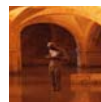




NEWSLETTER



The Dean writes...

EACH year I think that the Queen's Speech rates as the best Christmas sermon. Perhaps no royal broadcast has had more lasting impact than the 1939 Christmas message of King George VI, just as World War II was unleashed upon the world. The words with which he concluded have become enduring and still resonate as we enter the threshold of a New Year;

*And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light, that I may tread safely into the unknown!"*

*And he replied:
"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.*

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

The poem was, in fact, written by Minnie Louise Haskins in 1908. She was a lecturer at the London School of Economics. The final words of her poem are less well known:

*So, I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.
And He led me toward the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.
So, heart, be still!
What need our little life,
Our human life, to know,
If God hath comprehension?
In all the dizzy strife,
Of things both high and low
God hideth His intention.*

Two things strike me about that poem. One is the conviction with which the author says 'and finding the Hand of God', and the other the realism of 'God hideth His intention'. As we enter the New Year we are only too aware that there will be plenty of times for us individually and in community when the way of God is hidden. Yet the poem reminds us that although God is hidden, he is never absent. We are given the Hand of God in Christ, and it is for us to respond in trust. We are to carry the light that is thrust into our hand for others as well as for ourselves.

JANUARY AT A GLANCE

- 1 The Naming of Jesus
- 6 THE EPIPHANY
17.30 Sung Eucharist
- 10 The Baptism of Christ
Viennese Gala Concert
(p.8)
- 11 Chairs out of the Nave
- 18 The Confession of Peter
Week of Prayer for
Christian Unity begins
(to 25th)
- 24 Christian Unity Service
Preacher: Lord Carey
- 25 The Conversion of Paul
- 27 Holocaust Memorial Day
19.00 Peace Vigil
- 31 Taizé Service

HC: Holy Communion (*always said*)
CM: Choral Mattins (*M = said*)
SE: Sung Eucharist (*always sung*)
CE: Choral Evensong (*E = said*)

The Dean

For the Cathedral the New Year brings some new faces. We shall welcome as our new deputy Head Virger, Marie Ammann-West. She comes from Ely Cathedral where the Dean tells me how sad they are to lose her. She will be an able, friendly and willing addition to our Virger team. We also have a new Manager for the Shop. She is Suzie Gilmour and comes with a varied experience of retail including having run her own business. She is positive and enthusiastic about her new task, working with staff and volunteers, as part of a single Cathedral team.

Still fairly new is our Cathedral audio guide, available from the Entrance Desk, which complements the work of our Guides. The commentary has distilled their research, and the voice is that of David Suchet. It is another element of our welcome to visitors that will become more widely known as the year develops. Also 'new' is the staircase to the Prior's Hall. It has been rebuilt by Richard Tate and Trevor Marks and is a fine piece of engineering as well as joinery – do appreciate it! The Chapter Room has been refurbished, with professional advice, by Trevor Hills and Bob Standrin. With the availability of the new Conference Room in No.9, we are intending to identify the Chapter Room as an additional asset for Enterprises to offer as an unusual venue for hospitality.

The Diocese has been reviewing its financial position in the light of next year's budget. There are various valuable pieces of ministry that it is felt cannot be sustained in their present form, and one of these is the post of Canon Missioner at the Cathedral. This means that Canon Steve Pittis will be in consultation with the Bishop about the future shape of his ministry within the Diocese, and that will include a review of the arrangements with the Cathedral. Our prayers are with Steve at a difficult time, but for the moment, it is 'business as usual'.

We had a very good Community Day at Pilgrims' School in November. The feedback from that is valuable, and we have collated the work of the group scribes in a form that Chapter can digest. Previous Community Days have already had tangible outcomes. Amongst other things they have had the effect of widening leadership in worship, forming the Nave Choir and inaugurating coffee on Sundays. The launch of the new Advisory & Action Groups as part of the way forward for the Cathedral has been another outcome which will permeate our whole Cathedral life. The Outreach and Fellowship Group has just sent more than £700 to the Asher Community Project in Delhi as a result of a talk by Craig Philbrick at the curry evening during One World Week last October.

On the immediate horizon, we welcome Lord Carey, former Archbishop of Canterbury, to speak at the service to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Sunday 24 January at 6.30pm. (Details elsewhere) The 'Sing Up' concert, as part of our music outreach with Pilgrims' to local schools, is on Friday 5 February at 1.30pm, to which all are welcome. Education Sunday on 7 February will be marked in the context of a 10am Eucharist, and the service has been devised together with the University of Winchester. There are lots ahead of us for 2010, and may you find your hand in the Hand of God at this new stage in your own journey.



Where will you be for the New Year 2011?

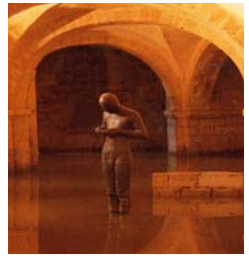
You could be in Egypt!

The Dean will be leading an expedition to Cairo & Alexandria, combined with a Nile Cruise on a specially chartered boat.

Brochures can be obtained from the Cathedral Office.

Spirituality

Canon Roly writes...



Christian Unity

The annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is from 18th-24th January. Please see the next page for the programme of events. The climax of events, the unity service, will be held in the Cathedral at 6.30pm on Sunday 24th January. The preacher will be Lord Carey of Clifton, formerly Archbishop of Canterbury. The service will be a pilgrimage service around the Cathedral, starting at the West End and moving round the whole building to finish in the presbytery and quire, as we follow the story of the travellers on the road to Emmaus after Christ's resurrection. The Salvation Army band will be accompanying us on the way.

The cause of Christian Unity was much helped by a retreat held last month at Midhurst, for senior church leaders of the Winchester District. The outcome included a schedule of bi-monthly shared prayer lunches, which will draw together Churches Together in Winchester and Mission Winchester in closer fellowship, and a common desire to explore further what we can do together for the young people of our City. This may include support of YMCA's youth project at St John's House (www.ymcawinchester.org.uk) and the Street Pastor scheme (www.streetpastors.co.uk).

Education Sunday

Education Sunday will be marked in the Cathedral on 7th February at 10am. Our partner this year is the University of Winchester. Much time and imagination have been invested into the Eucharistic liturgy which will follow the theme of *Education for Compassion*. A Charter for Compassion written by young people from Peter Symonds, St Swithun's and the University will be launched. As education has of late been seen as a tool to boost economic competitiveness, it is timely to be reminded of the way in which education can foster a Christlike spirit. A specially commissioned hymn will be sung at the service and the University's popular gospel choir, SONG, will also contribute to the worship.

Confirmation

There is still time to let me know if you are interested in confirmation. Canon Steve Pittis will be running a second Christian Basics Course, which will serve the purpose in some cases, and I shall be running a more specific confirmation course. We shall discuss between us which course is right for you. There will also be teaching on the Eucharist for confirmation candidates and all other interested parties based on Timothy Radcliffe's book, *Why Go to Church?* Further details will soon be published in the Education and Spirituality leaflet.

Venerable Chapel Refurbishment

We are delighted to announce that the unified plan for a new altar and chapel furniture in the Venerable Chapel has now been approved and should be undertaken in 2010. Anyone wishing a sneak preview of the altar, as a maquette, might like to visit www.beauxartslondon.co.uk/RS-pic-index109.html. The maquette is by Rachel Schwalm, whose solo show *Stilled Point of a Turning World* is taking place 27 January to 20 February at Beaux Arts, 22 Cork Street, London W1S 3NA. For further information, please contact Emma Lilley on 020 7437 5799; info@beauxartslondon.co.uk. The chapel's furniture is by Luke Hughes and Co. whose work is already in Canterbury Cathedral and who also designed our West End donation boxes.

Chichester

Those who missed the original 2008 multi-media performance of Messiaen's *Nativité du Seigneur* in Winchester Cathedral, with artworks by Sophie Hacker and my meditations, may like to note that it is being performed at Chichester Cathedral, with Sarah Baldock at the organ, on Saturday January 16th. Tickets are £15 including wine, see www.chichestercathedral.org.uk/dyn/pages/whats-on/messiaen-exhibition-and-concert.shtml

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



Sunday 17th – Shared Ministry
(In preparation for The Week of Prayer)

Monday 18th 12.30 – 13.00
St. Lawrence's Church - Lunchtime Prayers

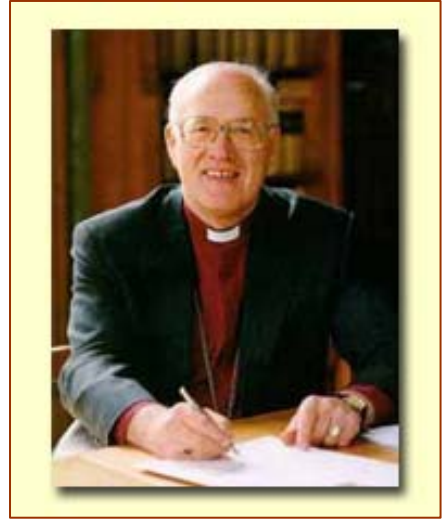
Tuesday 19th 12.30 – 13.00
Christ Church - Lunchtime Prayers

Wednesday 20th 12.30
The United Church - Space in the City
'Putting Money in its Place'
Peter Selby, former Bishop of Worcester

Wednesday 20th 18.00 – 21.00 pm
St. Swithun's Church - Prayer Vigil

Thursday 21st 12.30 – 1.00 pm
St. Peter's Church - Lunchtime Prayers

Friday 22nd 12.30 pm
United Church - Lunchtime Prayers



Sunday 24th at 6.30 pm
The Cathedral - A Service of Unity
Rt Rev Dr George Carey (Lord Carey of Clifton),
Formerly Archbishop of Canterbury

Bishop Colin James

Not every bishop and dean work in perfect harmony and it is important that each should be an individual of independent judgement. But no dean has ever enjoyed a closer and more cordial relationship than I experienced with Bishop Colin, even though we disagreed about the ordination of women priests.

He had of course had personal experience of cathedral life as a canon residentiary during his years as Bishop of Basingstoke. That helped and later, when his wider responsibilities in the diocese and nationally were so heavy, he was I think more than happy to allow the Dean and Chapter to discharge, without interference, their responsibilities for the cathedral.

But Bishop Colin was neither detached from nor indifferent to the cathedral's life. Presiding at the Eucharist on Tuesday mornings was a high priority for him and only other, unavoidable commitments elsewhere kept him away. Equally, his Sun-

day appearances in the cathedral pulpit, to which we all looked forward, were treated with the greatest care. He always seemed rather pleased when the Friends' summer festival coincided with a meeting of the General Synod and gave him an excuse to stay in Winchester with us.

Besides these, a multitude of other occasions in the life of the diocese and the Hampshire community brought him into the cathedral and we welcomed him as a friend and pastor. I remember especially his sensitive involvement in the service after the Clapham rail disaster and as the years passed by I became increasingly aware of the heavy toll that the demands on his pastoral gifts took of his own wellbeing. He was often exhausted.

For me he was always there as a wise, encouraging and generous friend and counsellor, and of the many blessings that came my way during my Winchester years the presence of Colin and his dear wife Sally at Wolvesey was easily among the greatest.

Trevor Beeson, Dean Emeritus

Worship



THE name Seldon is central to Conan Doyle's novel *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Escaping from Dartmoor Prison, the convicted murderer Seldon lives out a meagre existence on the moors until the savage hound ends his pathetic life. His sister's secret cover is revealed by a sympathetic Holmes at the Hall where she works and is married to the faithful retainer. Despite his cruelty and wickedness, her compassion and concern for her brother remained constant. In a dangerous story of evil intent, her part in the story remains the only admirable ingredient.

To treat other people as if they are closely related remains a demanding, yet deeply Christian, attitude. Whatever the offence, to offer people a genuine second chance makes the world a better place. However complex and demanding, such a venture into the unknown can have extraordinary consequences. We leave room for improvement and change when we hesitate to judge too quickly.

When Jesus Christ dealt with Peter or Thomas, for example, such was the case. Failure or doubt were never seen as a cause for endings but beginnings. With a growing sense of forgiveness and greater trust, the willingness to witness and proclaim increased significantly.

As the New Year arrives, rejoice that the God we worship is one of new beginnings. There is no wish to dwell on the past or hold back on forgiveness. He leads the way ahead of us whilst we hold on too tightly to past regrets and failures. It is not his way and need not be ours.

If you are undecided or lack enthusiasm for a resolution, then why not prick the bubble of pride and take up God's offer of a new beginning for 2010.

Canon Michael

STOP PRESS

You will be pleased to hear that the Deanery Books reached their target of £50K towards Boy Choristerships in the middle of December.

This is testament to the commitment of so many people, as donors and helpers, and over a long season.

Many thanks and congratulations to all involved.

ANDREW LUMSDEN ON THE MONTH'S MUSIC

Christmas and Epiphany has a wealth of music written for it. Among the very best include Francis Poulenc's Christmas motets (15th, 22nd, 29th), Orlando Gibbons verse anthem *See, see, the word is incarnate* (16th) and Lennox Berkeley's setting of words by Richard Crashaw, *Look up, sweet babe* (30th). The Girls and Lay Clerks will be performing *Seek him that maketh the seven stars* (17th pm) by Jonathan Dove, one of the most popular of modern composers, which is quite a workout for the organist! Various pieces of Herbert Howells' music will be included in the next few months - including the setting of the Evening Canticles written for Winchester (24th) - as the boys and men prepare for a recording of his music for the Hyperion label in March.

News

IN TUNEFUL ACCORD

Trevor Beeson's new book which traces the extraordinary development of church music since 1840, mainly through the lives of the church composers and performers, is arousing a lot of interest. Signed copies are on sale at the Cathedral Bookshop.

ASSISTED DYING

The issue of Assisted Dying has become a very controversial area in public policy. During the past few years there have been several attempts to get a Bill on this topic through the House of Lords, and the Lords has had a Select Committee to look at the issue. More recently the Law Lords, in one of their last judgments before becoming the Supreme Court, ruled that the Director of Public Prosecutions needed to create greater clarity in the mind of the public about the circumstances in which cases of alleged assisted suicide would be prosecuted and those cases which would not. The DPP has now published draft guidance and the Church of England has produced a public response to this (for more, follow links from www.cofe.anglican.org to euthanasia and suicide).

A lecture will be held at 7pm, 28th January in Prior's Hall, looking at the Christian response to the issues raised by the latest review. Canon Raymond Plant will use his experience and the House of Lords and as a Professor of Jurisprudence at King's College Law School to focus on the issues of principle at stake in this debate and the Bishop will contribute to that, as well as commenting on the Church's response to the DPP draft guidance. There will then be opportunity for shared discussion.



Viennese Gala Concert

Sparkling music by Strauss
Offenbach and Lehar
sung by top international soloists

Claire Rutter
(Star of Norma at Grange Park Opera)

and Stephen Gadd

Winchester Cathedral
6pm Sunday 10th January 2010

Rutter & Gadd
with Southern Sinfonia
conducted by Richard Balcombe

Concert tickets
make lovely
Christmas Presents!


Tickets £15/£29/£42 from the Cathedral Box Office Tel. 01962 857275
Also at Newbury Corn Exchange 9th January
Programme and Artist details and
online booking at www.RutterGadd.info

Intelligent talks for thinking people

Space in the City

at the United Church, Jewry Street, Winchester
Wednesdays 12.30pm

January 2010



PETER SELBY

Former Bishop of Worcester
Author: 'Grace and Mortgage'

Mammon's Revenge: the global finance crisis, its roots and its results

6 January **Money: what it has become**
13 January **The System Money Drives**
20 January **Putting Money in its Place**
27 January **Money in Faith and Practice**

Space in the City is organised by the United Church, St Peter's, St Bartholomew's and St Lawrence with St Swifun's.

NEW! ~ A 15 minute 'Question Time' with Debbie Throver for those happy to stay after 1pm

Admission free ~ Donations welcome ~ Sandwiches available
www.spaceinthecity.org.uk

People

‘God must be very big if this is his house! I know why that door (the Slype) is so small.... so that God can’t get out!’

Working with 5-7 year old children at the Pilgrims’ Pre-Prep is an amazing and constantly humbling privilege. Young children’s thinking is uncluttered, uncomplicated and I wonder at the clarity and simplicity of their ideas.

A regular worshipper at the Cathedral, and having a great love for the place, I am able to try to introduce my young pupils to the awe and wonder that the building inspires in so many.

We visit the Cathedral on alternate weeks for our Assembly, always to a different spot and for a different reason. Sometimes we go to the West end and gaze down the length of the nave. When I tell them to look up there is a murmur of amazement as they see the height of this vast building. No wonder God is so big! We listen to our choristers sing and to orchestral rehearsals before great concerts. We come to the Cathedral to see Windows when learning about the letter ‘w’, to find angels when doing an RE topic, to study floor tiles as part of an art project or to see The Winchester Bible.



The Pre-Prep lives under the benign shadow of the Cathedral, the building filling the view from each classroom. We listen to the bells, spy craftsmen on the roof, see the flag flying and watch the ever changing colours as the sun shines on the stone work. The Dean and Canons come over to take our Assemblies; later, as a boy walked through the Close he passed a Canon wearing his cassock: ‘Mummy, we have just passed God!’

My quiet prayer is that, at some later moment in their lives, these lucky children will come to realise just what an amazing experience they have had to have been educated within the Close of such a wonderful and spiritual place.

**Jane Turner,
Head of the Pilgrims’ Pre-Prep**

Some views from Christmas



The Dean, the Mayor and Raymond Blanc opened the Christmas activities in the Close on 27th November.



Hundreds of lanterns made the journey to the market and ice rink opening ceremony, filling the streets.



Another busy year for our choristers.

THE BACK PAGE

*Tickets for charging events are from the Cathedral Box Office (see below) unless stated otherwise.
A full listing is at our website: www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk*

10th Jan, 18:00

VIENNESE GALA CONCERT

Claire Rutter and Stephen Gadd, Britain's leading international operatic duo, are joined by the Southern Sinfonia for a sparkling programme of Viennese music, including Strauss favourites such as the Blue Danube Waltz and operetta excerpts from Die Fledermaus and The Merry Widow.

Tickets from Cathedral Box Office.

6th Feb, 15:30

THE GREAT BIG TEA PARTY!

An event especially for children and their families. Bring a picnic tea to enjoy in the Cathedral. To book places contact Teresa Forward, Discipleship Support Officer on 01962 737322 or email teresa.forward@winchester.anglican.org

9th Feb, 18:30

CATHEDRAL OPEN EVENING

A very special opportunity to experience the Cathedral in a totally new light. Learn about the work that goes on behind the scenes. The evening will include demonstrations, displays and presentations led by a number of our volunteer sections and staff, a short concert, guided tours and children's activities. This is also a wonderful evening to see the Cathedral as it would have looked in centuries gone by and parts of the building lit by candlelight. Not to be missed. Free entry for all.

2nd Feb - CANDLEMAS

17.30 Sung Eucharist

17th Feb - ASH WEDNESDAY

17.30 Sung Eucharist with imposition of Ashes.

6th Mar, 19:30

SOUTHERN VOICES CONCERT

20th Mar, 19:30

WAYNFLETE SINGERS CONCERT

Arvo Pärt: The Beatitudes; Rachmaninov: Vespers; Dupré: organ music
Tickets on sale from 25 January

28th Mar - PALM SUNDAY

1st Apr - Maundy Thursday

2nd Apr - GOOD FRIDAY

4th Apr - EASTER DAY

Full details of Holy Week and Easter, along with educational and preaching in Lent, will appear in the February edition of the Newsletter.

15th May, 19:30

CONCERT: ACKER BILK AND HIS PARAMOUNT JAZZ BAND

Acker Bilk MBE MA and his Paramount Jazz Band gained worldwide fame with his hit singles 'Stranger On The Shore' in 1962 (it stayed in the charts for 55 weeks and was the first number 1 hit in UK and USA simultaneously) and 'Aria' in 1976. Acker Bilk and his Paramount Jazz Band are one of the most successful British Jazz Groups ever.

Tickets from Cathedral Box Office.

Large print versions are available from the Office. *This newsletter is on recyclable paper.*

Cathedral Office
9, The Close,
Winchester,
Hampshire, SO23 9LS.
01962 857200
www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk

Cathedral Box Office
Inner Close
Winchester,
Hampshire, SO23 9LS.
01962 857275
www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk