



### ***The Revd Dr Peter Jenner Writes....***

This month, the January edition of parish magazines, church newsletters and the like will be full of articles about the beginning of a new year, about resolutions, about making a fresh start and about valuing the opportunity for looking ahead with excitement, confidence and hope. As 2012 begins I find myself relating very closely to all those themes as I look forward not only to a new year, but also to a new job, a new home and a new life.



My wife, Vicki, and I begin this year by moving to Abbey Street, next to the cathedral. We currently live in the far east of the Diocese of Chester; the Parish of Mellor is on the very edge of Greater Manchester with church and vicarage on the top of the first hill of the Peak District. Snow drifts blocking the road are not unknown in January! I have previously only ever moved in the summer so at this moment, as I write, we are about to become obsessed with weather forecasts; we hope that we never have to use our contingency plans of what to do if there is a blizzard the night before the removal van is due to arrive. We could console ourselves with the thought that managing Untoward Circumstances is character building, but sometimes one wishes that one's character is not built too often.

Vicki and I are moving as a twosome for the first time since 1980. A few days ago, our son, Alexander, moved out of the vicarage into a shared house not far away. He works for a vehicle parts supplier although he is hoping one day to be able to follow his long-standing intention to join the police force. Our daughter, Stephanie, is a nursery teacher in Swadlincote. A few weeks ago she married Rob, a Welshman. (Since a quarter of me is Scottish I now find it even more difficult to know which side to support in the six-nations rugby!) To complete our family's professional round-up: Vicki has worked as a Teaching Assistant at a church primary school in our adjacent parish and she intends to look for a similar job in Chester when we have finished unpacking.

Assuming the two of us and all our worldly goods make it to Chester before spring, I look forward to joining the clergy team at the cathedral and to contributing to its ministry. Although we will be living right next to the cathedral, only 20% of my working time will be spent at the cathedral. For most of the week I will be in the University of Chester as chaplain and 'Dean of Chapel'. This latter role reflects the university's origins; it began life as a Church of England teacher training college and I have already noticed that the institution remains very positive about the historic Christian ethos at its heart.

So at the start of this year, lots of new beginnings lie ahead for Vicki and me. Last autumn, as I began preparations for these new jobs, I bought my new diary for 2012, very conscious that I was going to ignore dates for future meetings in the parish and deanery. I switched off when plans were being made for the next Mellor PCC, Chadkirk Deanery Synod and all arrangements east of the M53. My new diary seemed to be made up of so many wonderfully empty acres of blank pages from January onwards. How exciting to be able to dream of what would fill them ... but not all of them remained pristine white for long! So as I have the excitement of throwing myself into new commitments, of getting to know many new people, of finding my way around a new city, of making a house feel like a new home, of readying myself to be surprised by the foibles of two institutions of remarkable character, I wish you well for this coming year, whether it holds for you new adventures or established patterns.

***Do come to Peter's Installation as Canon Residentiary on Saturday 14th January at 4pm***

January Prayer.....

**Lord of time and new beginnings, give us good judgment to know what new things to do for you this year and grant us the inner strength to finish each job we begin; so may we fully know the joy of doing your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



## CURATE'S CORNER

On the first two Saturdays in Dec, I went to Night Church, which meets in St Peter's Ecumenical Centre at the Cross. Night Church meets (usually – December was unusual) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month and is a place of safety, calm, worship, with non alcoholic drink and cake which is all free, partly to show the generosity and grace of God and to be a safe place for folk who are out clubbing. It is non denominational and is a wonderful place to go and experience the love of God in action. Many people from different churches volunteer at night church including someone who is in her 70's and the stories you hear are quite diverse. I was there when a couple got engaged by the altar and it was a lovely sight to see and be able to congratulate them, as well as offer a small unspoken prayer for their relationship.

In Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus was instructing the disciples to go and make more disciples and I believe we are to do the same... Night Church is not about standing and preaching, but about sharing the love and grace of God and when needed, some will share their personal stories of their relationship with Jesus Christ.

This is something that is needed in Chester and is something that will need other people to volunteer at in order to do Night Church more than once a month. I wonder if there is someone reading this who might want to help? If so let me know and I will pass on information or speak about it to you.



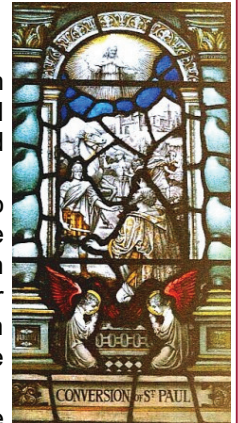
## ST. PAUL

Saul of Tarsus was a Jew, brought up by Gamaliel as a Pharisee.

Initially he was a persecutor of Christians, seeking them out and having them imprisoned. He took part in the stoning of Stephen. However, whilst Saul was on his way to Damascus to seek out Christians and arrest them a bright light flashed about him and he was flung to the ground and the voice of Jesus asked him why he was persecuting him and his followers.

He was befriended by Barnabas who reassured Christians that they could trust him, On returning to Jerusalem he was attacked by a mob for preaching against the enactments of the Jewish Law. He invoked his privilege as a Roman citizen and appealed to Caesar for a trial in Rome as his life was in danger from religious extremists. On his way to Rome he was shipwrecked in Malta and held under arrest for two years. Here he continued his writings. Paul was martyred by Nero by being beheaded in Rome at Tree Fontanne. The basilica of St. Paul Without the Walls now stands over the spot where he was buried. His name is linked with St. Peter who it is believed was martyred on the same day.

His preaching career, letters and stories of his life appear in the Acts of the Apostles. As well as the celebration of his conversion on the 25<sup>th</sup>. January, his joint Feast Day with that of St. Peter is on the 29<sup>th</sup> June.



## Education.....

*Pilgrim Days are a highlight of the Education departments calendar and I as Education Officer and the volunteers love having feedback from the Year 5 pupils who visit. Below is a report written and publish in Burton-in-Wirral parish magazine and is a fantastic glimpse at experience and thoughts of a nine year old visiting the Cathedral. Many thanks to Dorothy Morris an education guide for sharing the article with me. Nicola*

On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2011 my class went to Chester Cathedral for Pilgrim Day. It was great fun, we all enjoyed it.

To start with, we all dropped our lunch bags in the provided boxes whilst staring at all the fascinating objects in the entrance hall of the Cathedral. There were six other schools with us. When we made it into the hall, we took our places in the seats for the opening service. We practised the songs we would be singing that afternoon. We also got given some badges with some rectangles and circles on them. The lady at the front told us that if we had a certain rectangle/ square colour we would have a certain activity to do. I had an orange circle. I sat there wondering who I was with, and hoping there were lots from my school, however, it was just me and one other. The two of us followed our group, wondering what on earth we were going to do and what it what be like. Our teacher, Ian, explained what we were doing. We were mainly working on the making of the Cathedral and its arches. Mrs Arnold came in half way through right when we were about to build small, very small wooden arches. It was quite tough, but the frame helped us even though when we took it out, it fell to the ground. Very flimsy for wood! When we had finished we headed back to the hall with our group so we could have lunch.

After lunch everyone went beyond the hall for a demonstration of the huge organ (it was terrifically loud!). We learnt that it could make extremely high and low sounds; the lowest was merely a rumble.

After that we explored the halls and came to a narrow passage where a nun, by the name of Sister Isobel awaited us. We had to put on monks or nuns uniforms, and walk silently in prayer. This was overwhelmingly embarrassing as there were tons of people watching us. Plus the head monk spoke into a microphone! By the time we walked out, everyone was staring. After that we followed our guide to the place where the shrine of St Werburgh lived. We learned all about her, her noble nun friends, and all the good deeds she did for Chester when she lived.

Finally we realised that we were pilgrims, that we had made a pilgrimage to Chester Cathedral! How cool! The last session before the service was making prayer beads. Mine was pink!



Finally we had the closing service. We sang songs, with accompaniment from bell ringers and sign language! It had been a great and fun day. I think we will all treasure the memories for a long time.

By Finlay.

## Cathedral Constables

Chester Cathedral has now been joined by a small but very historic organisation. The Dean and Chapter have now sanctioned that Cathedral constables be used to look after the security of the fabric of Chester Cathedral and its estate. Ecclesiastical Constables were quite a common feature in our parishes during the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, but as far back as 1285 York Minster had first begun to form what we know today as a Police Force. Between 1285 and 1839 York Minster had its own Liberty. The Liberty, known as the 'Liberty of Saint Peter and Peter Prison,' was the walled area which enclosed the Minster Close. Within the Liberty, the Dean and Chapter of York Minster held jurisdiction, and were able to appoint constables. Chester will join the other four Cathedrals in the world. They are, Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral; the Basilica Papale di San Pietro in Vaticano, more commonly known as St. Peter's Basilica in Rome (the Swiss Guard, a small force maintained by the Holy See, is responsible for the safety of the Pope, including the security of the Apostolic Palace); and Washington's National Cathedral (USA). Although not as well known as the Swiss Guard, the Minster Police have served York Minster with loyal and distinguished service for many hundreds of years. Although Liverpool Cathedral employs constables, its officers have never been attested or its small constabulary designated as a police force. (source Cathedral Constables Association)



Heading this new role will be Chris Jones, who has been appointed as Head Constable and will soon be organizing the recruitment of Volunteer Constables to assist in the patrolling of the Cathedral Estate. Chris, who is also the Cathedral's Dean and Chapter Secretary, said about his appointment, 'I am very much looking forward to growing and embedding this role at the Cathedral. It is something new for us here, but I am sure will be welcomed. I am very keen to establish this role in the correct manner that has been associated with Ecclesiastical Constables since the 18th Century, by looking after the wellbeing and safeguarding the fabric of our Cathedrals into the future.'

If you would like to be considered for one of the positions as a Volunteer Cathedral Constable, then please get in touch with Chris, who will be pleased to speak to you. He can be contacted on 01244 500952 or email [chris.jones@chestercathedral.com](mailto:chris.jones@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:

- 0930 Morning Prayer and 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.*

## 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>	Canon Chris Humphries
<b>Thursday</b>	Canon Chris Humphries
<b>Friday</b>	Canon Peter Howell-Jones
<b>Saturday</b>	The Dean

## Narcissus 'Rijnveld's Early Sensation'. Amaryllidaceae.

An unremarkable trumpet daffodil in every respect, except that is, the ability of this rare and expensive cultivar to defy the depths of winter by flowering in January. It is a tantalising harbinger of the onset of spring. However, this year, confounding all expectations, it began flowering in the SE corner of the Garth on November 15<sup>th</sup>, the flowers increasing in number to a veritable host over Christmas. New autumn plantings in both the Garth and Memorial Garden will commence flowering from January onwards.

Phil. Hunt. Custos hortorum 21.xii.11



## Visitor Survey

Chester Cathedral is a vital component of the city's visitor offer but we are always looking for new ways of attracting visitors. Millions of people come to the city each year but how can more of these be encouraged to come in and look around? What facilities do they want and how can the Cathedral best meet their needs? Is there something that actually prevents people from coming in? These aren't easy questions for anyone to consider but they are vital to the long term survival of the building and the appeal of the city.

Can you support the Cathedral by giving your views on the issue? It would be much appreciated if you could complete our online survey – it only takes a few minutes and is completely confidential. The survey will remain live until the end of January 2012.

Just go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/chestercathedral> and follow the instructions or go to the Cathedral's homepage on [www.chestercathedral.com](http://www.chestercathedral.com) and follow the link.

## Special Offer for Groups

The early part of the year is an ideal time for groups to visit the Cathedral since it's relatively quiet and visitors can look around in a relaxed and tranquil atmosphere. As an added incentive to groups to visit in these months, a special offer will be introduced for guided tours taking place in January, February and March 2012; visitors on pre-booked Cathedral tours will each receive a complimentary cup of tea or coffee in the magnificent Cathedral Refectory as part of their visit. Group Guided tours must be pre-booked (minimum of 10) and it really is the best way to see around this extraordinary building and discover its history as well as the little things it's so easy to miss – and of course, questions are welcome!

Guided tours cost £6.50 per person (inclusive of entry) and can be arranged to suit every type of group, from the casual visitor to the architectural expert. Tours usually last about 75 minutes, although this can be tailored to meet any requirements. To book a tour or discuss your requirements, please telephone Nick Fry on 01244 500958.

# BIBLE TALK LECTURE SERIES



Bible Talks are a series of lectures and discussions that take place in the Cloister Room of Chester Cathedral from 1.10pm until 2.00pm. There is no charge for attending, although donations towards the work of the Cathedral are welcome. This year's Spring series will focus on:



## The Bible and the Book of Common Prayer

Wednesday 1st February <b>The Apocrypha and Christian Prayer</b>	Professor William Horbury, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge
Wednesday 8th February <b>Praying for the Monarch</b>	Professor George Brooke, Manchester University
Wednesday 15th February <b>Prayer and Holiness</b>	Professor John Rogerson, Sheffield University
Wednesday 22nd February Ash Wednesday <b>Penitential Prayer</b>	The Revd Canon Peter Howell-Jones, Vice Dean of Chester Cathedral
<i>Please note there is no Bible Talk Lecture on Wednesday 29th February</i>	
Wednesday 7th March <b>The Prayer of Fierce Complaint</b>  <i>Please note this lecture will take place in the Song School; members of Cathedral staff will be on hand to direct you and assist those who wish to use the lift.</i>	The Revd Dr Trevor Dennis
Wednesday 14th March <b>The Lord's Prayer</b>	The Revd Canon Professor Loveday Alexander, Canon Theologian
Wednesday 21st March <b>The Priestly Blessing and its use in Christian Prayer</b>	Professor Philip Alexander, Manchester University

After the lectures on 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of February and 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> March, the Professors Alexander and Peter Bamford (Cathedral Librarian) will be leading a visit to the Library Exhibition on the 1622 Book of Common Prayer. This will cost £2.50 per person and will include an exhibition guide.

If you would like to be added to the Bible Talk mailing list, please contact our Education Officer, [nicola.preston@chestercathedral.com](mailto:nicola.preston@chestercathedral.com).

## Chester Cathedral

An Epiphany Celebration  
with Carols and Readings

sung by

the Cathedral Nave Choir

**Sunday 8 January 2012  
6.30pm**

## The Chester Mystery Plays June/July 2013

Tickets for the 19 performances are now on sale at the Cathedral Box Office  
[www.chestercathedral.com](http://www.chestercathedral.com) 01244 500959  
Cathedral Box Office opening times,  
Monday – Saturday 9.00 – 4.30 and Sunday  
12.30 pm – 4.00 pm  
[www.chestermysteryplays.com](http://www.chestermysteryplays.com)



### Andy's Recipe for January..... Chicken & Broccoli Risotto

3 Tsp Sunflower oil  
3 Chopped Shallots  
8-12 Button Mushrooms  
225gr (8oz) Skinless Diced Chicken Breast  
1 Clove Garlic finely chopped  
115gr (6oz) Arborio Rice  
125ml (4flop) Dry white wine (or extra stock)  
600ml (1Pint) Hot Veg or Chicken Stock (keep stock simmering in a separate pan)  
175gr (6oz) Small Broccoli Florets  
2 tsp Chopped Parsley  
Fresh Ground Pepper to Taste.

Cooking Time 20-45mins

1. Heat 2tsp oil in a heavy-based pan, add chicken, cook for 3-4 mins until coloured and sealed all over, stirring regularly. Add shallots, garlic and remaining oil; cook for about 5 mins or until shallots are soft. Stirring occasionally, add mushrooms & rice; cook for 1-2 mins stirring.

2. Add wine; cook rapidly for 1-2 mins; stirring until almost evaporated. Reduce heat to medium-low add stock a ladleful at a time, allowing it to be absorbed before adding more, stirring continuously until rice is tender. This takes about 20 mins: you may not need to add all the stock.

3. Meanwhile, cook the broccoli in a separate pan of boiling water for about 5 mins or until tender. Drain well; keep warm.

4. Gently stir in broccoli and parsley into risotto; season with black pepper and serve.

### Concerts and Events at Chester Cathedral

			Tickets
14 January	Installation of Peter Jenner as Canon Residentiary	4.00pm	All Welcome
22 January	Churches Together in Cheshire Christian Unity Service <i>Preacher, Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor</i>	3.30pm	All Welcome
28 January	BCP350, Canon Loveday Alexander <i>Booking essential for this lecture</i>	11am & 12	01244 500959
28 January	Are there any Bishops in the Bible?	2pm	All Welcome