days. One belief is that he then died there...

The saltire was used as the emblem of Scotland and is incorporated in the Union Flag.

Andrew is also Patron Saint of Greece and Russia.

He is the patron saint of fishermen.

Feast Day 30<sup>th</sup>. November.



## CQP1 update:

Development plans have now been submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Cathedral Fabric Committee for England. The Cathedral has held various information sessions and a presentation to the congregation in early October. Naturally, this has been a topic of much conversation. The next step is that the plans are now with the Statutory Bodies to make their decisions. As soon as we have an outcome, we will let you know.

## Boy's Choir....

On the 14<sup>th</sup> November, the Boy's Choir will be performing live from Didsbury Church on Radio 4. Tune in and listen.

## Congratulations....

Laurence Lyndon-Jones, our Organ Scholar, who has been appointed Assistant Director of Music at Coventry Cathedral.

Laurence has been a great asset to the music department during his time here, especially filling in as interim Assistant Director and working with the Nave Choir. We wish you all the very best in your new position at Coventry, you will be greatly missed.



## Andrew Backhouse.....many thanks

### The Dean writes..

Some of you may have already heard that our Director of Hospitality and Welcome, Andrew Backhouse, will be leaving us on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Andrew came to the Cathedral on a short term contract, and has tackled major projects with great enthusiasm and vigour since his arrival in the Spring. In particular, he has been instrumental in putting our new tills and gift aid in place – a project which has already greatly increased the Cathedral's income. He has taken the time to get to know every one of his large team in person, and his volunteer recruitment drive has boosted our volunteer numbers with an influx of keen and willing helpers.

He quickly found his feet, negotiating his way through the complexities of Cathedral life with a smile, and often a song! His team's Friday morning meetings were a great opportunity for bringing up problems which needed rectifying - the new hand-dryers in the ladies toilets are the result of one of these. It is with great sadness that due to budgetary constraints Andrew's contract has not been able to be renewed. His sunny and positive outlook will be sorely missed, and we wish him every future success.



## Worship in the Cathedral:

### Weekdays:

0915 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.*

## Volunteer Update...

The Cathedral's first meeting for volunteer team leaders happened in October which was most useful for seeing where we need more volunteers, issues we can have with completing forms for insurance purposes, and learning from each other. The previous week had also seen the first volunteer welcomer meeting for 6 months, bringing 24 of the now 39 welcomers together. We are still adding new trainee welcomers along – another 4 at the moment. What a fantastic lot of noble people we have who do such a lot to keep the Cathedral open and hospitable. I've enjoyed working with you all, bringing in lots of new volunteers as well as increasing gift aid income.

Andrew Backhouse

## In Residence - Day by Day

<b>Sunday</b>	All Clergy
<b>Monday</b>	Canon Peter Howell-Jones
<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>	Canon Peter Howell-Jones

## Andy's Recipe for November.....

### Dundee Cake ready for Christmas

8oz Butter  
8oz Caster Sugar  
5 Eggs Beaten  
12 oz Self Raising Flour  
1 1/2lb Mixed Fruit  
4oz Quartered Cherries  
1tsp Mixed Spice  
2oz Almonds



Line and grease an 8 inch tin.

Cream butter, sugar and beat in eggs.

Mix in fruit and cherries with a little flour at first, then add the rest of the flour and mixed spice.

Spoon into cake tin, level off and top with almonds.

Bake for 3 1/2 hours.

Cool in tin for 10 mins and then turn onto wire rack.

## Missionary Weekend Report

The afternoon tea on Saturday October 15th was a happy event enjoyed by some 30 people, and a total of £240 was raised.

The retiring collection on the Sunday yielded £327.60, making a total of £567.60 for the Bible Society.

Thanks are due to all who made delicious cakes and to those who worked in the kitchen.

We are now beginning to plan for next year. Watch this space!

**Come and Sing!** For anyone who has ever sung the Messiah, or enjoyed listening to it, this is the event for you! On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2012 singers from across the region will be joining forces to sing Messiah in celebration of 270 years since the first ever performance in April 1742. Everyone is welcome, and this huge "Messiah Choir" will be expertly conducted by the Cathedral's Director of Music, Philip Rushforth. It promises to be a fabulous evening of music. More details to follow.

## The Chester Mystery Plays



The Chester Mystery Plays form a spectacular festival presented mainly by members of the local community under professional direction. This rare Chester production has become a much anticipated highlight in the British arts calendar, attracting people from all over the world. One of the largest community events in the UK, hundreds of enthusiasts of all ages from throughout the area make up the cast, crew and the support teams working in administration/marketing and front of house.

The Chester Mystery Plays are performed in Chester every five years, with the most recent production being in 2008 in the grounds of Chester Cathedral. In 2013 the Chester Mystery Plays will be performed by hundreds of local volunteers led by a production team including Artistic Director, Peter Leslie Wild and Music Director/Composer, Matthew Baker. And for the first time ever, the Plays will be performed in the Nave of Chester Cathedral.

Tickets for the 19 performances are now on sale at the Cathedral Box Office [www.chestercathedral.com](http://www.chestercathedral.com) 01244 500959  
Cathedral Undercroft opening times,  
Monday – Saturday 9.00 – 5.00 and Sunday 12.30 pm – 4.00 pm  
[www.chestermysteryplays.com](http://www.chestermysteryplays.com)

### Christmas Concert Eaton Hall

All are invited to a Christmas Concert by the Chester Cathedral Choir with musical entertainment by the students of the King's School, Chester on Thursday 15th December at 7.30pm in the Chapel Long Room at Eaton Park, Eccleston, Chester.

Light refreshments will be served, and tickets will be £15 each, with the proceeds going towards the Choir Support Group.

For further information and tickets please contact Victoria on 01244 683678.

Tickets can also be purchased after the 10am Service on Sunday during coffee in the Refectory.

### Chester Cathedral Grand Extravaganza

18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November, 10 am to 4 pm in the Cathedral Cloisters. Christmas gifts and cards, toiletries, crafts, cakes and preserves (on the Saturday only), and children's items including toys, games, books, baby clothes and nursery furniture. There will be a raffle and a 'guess the name of the baby' competition and we have been given two interesting collections to sell – one large collection of owls and the second a collection of 50 Garfields! All proceeds shared between the Education Department and our link parish of Kondopoga.

### Concerts and Events at Chester Cathedral

				<i>Tickets</i>
12	Nov	Chester Philharmonic Orchestra	7.30pm	0151 632 1633
18/19	Nov	Cathedral Extravaganza	10-4pm	Free Entry
19	Nov	Chester Music Society "Messiah"	7.30pm	0845 241 7868
28	Nov	Claire House Carol Concert	7.30pm	01244 500959

### Diocesan Trip to Cyprus and Lebanon

There will be a diocesan wide trip to Cyprus and Lebanon during 2012. The dates for your diary are April 16-25.

Basic itinerary for the trip is:

Scheduled flights from Manchester. 4-5 star hotels in Limassol and Beirut.

1. Nicosia, Museums, Haydarpasha Mosque (St Catherine's Church)
2. Salamis (extensive Roman remains), tomb and Monastery of St Barnabas, Kyrenia (crusader castle and icon museum)
3. Aphrodite rocks, Paphos (world heritage site).
4. Troodos mountains, Trooditissa monastery.
5. Sidon and Tyre (extensive Roman/Greek remains).
6. Baalbeck (world heritage site).
7. Phoenician Byblos, Tripoli
8. Beirut Cathedral, Mosque and national Museum, boat ride through the vast caverns.

Price £1,488

If you wish to join in the trip and would like some more information, please contact Bishop John Hayden on 0151 632 0448 or [johnhayden@gmail.com](mailto:johnhayden@gmail.com)

### We need You!

This year, our Cathedral shop will be having an "outpost" in the Christmas Village which will be in the Town Hall Square. There will be 38 especially designed "huts" echoing Chester's architecture, all selling quality gifts and presents. It is very exciting that we will have a presence here, as it will form a vital part of our outreach as well as serving as a commercial venture. The stall will be manned by a member of staff from the shop, **however, we also need volunteers to help give some additional support.** You don't need to have previously helped out in the shop, all volunteers are most welcome! The Christmas Village runs from 24th November until 24th December, so we need lots of people to help staff it. If you can spare just a few hours over this period, please let Sue in the Shop know asap! Please email: [sue.petranca@chestercathedral.com](mailto:sue.petranca@chestercathedral.com) or ring her on 01244699049. Thank you!