



Edition 15

December 2009

A donation of 50p will defray our costs.

NEWSLETTER



Full details of service for Christmas in this month's centre pull out.

Following on from the Community Day, Canon Roly explores Chapter's vision 'The Beauty of Holiness'



The Dean writes...

THE Ice Rink and the Christmas Market now feel like familiar friends. The Christmas Tree Ceremony, the arrival of the Lantern Procession and the Opening of the Ice Rink take place from 6.30pm on Friday 27 November. They launch Advent in the Close followed closely by the Advent Carol Service in the Cathedral at 6.30pm on Saturday 28 November. Our preparations for Christmas are then truly underway. There will be a contemporary Nativity in the Cathedral undertaken by an enterprising team of boys at Winchester College, and outside No 1 The Close, another which has been designed by pupils at Osborne School. There are the usual milestones that lead up to Christmas including the Lord Lieutenant's Carol Concert (to support our choristers), the popular Christmas Market Service, the Cathedral Carol Services, Britten's Ceremony of Carols, and a new venture with the Girls'

Choir singing an extra service. Details of all of these can be found elsewhere in the Newsletter. A 'one off' which I would recommend to you this year is children's author Michael Morpurgo's presentation 'On Angel Wings' on Monday 14 December; an occasion for all the family.

With a constant stream of events both inside and outside the Cathedral, there is a real sense of the Cathedral at the heart of the community in the preparation period for Christmas, which the Church calls Advent. The purist might say that the popular keeping of Advent has merged with Christmas, yet the telling of the story of the Nativity, the singing of traditional carols and the concern to be more generous and less selfish do bring a valid spiritual dimension to the season. Christmas still remains in our culture a celebration of the birth of the Christ-child and not simply a mid-winter festival. It

DECEMBER AT A GLANCE

- 2 Teenage Cancer Trust Concert (p.8)
- 5 Waynflete Singers Concert (p.8)
- 7 Peter Symonds College Carols
- 8 King's School Carols
- 9 Pilgrims' School Carols
- 10 Twyford School Carols
Westgate School Carols
- 11 Lord Lieutenant's Carol Concert (p.8)
- 14 Michael Morpurgo: On Angel Wings (p.8)

Please see page 7 and centre section for the remainder of the Christmas period.

- 27 John the Apostle
08.00: HC, 09.45: CM,
11.00: SE, 15.30: E
18.00 Taizé Service

Please also see the centre section for said service times between Christmas and New Year.

- Looking ahead
6 Jan THE EPIPHANY
17.30 Sung Eucharist

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

The Dean

comes as a coded message of hope and renewal. The rumour of God is rife and we can play our part as a Cathedral in that persistence of Christmas godliness.

The Cathedral Office is now settled in No 9, inevitable teething problems have mostly been overcome and the boxes have been unpacked. It has the advantage of being evident, central and accessible. Kate Channing has left us as Head of Trading and we are grateful for all she achieved in a short while. In the light of the Cathedral's needs it has been decided to appoint an Head of Operations with a broad overview, assisted by a dedicated Shop Manager. The process of appointing is well under way.

Quite a number of the Cathedral Community joined me recently in a pilgrimage to Syria and Turkey. The experience was so well distilled in a letter I received, that I am sharing it here. The next pilgrimage is just over a year away (29 Dec 2010 – 10 Jan 2011) and will be to Egypt again, which is so rich in history (and a source of the Old Testament) and unbeatable in contemporary hospitality. There is a Nile boat chartered just for our group, and some unusual places to visit. Brochures are available from the Cathedral Office.

Before our trip, I was a little anxious about our journey to Syria. It was a great unknown, and I did not fancy the idea of being exposed to malaria. The thought of packing for a long journey was a bit daunting.

As it was, it turned out to be most wonderful. How can one forget the sight of the Syrian desert (its bleak landscape broken by cotton fields, beehive huts and leaning pine trees), the ruins of the ancient settlements of Ugarit and Mari, the departed glory of the Roman cities of Palmyra, St Sergio and Bacchus, and the vibrant centres of Damascus and Aleppo? Seeing the Euphrates was a special moment too. A blue thick line on a map became a full flowing river, a greenly life of jumping fish, bullrushes, yellow and red irises, warbling birds among the reeds and men casting round nets into the water.

And how can I now talk about St Paul without conjuring up Straight Street, Ananias' house and the river that he would have seen (or even swam in)?

Meeting people of enduring faith (like the Great Patriarch Ignatius IV, Pastor Serop, the three Daughters of the Church) and worshipping with James' penetrating liturgy in daily Eucharist was doubtless the most defining aspect of

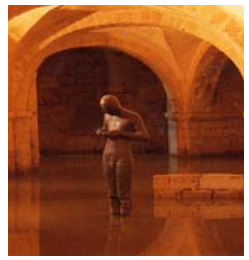


the trip. Without the daily spiritual nourishment, the trip would have been merely 'interesting and exciting.' For me, the trip was more like a pilgrimage as well as a vision.

I realized that more important than seeing new places, tasting new foods, discovering objects of intellectual marvel was the increasing sense of 'community' in our group. I made new acquaintances and realized that several were carrying wounds of bereavement, both old and new. Yes, there were a few trying moments of miscommunication and frustrated friendship, but the call to love, to understand, to forgive, to heal was there. I realized that it is in the messiness of life that we see instances of God's grace. I also learned to appreciate the metaphorical shaping of the Israelites as God's people in their long journey in the wilderness.

Spirituality

As part of the Cathedral's Congregational Day on 15th November, Canon Roly explored Chapter's Vision Statement for the Cathedral: 'To discover and live out the beauty of holiness'.



HOLINESS is not a comfortable notion. Would we want to invite a holy person to tea, or would we immediately assume him (probably not her) to be grim, solitary or austere? Yet the Cathedral's new vision statement celebrates the *beauty* of holiness, taking its cue from the Psalms: 'O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth' (Ps 96.9); and again: 'Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness' (Ps 29.2).

This strange beauty doesn't fall into any familiar category: it's not a commodity or experience but a beckoning reality towards which we are drawn – remember Moses turning aside to look at the burning bush that was not consumed, and stepping onto holy ground (Ex 3.1-6). The word 'holy' in Hebrew means 'separate' or 'cut off': God's own presence cannot be likened to any other thing. The Holy One remains wild and free, therefore to be feared.

However, the holy presence of the Lord can be known if the Lord chooses to reveal it. Israel knew her God because she was chosen by

him to be his servant. Though a fake relationship with the holy was always to hand in the form of idol worship, the Lord jealously guarded his relationship with his people. They were not to serve or bow down to other 'gods', which could be seen, touched, manipulated. The true God of Israel dwelt in cloud and thick darkness and spoke through intermediaries – the law, prophets and angels.

God's people were called to hold fast to faithful relationship - to choose life, freedom and blessing over death, slavery and curse (Deut 30.15-20). Meetings with the holy God were not just terrifying, but also deep engaging and transforming – remember Jacob wrestling with the stranger, not willing to let him go until he blessed him (Gen 32.22-32).

The Temple was a very ambiguous gift within the relationship of God to his people. The Holy of Holies at its centre was the place above all places of encounter, but only the High Priest could enter it once a year; it was a place where God vouched to dwell, but yet which could not contain him (1 Kings 8.27). It became the emblem of the nation's prosperity and hope,

and when it was destroyed in the 6th Century BC and the people exiled, there was despair.

It was inconceivable that there could be a real future for God's people without a rebuilding of the Temple. In the prophetic imagination a restored Temple became a beacon of good news not just for the Jews but for all nations, who would gather together on the Holy Mountain (Isa 40.9-11; Isa 60.1-3). Much hinged on the Temple, as indeed much hinges for us on our own Cathedral. We love its history and stones; we know that God encounters us here; and come the Summer the nations gather to do homage!

Our very devotion to Winchester's 'Temple' makes Jesus' ministry all the more challenging - it overturned all the boundaries of what defined the sphere of the holy. His familiar parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk 10.25-37) is deeply subversive. The priest and Levite on their way back from the Temple pass by the victim on the road and thereby miss out on holiness. Why? Because of their fear of ritual uncleanness through contact with a corpse (Num 19.11). The Samaritan heretic,

on the other hand, shows up the supposed guardians of holiness by acting mercifully towards his accidental neighbour. Devotion to a sacred place does not, therefore, guarantee an engagement with the holy; it may even keep one from it.

Throughout his ministry Jesus' provocative words and deeds incur the hostility of those who try to maintain the old lines of holiness. No act is more incendiary than his overturning the tables of the money changers (Mk 11.15-19). This isn't, as some suppose, a complaint against capitalism or even entry charges, but a prophetic act signalling the destruction of the Temple cult. It seals the fate of God's Holy One. When Jesus finally dies, a sacrifice to God made outside the 'holy' City, the curtain of the Temple is torn in two (Mk 15.36-39), and the old order is destroyed.

The Temple is replaced by one not made with hands, the body of Christ, whose members are living stones (Mk 14. 57-59; 1 Pet 2.5). Believers share in life of the one body, joined together by the one Holy Spirit in fellowship across former divisions of language, status, gender and culture (Eph 4.4; Acts 2.5-13; Gal 3.28). The only boundary that now exists is created by those who divorce themselves from Christ's body by their faithlessness towards him (Mat 25.31ff; Jn 3.19f).

Where does this leave us? Not too attached to the Temple, I hope. It's better to see the Cathedral as a tent where Christ dwells among us, where we can discover the beauty of holiness both in our worship and the glorious architecture of which we are rightly proud. That is why our focus on *Liturgy and Worship*, and the new Advisory and Action Group supporting it, is vital.

But equally we are called to 'live out' the beauty of holiness. That is where the other Advisory and Action Groups have a complementary role to play. The work of the *Mother Church and Regional Beacon Group* reminds us that our tent is just one of many pitched around Winchester and beyond, all

connected with us, as we with them, by our shared allegiance to Christ. The *Education and Spirituality Group* deepens this relationship to Christ as we take his word to heart and let it form and inform our lives. The *Outreach and Fellowship Group* enables us to serve one another and look to the needs of those beyond the boundaries that we have yet to cross.

Chapter's vision and intention is that we should give ourselves to all these different dimensions of holiness, encouraging one another in both the discovering and living out of its beauty. We have not aimed to be original or clever in our formulation but to put a finger on the heartbeat of our best intentions, for the Cathedral's worship to be part of something far more glorious: the sacrifice of lives given in adoration and service to God, in the pattern of the beauty we see most clearly revealed in Christ crucified.

Canon Roly

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 Swithun's.

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

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

Worship

Christmas is coming!

WHAT is your favourite season of the year? Mine is Spring when, day after day, evidence grows of the impending Summer; flowering blossom, a change in air quality, trees leaving their seemingly dormant state and most things bursting into new life. But winter has its own appeal. There is something safe and homely about early dark evenings; rich hot food, a glass of single malt with friends can be a most welcome experience.

For many, though sadly not all, Christmas contains many of the ingredients of the good life; a new born baby, the warmth of the stable, the generosity of working people, stars in the night sky. Is it any wonder that in the complexity and challenges of everyday life, many retain a love of cherished traditions.

Year after year, our family carol services grow in numbers and the excited faces of children in costume, watched by proud parents with their cameras at the ready, is one of the best times of year for our Cathedral. Perhaps more than at any other time, we are judged to be a place and community with a generous heart. Long may it continue.

Yet we need to have a care. Quite often Christians are the first to complain at the extent to which commercialism dominates every aspect of the Christmas celebration, yet most of us do not remain untouched by the oppor-

tunities offered and why not? Our Christmas Market and Ice rink are the cause of enormous enjoyment by thousands of people. An excellent opportunity to share the good news. If no one is here how do we achieve this? It is not so much what we include in our celebrations which matters but what we forget or leave out.

The Incarnation of the Son of God speaks to us of the sacramental nature of God's relationship with us. He enters fully and, indeed, touches our lives irrevocably. The history of humanity changed course at the arrival of Jesus Christ, but it was part of a great plan. He was a man born for sacrifice, a plan which goes beyond God being with us, but God giving his life that we might have life in all its fullness. If we take our focus off the whole picture and concentrate on the pretty or pleasant alone, we entirely miss the point of Christmas. Grasp the full extent of his plan, and we more than anyone else, can be full of rejoicing. That is the path to a happy Christmas.

Rather like a wedding; what is the point of all the hard work and expense if they are not outward signs of something much deeper? What is the point of our Christmas celebrations, unless they are founded on the whole loving purposes of God?

Canon Michael



ANDREW LUMSDEN ON THE MONTH'S MUSIC

Advent has a rich vein of music written for it and this year we are including SS Wesley's mammoth anthem *The wilderness* (6th pm), and Patrick Gowers' setting of *Ad te levavi* (Unto thee lift I up my soul) (13th am), originally written for the Southern Cathedrals Festival as one of a set of four Advent Antiphons. We also move the men's voice services into the Lady Chapel for the season. On Christmas morning we shall be singing the setting of the Te Deum written for us by John Rutter, and we conclude Christmas Day with the ethereally beautiful setting by Morton Lauridsen of *O magnum mysterium*, which captures the mood of the great mystery so perfectly.

News

JOHN DAVIES (1933 - 2009)

John's funeral took place on Thursday 19 November in a packed Chapel of St Cross. John, who was one of the Brothers for a number of years, was 30 years a Lay Clerk of the Cathedral, and throughout and after that time John made a significant contribution to the music of the city: notably with Winchester City Festival Choir (who sang during the service) and St Bartholemew's Hyde, for whom he was organist and choirmaster. Amongst his many memorable traits was his bicycle - which some will know was almost his come-uppance on one occasion, resulting in a spell using a scooter! This photograph appeared on the back cover of the order of service at his funeral.



JIMMY HOLLIDAY WINS THE HAMPSHIRE MUSIC COMPETITION

On a happier note, another former bass Lay Clerk, Jimmy Holliday has won the Hampshire Music Competition. Since leaving the choir a few years ago, Jimmy has been studying at the Royal Academy, focussing particularly upon opera. As well as a prize of £2500, he also gets three concerts in the area, so it will be good to see (and definitely to hear) him again soon. In the meantime, many congratulations go to him for what is a significant achievement for any singer.

CAKES FOR CASSOCKS

Thanks to all who played a part in Cakes for Cassocks on 14 November, especially Andrea Hall

and her wardrobe team, who organised the event to raise money for repairs to the choir's cassocks. The sums are yet to be done, but the estimate is that the total raised was over £700 - which we are sure you will realise is quite a lot of cake!

CATHEDRAL COUNCIL

At the annual meetings of the Cathedral Community held at the end of September, Michael Honeysett and Brian Sharpe were re-elected to serve a second three-year term on the Cathedral Council, representing the Cathedral Community as a whole. The Council performs a significant role in reviewing and advising Chapter on present performance and future plans. It is therefore extremely important to have the views and interests of the Community represented in Council discussions.

Michael and Brian are anxious to be available at all times for members of the Community to raise issues of concern. A pigeon-hole for mail is provided in the entrance hall of the new Cathedral office at Number 9, The Close. An e-mail address is also available, which is

councilreps@winchester-cathedral.org.uk

Michael and Brian are regularly in and around the Cathedral building and precincts in person and are always willing to speak to anyone who wishes to do so.

CATHEDRAL AUDIOGUIDE LAUNCHED

The Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, Dame Mary Fagan and Dean James 'launched' our new Audioguide, which became available to visitors on 16th November. Narrated by David Suchet, the 45-minute tour complements our long-standing provision our personal tours by the Cathedral's Voluntary Guides. Priced £3, they are collected from the Entrance Desk. Dame Mary's comment was that the narration was 'quite addictive', and in the short time that she had at the launch, was able to discover things she had never seen before, even in a building which she visits on such a regular basis. The audioguide has been a painstaking process including a wide range of guides, historians, writers and technicians, to whom we are all most grateful, and was produced in collaboration with local company ATS Heritage.

Christmas

27th Nov to 3rd Jan

CHRISTMAS MARKET & ICE RINK

Christmas Market: continues to 20th December

Ice Rink: continues to 3rd January.

CHRISTMAS TOWER TOURS

28th Nov to 24th Dec

Christmas Tours: Saturdays at 11 & 14.15

Twilight Tours: various dates from 12th to 24th at 15.30

Tickets from the Box Office

2nd Dec, 19.15

A FESTIVAL OF CAROLS AND MUSIC FOR THE TEENAGE CANCER TRUST

Tickets from the Box Office.

5th Dec, 19.30

WAYNFLETE SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Tickets from our Box Office.

12th Dec, 19.00

THE LORD LIEUTENANT'S CAROL CONCERT

See above for details

14th Dec, 19.00

MICHAEL MORPURGO: ON ANGEL WINGS

See above for details

19th Dec, 12.30

A SPECIAL CAROL SERVICE WITH THE GIRL CHORISTERS AND LAY CLERKS

No tickets required.

19th Dec to 22nd Dec, 18:30

PUBLIC CAROL SERVICES

Open to all on 21st and 22nd. Doors will open at 5.15 pm each night. Please see page 5 for more information.

20th Dec, 15:30

A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

No tickets required

21st Dec to 23rd Dec, 12:30

STORYTELLING: THE CHRISTMAS STORY

For families

23rd Dec, 13:00

BRITTEN'S CEREMONY OF CAROLS

No tickets required

24th Dec CHRISTMAS EVE

11.00/15.00 Family Services

17.30 Choral Evensong & Blessing of the Crib

23.30 Midnight Eucharist

25th Dec - CHRISTMAS DAY

08.00 Holy Communion

10.00 Choral Mattins

11.15 Sung Eucharist

15.30 Choral Evensong



Also during the season...

Outside the Cathedral:

The decoration of the Food Court Christmas tree has been done by Pilgrims' pre-prep and Stanmore primary and was blessed by the Dean at the Opening Ceremony on 27th November

There will be a Nativity Hut in the Crafts area, with a huge star overhead, constructed by Sophie Hacker and volunteers based on original artwork from pupils of Osborne School

We will play again the 'Christmas Out Loud' retelling of the Christmas story, written by Philip Glassborow and narrated by David Suchet, as well as a wide selection of festive carols. Next door is the Bethlehem Hut - informing people of Christian Aid's 'Present Aid' and offering people an opportunity to leave their prayers, staffed by volunteers from Christ Church. Prayers will also be taken into cathedral and prayed with other prayer left inside by our visitors.

Inside the Cathedral:

Evensong will be said or sung throughout the season, 17.30 daily except Sun (15.30).

A free Scripture Union booklet *Jesus is Born!* will be given to visitors.

Winchester College have built a contemporary nativity by the entrance.

Roly Riem will preach on weekdays through Luke's nativity story in 10 1-minute slots at 11am, from 3 to the 18 Dec.

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*

2nd Dec, 19:15

CONCERT: TEENAGE CANCER TRUST - A FESTIVAL OF CAROLS AND MUSIC

A very special concert of carols and music is being organised by Teenage Cancer Trust to raise funds for a unit at Southampton General Hospital. Join us for a memorable programme of well known carols, music, topical readings and special guests; X Factor finalists Same Difference, BBC Presenter Sally Taylor and local soprano singer Clare Minting. *Tickets from the Cathedral Box Office.*

5th Dec, 19:30

CONCERT: THE WAYNFLETE SINGERS 40TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Motets by Gabrieli, Praetorius, and Schütz, Jongen: Mass Op 130, and Hakim: Jesu Redemptor Omnium. Fine Arts Brass, Organ – Simon Bell, Conductor – Andrew Lumsden
Tickets from Cathedral Box Office.

12th Dec, 19:00

THE LORD LIEUTENANT'S CAROL CONCERT with the Cathedral Choir - presented by Alan Titchmarsh. *Tickets from Cathedral Box Office*

14th Dec, 19:00

MICHAEL MORPURGO: On Angel Wings
Michael Morpurgo is recognised as one of the country's foremost authors for young people. On Angel Wings, narrated by Michael Morpurgo himself, with Juliet Stevenson and a range of musicians and farm animals, tells the engaging story of how a shepherd in Bethlehem became the first visitor to the stable on Christmas night. Performed to great acclaim in Exeter and St Paul's Cathedrals, Michael Morpurgo comes to Winchester this Christmas with something that people of all ages will enjoy. *Tickets from Cathedral Box Office.*

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.

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.*

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