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# Chancellor Revd Dr Mark Hocknull

Elaine Johnson

**After nearly eight years, split 50/50 between the Cathedral and Lincoln University, Cathedral Chancellor, Revd Canon Dr Mark Hocknull is moving full time down the hill in May.**

He and his wife, Kate, came to Lincoln in 2005 for Mark to lead the Continuing Ministry Education Programme and he moved into his present role in November 2009. Mark is now going to the university as full time programme leader and principal lecturer in Philosophy, a brand-new degree programme which he is currently writing.

Originally Head of the School of Theology, reorganisation led to his being attached to the School of History and Heritage, where he now teaches modules on Darwinism; and a second-year module on Science and Religion: History of Science from Galileo to Einstein. From September, he will be teaching philosophy and continuing with some history.

Mark says that his forthcoming job is a tremendous opportunity to shape something new and make a significant contribution to the life of the university. He finds it a very exciting place to be, full of energy and enthusiastic colleagues.

After eight years at the Cathedral, he and Kate have made many good friends and they will miss being part of the Close community very much, although, looking for a house locally, they will be staying in touch.

Working with colleagues of the calibre of the Subdean and Chapter Clerk has been a rare opportunity which is not lightly passed on, but Mark says he will particularly miss the liturgy, the quality of the choir, the rhythm of Cathedral life. The bells, which start at 7.00am and stop at 10.45pm each day, have become



part of their life. He has really enjoyed his singing and voice production lessons and will be looking for new opportunities to continue his singing. He had the privilege of singing 'Messiah' twice with the choir and says when you're actually in amongst them you realise what an incredible group of musicians they are.

Kate will also miss the community a great deal, though she will continue to see some on a professional basis as she will continue as practice nurse in Branston.

Everyone at the Cathedral thanks them both for all they have contributed to the life and worship of the Cathedral and wishes them every success in the future.

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# Carry on, Matron

Elaine Johnson

After her degree in Heritage Studies, Fiona Howick worked in the Cathedral fundraising office for six years before becoming choir matron four years ago.

She now works every day except Wednesday. Choir duties begin at 3.30pm when Fiona collects some children from school locally; others are brought by parents or taxi. They gather in the coffee shop or cloister for chorister tea, then have half an hour to unwind, playing out on the grass when it's fine.

Keeping the children safe is very important and it can be tricky when the buildings used are shared with visitors. Consequently, Fiona has regular meetings with the diocesan safeguarding officer. The children have to be accompanied at all times and she always has to be aware of where they are. This can mean spending a lot of time waiting outside toilets! It also means that in services where the congregation are given candles, the choristers don't carry them. Carrying a folder can be a challenge; a candle as well could be a bit much!

After tea, the choir rehearse before Evensong. Fiona sits in during all the afternoon rehearsals and then goes into the services. Almost always the last person into services, Fiona comes in when she has seen the choir process down the south aisle. If a chorister is ill during a service she will accompany them out. Caring for the robes is part of her job so quite often before services she will be doing some running repairs. She says, "Please don't judge me on the state of the robes; some of them are very old!" She is often repairing the repairs of the robes! Her rucksack contains supplies for all emergencies: sewing kit, first aid, tissues, spare socks and jumper etc. Shoe polish was added after



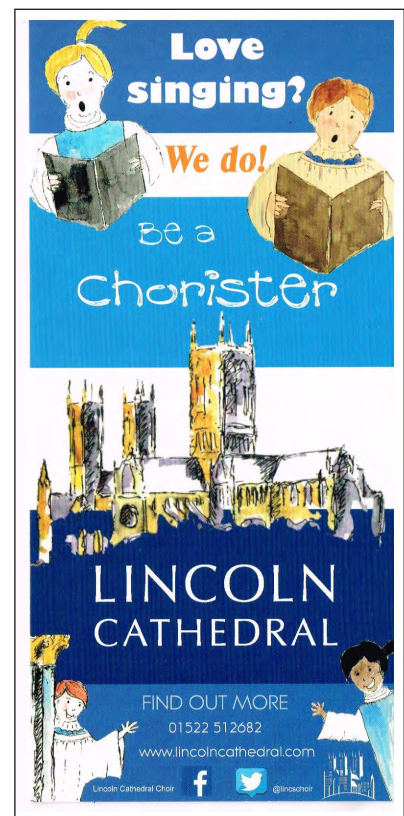
a concert in a village where the children played in the long grass beforehand. Their cassocks got wet and their shoes were muddy.

After services, Fiona sees every child off to whoever they are going home with. An amateur musician herself, Fiona really understands what the choristers are doing and says she has the greatest respect for them, knowing what a challenge it is. They are professionals at a very young age and Fiona feels incredibly proud of them. Listening to them sing, she says it is a real privilege to hear that quality of music every day and from children, the youngest of whom is only seven. She also feels extremely privileged to work with such talented and inspiring colleagues.

The choir children now come from

eight different schools which is really increasing contact with the wider community. All the heads are very supportive and flexible, enabling the children to be choristers and work within the school day. As an example of commitment to the choir, Fiona reports that one head teacher bought tickets for all his staff for Carols by Candlelight. Fiona says it's a very happy choir with a lovely atmosphere and family feel, where the children are encouraged to care and support one another.

A keen amateur artist, Fiona combines that with her role as choir matron and designed the choir publicity flier. During the Summer break she maintains her love of heritage, working with the Open Palace heritage programme in some of the most wonderful historic locations in the country, including historic royal palaces.





# A word from the editor

Muriel Robinson

**As so often is the case, this editorial is written during a time of waiting. Of course we are waiting for Easter and preparing ourselves through our chosen Lenten disciplines to be ready to celebrate that great feast, but also in the life of the Cathedral we are waiting for more mundane news.**

We await a date for the arrival of the new furniture for St Hugh's Shrine, our appetites whetted by the chairs already in place; we await with eagerness the arrival of a new Precentor; and we await with sadness the departure of our Chancellor and his wife as they set out on a new and exciting phase of their lives.

Change is often difficult - some of us thrive on it but many more find change unsettling. As Eliot suggested the Magi may have said, change can leave us disturbed by the new but also 'no longer at ease ... in the old dispensation'.

We recognise the old order changes, but accepting and feeling comfortable with the new can take longer. Someone recently said to me that they preferred the 'traditional' Victorian hymns to some of the newer ones we are singing now; yet for our grandparents and great-grandparents, these must have seemed like upstart new tunes pushing out the familiar ones from their childhoods.

This Lent maybe we need to consider letting go - letting go of the old order, embracing the new and looking forward? Just as we hope in a glorious life to come after death, maybe a smaller glory might be to embrace the inevitable change in our community life with eager anticipation alongside our trepidation?

## Welcomes

We are delighted to hear of the safe arrival of Gregory Judah Harry White on 26 February 2017 and we look forward to welcoming him into our community. The timing was impeccable, just one Sunday after Philippa's last Sunday before her maternity leave. Many congratulations to Philippa and Ed!

And we also look forward to welcoming our new Precentor, Revd Sally Ann (Sal) McDougall. We will cover this more fully in our next edition but look forward to Sal's joining us. She brings a wealth of experience both of the wider church and diocese and a depth of specialist knowledge about church music and liturgy, all of which is excellent news for us. She is of course already a familiar face from her role as Priest Vicar and from her presence as Bishop's Chaplain but we look forward to getting to know her better.

# The enduring power of the pilgrimage

Margaret Campion

**When guides take a party of visitors around the Cathedral they remind the group that any visit to any cathedral is a pilgrimage. We start at the entry – birth, baptism – continue through the Nave – the ship of life – and make our way through the Great Crossing, up the Chancel steps under the organ where once the great Rood Screen stood and so into the world of the Resurrection.**

In medieval times a visit to the Shrine of St. Hugh was indeed a pilgrimage, to be planned, thought and prayed about and undertaken with determination and strengthened by prayer. The small barred window to the left of the door to the cathedral shop is often referred to as the 'Dole Window' where refreshment would have been offered to the weary pilgrim.

Whether that window is correctly named or not is less important than the fact that hospitality to the stranger is the duty of all Christian people and certainly to the guardians of the holy places.



This is why the wonderful exhibition currently in the Chapter House and called "Hospitality on the Pilgrim Road to Santiago de Compostela" is such a powerful expression of the modern pilgrim walking or cycling the long and stony road to the Shrine of St. James.

Today in the Cathedral the Reception Team, 'Welcomers', vergers, guides and chaplains offer all our visitors, if not the bread and ale of the medieval world, nor the night shelters of the Compostela road, the welcome, encouragement and prayer of the spirit.

Later this year a group of cathedral volunteers will be putting together three Pilgrimage Routes from three different points of the diocese to the cathedral and, yes, it is hoped that both body and spirit will be catered for along the way!

# Shrove Tuesday

Muriel Robinson

**As usual, the Community Association came together to mark Shrove Tuesday and to fortify ourselves for Lent with an evening of good food and good company.**

Some 70 of us enjoyed the meal and were entertained by glorious close harmony singing by Aric Prentice, members of the back row of the choir and a few extra recruits. A table quiz of famous faces to identify provoked a certain competitive spirit even though the results were unrewarded by a material prize – just the glory of winning seemed to be sufficient for the two tables getting a full house of correct answers! As ever Bob Harvey's orange sauce made the pancakes even more palatable and just about every scrap of food was eaten, with no temptations left to weaken our Ash Wednesday resolve.

One small challenge for those of you who attended. As you will see from the photos, our pleasure comes at the expense of much hard work by an increasingly small band of volunteers who give up time in the afternoon to set the tables and some of whom then spend the whole evening serving and washing up, not even always getting to sit down and eat but often grabbing a bite to eat in the kitchen as they cheerfully load the dishwasher. For our next social event, could you consider whether you might help the social committee? This doesn't entail coming to full committee meetings and could just mean helping out on the day, or helping with planning if you like. If you think that might be something you could do, do please speak to one of the committee at coffee on Sundays.

And speaking of the next event- we are still clearing the date with the Cathedral but



we very much hope that this year we will be able to have our summer social again. The plan is to hold this on a Sunday after evensong. We hope this will be a bring and share picnic in the cloisters, with tea, coffee and cakes provided by the committee (feel free to bring stronger drinks!) and with a much lower ticket price. We hope many of you will also take the opportunity to come to evensong beforehand. The hope is that by varying the format and keeping the cost lower, we may attract some who find late evenings less appealing or who might find the increasing cost of our catered events difficult- but of course as ever, all are welcome!

## Forthcoming Events

### Passiontide Concert

**Saturday 1 April 2017 7pm**

Join the Lincoln Cathedral Choir as they perform St. John Passion by Johann Sebastian Bach in the Nave. This masterpiece is the older of two surviving Passions by Bach. Compared with the St. Matthew Passion, the St. John Passion has been described as more extravagant, with an expressive immediacy, at times raw and unbridled. Tickets from £8 on sale now [www.LincolnCathedral.com](http://www.LincolnCathedral.com)

### Spark Engineering Festival

**Friday 5 to Sunday 7 May 2017**

**10am – 4pm**

Celebrate Lincoln's engineering heritage at this three day festival. Bring your families and take part in have-a-go activities, meet today's engineers and technologists, and find out about career and study opportunities with world leading organisations based in and around Lincoln. Entry to the festival is free.

### Lincoln Knight's Trail

**Saturday 20 May to**

**Monday 4 September 2017**

Lincoln Cathedral welcomes several knights as the iconic trail comes to the city. The trail celebrates the 800th Anniversary of The Charter of the Forest and the Battle of Lincoln. Explore the trail and visit the Cathedral to immerse yourself in history and learn about the significant events of 1217.

### Mixed Palette Exhibition

**Monday 5 to Saturday 17 June 2017**

A group of eight local artists are hosting an exhibition of various stained glasswork and calligraphy, paintings and cards in the Chapter House weekdays from 10am to 4pm and Sunday 1pm to 3pm. These pieces will be on sale during the exhibition in the summer of 2017. Entrance to the exhibition is included within the Cathedral admission charge.

### Heritage Skills Festival

**Friday 23 to Saturday 24 June 2017**

The festival will give visitors a unique opportunity to see at first hand the skills and knowledge that are kept alive for future generations through the City of London Livery Companies. The festival will be held in the stunning Cathedral Nave, Transepts, and on the East Green and Tennyson Green.

### The Nadin Group Exhibition

**Monday 26 June to Thursday 6 July 2017**

The Nadin Group is holding an exhibition over the summer in the Chapter House, packed with their original works which will be available to purchase. The exhibition is open Monday to Saturday 10am to 4pm, Sunday 1pm to 5pm during this time. Entrance to the exhibition is included within the Cathedral admission charge.

### Lunchtime Concert Series 2017

Visit the Chapter House for a variety of lunchtime concerts ranging from piano recitals to classical guitar. Each concert runs from 1.10pm to 2pm. Entry to the lunchtime concerts is included within the Cathedral admission charge.

15 March – University of North Georgia Singers  
 18 April – Simon Vincent 'Stations of the Cross'  
 10 May – Carillon Singers  
 13 May – The Northern Bell Orchestra  
 30 May – Chess Valley Male Voice Choir  
 5 July – Sam Russell electric guitar  
 9 August – Charles Timberlake 'Serenading at Sixty' piano recital  
 27 September – Nick Fletcher classical guitar

### Organ Concert Series 2017

Experience an instrument like no other. Join us for the Organ Concert Series 2017. This series of concerts showcases talent from across the UK and Europe bringing some of the greatest organists to Lincoln to perform on the world famous Father Willis organ. All concerts are performed in the stunning Nave of Lincoln Cathedral.

13 May – Jeffrey Makinson (Lincoln)  
 20 May – Peter Wright (Southwark)  
 17 June – Colin Walsh (Lincoln)  
 15 July – Alessandro Bianchi (Italy)  
 16 September – Henk Galenkamp (Germany)  
 Concerts start at 7pm. Tickets £6 on sale now from [www.LincolnCathedral.com](http://www.LincolnCathedral.com)

# General Synod February 2017

Muriel Robinson



**Many of you will have read the national press coverage of the latest session of the General Synod. For once we made headline news! For those of us involved it was fascinating and frustrating in equal measure to watch the secular press trying to understand what was going on. Although we actually got through a wide range of business, the item that aroused such media interest was the House of Bishops' report on marriage.**

The report followed on from regional shared conversations and the private session of General Synod last July on the topic of marriage and same sex relationships. Those discussions were all conducted in a spirit of 'good disagreement'; they were an attempt to allow sharing of different interpretations of scripture and of personal experiences which informed our own views. This model had been used effectively to consider the issue of women bishops, and many saw the shared conversations as a sign of hope. Sadly, for many of us, the report from the House of Bishops was deeply disappointing. All 'good disagreement' seemed to have vanished and in its place came on the one hand, a desire for a new tone of welcome for those from the LGBTI+ community, yet on the other, no concrete proposals as to how this might be achieved and a reaffirmation of the traditional understanding of marriage as being between one man and one woman.

Question time on Day One was difficult, as the pre-published answers to questions failed to satisfy and answers to supplementary questions left many uncomfortable. Many found the group work on the day of the debate concerning, as the case studies used gave a sense that we were talking about people rather than allowing their voices to be heard directly. Most diocesan representatives went to the groups but I, along with about 50 others, met separately to consider why we were uncomfortable and what to do. It is to the Archbishop of Canterbury's credit that he took time to spend half an hour listening and praying with us.

The report was presented in a 'take note' debate; General Synod was simply being asked to note its existence. However, in the past, similar reports have gone from being taken note of to becoming used as policy, and many of us were uncomfortable with that precedent. The tenor of the debate was mainly respectful and thoughtful. Some 170 had requested the chance to speak and inevitably only around 30 could do so in the time available. Speeches were listened to courteously and thoughtfully. The vote itself was 'by Houses' so that the three Houses (Bishops, Clergy and Laity) all needed to vote in favour for the result to stand. The House of Clergy voted narrowly not to take note and so the report fell. Such votes are electronic and the outcome is one of public record. The Lincoln members voted not to take note by the same margin in each of the House of Clergy and Laity, 75% against. The debate is available as a transcript or as an audiofile if you want to know more, or ask me at coffee.

The big question is, of course, what now. The Archbishops have acknowledged the need to make progress and wrote an open letter to Diocesan Bishops asking for a range of actions, including meetings with all diocesan General Synod members for a frank discussion. A new teaching document is being promised and there is a sense that Bishops have realised that their loyalty to the Archbishops may be less helpful than honest disagreement. Watch this space!



# Remembering community stalwarts

In our last edition we reported the sad deaths of two stalwarts of our community. This time we include longer pieces to remind us just how deeply Alan Campion and Maureen Bowden were embedded into our Cathedral life.

## It all began with bees

Elaine Johnson

**It was the family's bees which brought Alan Campion to the Cathedral, where he attended for thirty-five years. The bee-keeping was done mostly at the weekend and, being chief bee keeper, Alan would get up early on a Sunday to go to 8am Communion first, before spending the morning with the bees.**

Initially, he and his wife, Margaret, attended St Nicholas, where the boys were cubs, then scouts, but Communion there was held alternate weeks with St Anne's and sometimes Alan got caught out and missed it. However, 8am Communion at the Cathedral was consistent so Alan started going there instead. He also enjoyed the homily, which was delivered at that time by Rex Davis, and, because he was there every week, he was eventually asked if he would like to serve.

Margaret went with him for the installation of Brandon Jackson and joined him at the Cathedral once the boys didn't need her at St Nicholas. Although both were working full time and had a family, they took part in the life of the Cathedral as much as they could and both served on the Community Association committee at various times.

When Margaret retired early and Chancellor Canon Nurser asked her if she would like to do some work in the Schools department, she jumped at the opportunity. Once Alan retired he often came in and helped her in all sorts of ways. On one occasion, he was able to source replacement chairs and tables from a school which was throwing them out and which Cathedral volunteers



then renovated.

Asked if he would help with the rota for coffee after the 9.30am Eucharist, Alan took it over. Observing that the red and green hymn books were getting worn, he repaired and put plastic covers on them all. Using his excellent fine motor skills, he did them, a few at a time, whenever Margaret was guiding.

Worshipping regularly, Alan and Margaret both went to the Bible study group but stopped in order to learn to ring the Cathedral bells for the millennium and went on to ring for evensong at Norton Disney for several years. Here the bells

could be rung from the floor, rather than climbing to the tower.

The welcome and support from the Cathedral community meant a lot to Alan. He was a very happy person, and everybody liked him. Always interested in people, he was easy to get on with. Whether in hospital in Lincoln or Nottingham, at home or in Tennyson Wharf, somebody was there visiting almost every day. Margaret says they could not have been better supported. Over the years, Alan contributed much to the life of the Cathedral. He will be sorely missed.

# Maureen Bowden RIP (1941 - 2016)

Tony Wintin

**Maureen was a conscientious server at the Cathedral for almost 20 years and put her life and soul into the Cathedral until her untimely death in December.**

Maureen was a Lincoln girl. Her first husband, Rob Robinson died in 1977 and some two years later Maureen met Trevor who was serving in the RAF. They spent many years stationed in Germany but eventually returned to England in 1998. Maureen had missed Lincoln and its Cathedral and both Maureen and Trevor became regular worshippers at the Cathedral and joined the team of servers together. In her teenage years, Maureen had been a pupil at Spring Hill School and was a member of the choir at St Michael on the Mount church. The organist and choir master was one Donald Reet. Maureen frequently admitted she had a teenage 'crush' on Donald Reet and was clearly delighted to renew her friendship with him when she found he was a regular member of the congregation at the Cathedral. Maureen also renewed a long term friendship with another member of the congregation. In the early 70s Maureen had been a nursing assistant in the Children's Ward at Lincoln County hospital under the watchful eye of Sister Josie Marshall, now Josie Moreton. Josie can tell you many tales of Maureen's work at the County but if you haven't



heard it, ask Josie about the 'hard boiled egg'!

Maureen had a heart of gold. If you wanted anything doing, you asked Maureen. Only three weeks before Maureen's death she organised a bring and share buffet lunch for all the servers at the Chancellor's house. The very next day she fell ill and just three weeks later died from a cardiac arrest in the County Hospital. Maureen loved all animals.

The birds were fed daily in her garden, the visiting hedgehog was fed and any stray animal was cared for. She loved her dogs over many years of ownership and particularly loved Trevor's grey parrot, which incidentally, hasn't sworn since Maureen's death and is also a lot less talkative! Maureen could talk!

Maureen was a larger than life lady and she will be greatly missed. May she rest in peace and rise with Christ in Glory.

## Lincoln Theological Society

This year Lincoln Theological Society is concentrating on Martin Luther's Reformation which started 500 years ago when he publicly criticised the Roman Catholic church. His actions affected all Western Christendom.

**Wednesday 29 March 7pm for 7.30pm**  
'The Destructive Power of a Troubled Conscience'

*Dr Jonathan Trigg*

**Thursday 8 June 7pm for 7.30pm**

'What was the Reformation? A Possible Biblical Solution!'

*Dr Jack Cunningham*

**Thursday 5 October 7pm for 7.30pm**

'Changes in Liturgy, Preaching, Building and Governance from The Reformation to the Civil War as Exemplified in St Paul's Cathedral'

*Professor Peter McCullough*

Lectures take place in The Robert Hardy Lecture Theatre of Bishop Grosseteste University, Longdales Road, Lincoln LB1 3DY

Tickets £5.00 (include a glass of wine or fruit juice) available from Lincoln Cathedral Shop, Unicorn Tree Books and on the door. Parking available.

**email@lincolnththeologicalsociety.net**  
**www.lincolnththeologicalsociety.net**



# Magna Carta

Wendy Lloyd

**When I was first aware of Magna Carta it hung outside the Longland Chantry. Later on, presumably for security reasons, it was moved to a desk drawer and eventually in the 1970s was put into the Treasury but this was not enough.**

Higher authority decreed that this document, which had been taken around the county by bus to be spoken about to dozens of Women's Institute and Mothers' Union members, now had to live in isolated splendour. A special glass fronted cabinet with the right light, temperature and humidity had to be made and in the meantime Magna Carta could not stay in the Treasury but had to be carefully parcelled up and put in a place of great safety.

The person asked to organise this was the then Vice Chancellor, Michael Lloyd, who was also County Archivist. Mr Lloyd made a thorough job of the Magna Carta parcel, even to the extent of putting string round it, securing the knots with sealing wax and signing it over the joins several times. He contacted Edsel Hale, the then manager of the National Westminster Bank on the corner of Castle Square, and arranged for the document to be deposited there after hours that same day. A couple of policemen, the Dean of the Cathedral, Oliver Fiennes, and Michael Lloyd escorted their treasure to the bank and considered it a good job done.

Several months later when the cabinet was ready, the Dean decided that he would retrieve Magna Carta and that he needed neither help nor escort to carry a brown paper parcel just a few yards to the Cathedral. It must have been a moment to remember when the bank manager assured the Dean that there was no parcel in the Lincoln Cathedral Account nor had there ever been. Panic. Phone calls. Try again. This time the Dean went with the man who had parcelled up Magna Carta, who also was a customer of the National Westminster Bank in Castle Square. He was a quiet unassuming man who asked the bank manager, "Edsel, do you remember I brought in a parcel a few months ago?" The answer was, "Of course, Michael, do you want it back?" Magna Carta had been put not in the Lincoln Cathedral Bank account but in the joint account of Michael and Wendy Lloyd.

I told this story to a later bank manager when Michael had died and asked him what would have happened, had he died before Magna Carta had been retrieved and he said, "I dread to think!"

# Volunteering in the Cathedral

Elaine Johnson

**Rachel Woodward, Volunteer and HR Officer for the Cathedral, has a list of over six hundred volunteers who give their time for a variety of roles in and around the Cathedral. These include people seen, such as stewards and guides, and those unseen, such as wood polishers and launderers of linen.**

All prospective volunteers have to complete a Volunteer Application Form, which is available within the Cathedral or on the Cathedral website. Rachel then processes the forms and conducts the initial interviews before referring them on to the relevant group leader. All volunteers receive induction and other additional training specific to their role, and Disclosure and Barring Service checks are undertaken for particular areas of volunteering.



At the recent annual Volunteer Thank You event, Dean Christine thanked everyone very warmly for the generous amounts of time that people willingly contribute through their volunteering; this is greatly appreciated and invaluable to the daily life of the Cathedral. Almost all the volunteers present had attended Evensong first, before enjoying wine and a light supper in the nave afterwards. It was an ideal opportunity to mingle and ask those you met, 'What do you do?' The answer frequently listed several jobs, not just one.

Prior to her appointment as Volunteer & HR Officer in October 2016, Rachel spent her first three and a half years at the Cathedral as PA to Philip Buckler, our former Dean. Rachel shares her responsibilities between the Cathedral volunteers and supporting the Cathedral's employees, over a four day week.

Rachel is looking forward to the start of the Lincoln Cathedral Connected project and, once it gets under way, looks forward to recruiting the many more volunteers that will be needed for a variety of roles. Keep your eyes open for the publicity.



# The Book Conservationists

## Who are really and truly UNKNOWN and UNSEEN Heroines!

Margaret Campion

**Unseen because they do not work on the floor of the Cathedral and unknown because so few of us give much thought to the problem of preserving books, both the very old, rare and valuable and the relatively new or donated books. Often rather unkindly referred to as 'the Book Dusters' their work is very much more than that. But first, let me introduce one of the newest recruits to the team, Wendy Ramsey.**

Wendy originally started as a Library Volunteer but in the Wren Library it is absolutely verboten to handle the books, which was not quite what she wanted. In due course the opportunity arose for her to join the team of Book Conservationists who work, not in the Wren Library but in Exchequer Gate Arch – or rather in the chamber above the arch where approximately half the Cathedral Book Collection is located. All conservationists have a training day funded and organised by NADFAS, after which they start hands-on training in the correct handling, storage and care of books – any books but especially the old and valuable collection kept in the Exchequer Gate Honywood Room.

The work area in this library is rather cramped and very cold – they can only work there between March and October although Claire Arrand, the Special Collection Librarian has to work there all year round! The Conservationists work in team of four with a Team Leader; Wendy's Team works on Mondays. They work around a central table which is covered with clean white paper and on the ta-

ble is a pile of books from which each conservationist takes one. The aim is to complete the pile before the end of the day. There are strict rules to be observed – as gloves are not worn unless an infestation of mould is discovered (thankfully a rare occurrence) hands must be scrupulously clean, no hand cream or nail varnish allowed, certainly no food of any description but a damp cloth may be kept in the pocket of the clean white apron worn by all conservationists, in case hands get sticky if any repairs are necessary.



Each book to be treated is first recorded on a card; the name of the conservator, date of cleaning, title, author, date and edition number are entered. Then the book is carefully examined on the outside, the binding material – vellum, leather, book cloth or paper – noted, condition of the binding, any trace of insect invasion, tears or rubbing marks recorded and then the cover is dusted using a badger hair shaving brush and always brushing from top down to bottom (like teeth!). Then they look at the first few pages where it is usually possi-

ble to see if every page will need dusting or just a random selection. This dusting is done using a very soft inch-wide paint brush and again brushing the centre fold from top to bottom. At this point any individual notation, margin notes, perhaps tiny pictures or diagrams might be visible and must be recorded on the card. This could lead to excitement if there is a possibility of original notes perhaps by the original owner – who might be someone prominent – or even the author if it is a first edition. If a page has a tear, a small repair might be neces-

sary using wheat based glue made especially by the Team Leader and brought in fresh every session, plus highly expensive Japanese made tissue paper. To avoid any glue getting onto undamaged pages, silicone pages are slipped in either side of the page to be repaired, all of which is very fiddly and very time-consuming! Small dirty marks are removed with a plastic eraser and if there is a map or picture folded into the book they must be straightened, refolded using a 'bone folder'.

Finally, the book is gently and reverently replaced on the shelf making sure that it is straight and that there is a gap between the book and shelf to allow air to circulate and enabling the user to lift it gently without tugging the top of the spine – which of course we all do with our own books and which is absolutely the wrong way to do it!

Altogether, I think these Book Conservationists are models of patient self-effacing workers without whom it would be almost impossible to keep these thousands of books in pristine condition.

# My year of Miseri(cords), part one

Abigail Hurst



**Lincoln Cathedral is arguably one of the most beautiful buildings in the World and the 14th century choir is breathtaking in its scale and detail.**

I am the mum of a chorister, Frances, who is in her fourth year in Lincoln Cathedral choir. I try to attend every service in which she sings, Evensong being a favourite, and I am sure that I am not alone in considering it a privilege that we are allowed to sit in the canon stalls, in the absence of their canons, on a regular basis. From there we can admire the saints and bishops above the stalls and touch the ornate elbow rests, with their green men, kings, bishops and foliage, as thousands of worshippers have done before us.

Hidden under the stall seats are further unique carvings that form the mis-

ericords - merciful perchings for canons having to stand for long services. Lifting up the seats for a peep is not encouraged because the hinges are delicate, so I was delighted when, at the beginning of 2016, I found a little book in the Cathedral shop called 'Lincoln Cathedral Misericord Seats' by Carol Bennett. There is a photo by Jim Newton of each carving along with a description of the, often bizarre, scene and its guardian saint. Thus began my adventure to add extra interest to services by aiming to sit in every misericord seat over a year, excepting those belonging to the residentiary canons, eighty-eight in all.

As you might expect, the carvings feature biblical kings, Virgin Marys and the ascension. I have discovered the Apocryphal feminist prototype Judith, who is

seen underneath Welton Westhall's seat about to behead the Assyrian general, Holofernes, who had fallen in love with her. She has inspired many artists, including Botticelli and Michelangelo. And did you know that the text for Tallis' choral masterpiece 'Spem in Alium' (in forty parts, which frankly is showing off) is taken from the Apocryphal book of Judith?

It has also been a trip through medieval mythology, with not just common or garden dragons but also wyverns, which are heraldic creatures with a dragon's head and wings, a reptilian body, two legs and a tail. They are associated with cold weather and ice and you would not want to be bitten by one. Look at the elbow support for Ketton on the south side which has two wyverns fighting. How about the wodewose, a wild man of the woods, who is mentioned in Wycliffe's Bible and Sir Gawain and the Green Knight? The Bishop of Grimsby's misericord has a wodewose shaking down acorns from a tree with pigs enjoying the harvest.

(Part two of this fascinating article which includes the Subdean's elbow rest and King Arthur will follow in the next issue of InHouse (ed).

Special thanks to Jim Newton for sharing the photos from the book with us for us to use here.)





# The Great Hassock Project

Margaret Campion



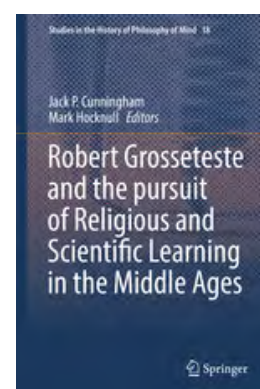
**We are all very familiar with the hassocks in St Hugh's Choir, but have you ever wondered who made them and when? The St. Hugh's Hassock Project ran from 1994 – 2005 and created two hundred new hassocks for St. Hugh's Choir, worked by many volunteers, many in memory of family or friends.**

A donation of £2,000 by Anne Hatherill of Croydon, Surrey in memory of her mother who died in September 1992 enabled the project to begin. The design by Pam and John Pickering, worked in a range of colours, was taken from the architecture surrounding the Choir – limestone, marble, oak and brilliant stained glass. It depicts a bird with a worm or leaf motif taken from the Apprentice screen in the South Choir Aisle against a background structure of diaper work representing the many layers of antiquity found within the Cathedral. Tent stitch

was used and stitched diagonally on the reverse to give a more durable and thicker fabric. A total of 240 hassocks were completed including special ones for the Bishop, Dean, Precentor, Subdean, Chancellor and Dean's Verger.

During the eleven years, the project was carried out by Margaret Leyland, Adrienne Proctor, Elfrida Cordeaux, Eileen Charlton, Sylvia Beardmore and Susan Beard, assisted by numerous volunteers.

A memorial book with calligraphy by Brenda Westerman is kept in the Cathedral Library. It contains the names of all those who stitched a hassock together with the name of the person in whose memory it was stitched. However, some of the stitchers' names seem to be missing – perhaps those who stitched their hassocks without a memorial. So now you know!



This book is an edited selection of the best papers presented at the 3rd International Robert Grosseteste Conference (2014) on the theme of scientific and religious learning, especially in the work of Grosseteste. The book explores a wide range of topics relating to scientific and religious learning in the work of Bishop Robert Grosseteste (c. 1168–1253) and does so from various perspectives, including those of a twenty-first century scientists, historians, and philosophers as well as several medievalists.

In particular, it aims to contribute to our understanding of where to place Grosseteste in the history of science (against the background of the famous claim by A.C. Crombie that Grosseteste introduced what we now might call “experimental science”) and to demonstrate that the polymathic world of the medieval scholar, who recognized no dichotomy in the pursuit of scientific and philosophical/theological understanding, has much to teach those of us in the modern world who wrestle with the vexed question of the relationship between science and religion. Some of the papers in the book are very technical, and make for a difficult and challenging read. There is a copy in the Cathedral library if anyone would like to explore the mind of arguably our most famous bishop of Lincoln.

**Mark Hocknull**

# Spring in the Churchyard

Margaret Campion

**January and February are not the most exciting months – short dull days, either wet or snowy, never really conducive to getting out the wellies and walking!**

On days like this it is sometimes good to look back over old diaries, journals or photographs to see what one was doing in other cold, damp winter days. Looking back in my own journal of Church visiting I found quite a number of visits which recorded comments such as “masses of primroses”, “lots of daffs.”, “Churchyard full of wood anemones and primroses”, and in one I noted “tups grazing in churchyard!” For those not familiar with the phrase, ‘tups’ (rams) are kept away from the ewes whilst lambing is in progress and at Martin by Horncastle in 2014 the churchyard had been pressed into this service!

Many churchyards are now maintained with a view to wild life, both plant and animal, but it is the flowers which are most likely to lift the spirits in January or February when any wander round a country churchyard should reveal small clumps of primroses sheltering under hedges, and under a small mound of dark green leaves you might easily find a few shy violets. Snowdrops were often planted by gravestones and over the years have spread widely, and even early in January close inspection will reveal the tiny spears with the white flash which indicates that a warm spell might bring on the flower earlier than expected. Aconites also show early in the year but need sunlight to encourage them to open up, otherwise they bow their heads and hide under their frilly collars. The wood anemones mentioned earlier come on a little later and are often indicative of ancient woodland so perhaps in Pickworth where we noted them in 2000, the churchyard had once been wooded.

Later in the year we noted several churchyards which were



particularly floriferous, the most dramatic – really, really dazzling- was Great Coates near Grimsby which we visited in April 2014 – it was brilliant with pink and blue forget-me-nots, bluebells, late daffodils, crocus and cowslips. We were not the only people who stopped to peer over the low wall. It was stunning – but the church was locked!

Browsing the websites I noticed that the Wildlife Trust keeps records of natural life in Churchyards and there is an intriguing group called ‘Caring for God’s Acre’ which has 27 Lincolnshire churches involving local schools with activities such as recording the various fauna and noting nests or breeding sites for bats, swifts and barn owls. I noticed these were all country parishes but there are many city and town churchyards which could also provide interesting activities for city children – or interest to those of us lucky enough to have time for a winter stroll on a cold day!

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