

# InHouse

*the Journal of the Lincoln Cathedral Community Association*



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## Drawn to the light

Elaine Johnson

**After a four-year training at London St Martins College of Art and Design, Cathedral artist-in-residence Dominic Parczuk worked in London as a freelance fashion designer for twelve years. Then four years ago he returned to his Lincolnshire roots to focus on drawing and painting.**

Starting at the Cathedral last September, Dominic had a completely free rein to develop his own theme and manage his own time and he had to ask himself what he was actually doing as an artist-in-residence. He began by just walking around to see what caught his eye and he says that that was the light. The light coming into the building really takes his breath away. As the light comes through, it bounces and creates shadows and he works with that contrast. Of course, in the Cathedral, the light changes all the time and he is overwhelmed with options; everywhere he looks there is a painting and it can be hard to make a decision.

Often, he will be seen just standing, scanning for texture, light, colour and tone. He particularly loves the Cathedral at the beginning of the day when it is very still and quiet and no one else is there. He says he responds to what he sees, creating an immediate 'raw response', which can be 'very loose and of the moment'. He paints in one sitting; some are done in thirty minutes,

others take several hours.

Mainly working in oils, Dominic uses them like water colours, very loosely. Working with oils enables him to paint in layers because they dry slowly. He begins with an under-painting, mixing turps with the oil paint to create a loose wash. The turps evaporates, leaving a colour residue which creates an under-painting of the basic shape. He then applies dark tones, building up layers and ending with lighter highlights, which are often in thicker paint.

Having been privileged to see some of Dominic's paintings in his studio, high above the Choir, his exhibition in September in the Chapter House is an absolute must. His work has captured so much of the beauty and detail of the Cathedral, including hidden pockets of light and aspects which might be missed. He already has private commissions coming in, as a result. After the exhibition, he will take a break, but says he is going to miss the Cathedral and its staff very much. Everyone is so helpful and friendly and a real pleasure to work with. People are drawn to him when he is painting and come to look at what he is doing and chat. He thinks that the Cathedral is hugely important, not just for him or the people who work there, but for visitors and everyone in the county. It is a light on the hill.



# Journeys of faith

John Harker, Alan Wilson and Michael Newstead

*In the last edition of InHouse reference was made to this new emerging initiative. This is a large project which may take two years to complete but the project has created very real interest and a range of enthusiastic people are working on various aspects of it. More details will emerge over the next year.*

**The pursuit of social justice and religious freedom has played an important part in the history of Greater Lincolnshire. We have devised three "Journeys" that embrace much of the history of the people, places, and events that have made a significant contribution to that history over the centuries. We believe that this is the first time these various key strands have been linked in this way.**

Each journey provides an opportunity for "Pilgrims" to celebrate history and at the same time reflect on their own lives and lifestyles throughout their journey. Each journey finishes at the West door of the Cathedral. Although primarily there is an emphasis on these three journeys of faith being undertaken by walking, in this 21st century we recognise that some may prefer to travel by car or cycle or public transport. All of these are valid. The joy is in the journey - and arriving at the Cathedral.

## The three journeys are:

### 1. Louth to Lincoln

Louth, with its very beautiful parish church, was a key area in the 'Lincolnshire Rising' which opposed the closure of the monasteries by Henry VIII which led to the wider Pilgrimage of Grace. This journey takes in a range of local churches including Langton by Wragby, the birthplace of Stephen Langton who became the Archbishop of Canterbury who took part in the negotiations for the Magna Carta and was appointed by the Pope to oversee the canonisation of St. Hugh.

### 2. Epworth to Lincoln

Epworth is very much 'Wesley country' which includes the Wesley Memorial Church and parish church where John and Charles Wesley's father was Rector for many years. There is also an excellent museum in the old rectory. Again, there is a range of local churches on this route including Gainsborough Parish Church and Gainsborough Old Hall with its strong Pilgrim Father connections. The route then goes through Stow with its fine Minster and St. Hugh connections.

### 3. Boston/Bourne to Lincoln

Boston also played a key role in the Pilgrim Fathers' story along with the magnificent 'Boston Stump' parish church. This journey takes in Bourne with its Abbey and parish church and drops down to Sempringham with its important connections with Gilbert of Sempringham and his 'double monastery'. Again a range of local churches are included.

We have also added a section which is not part of the three 'journeys' and could well be of relevant interest to those who want to explore further. At the moment this includes: Grimsby Minster, Grantham Parish Church, Tattershall Collegiate Church, Stamford churches and Crowland Abbey.

Lincoln Cathedral has a strap line on its website which says 'Lincoln Cathedral - Inspiring people in different ways'. This is a reality, as for some it is the history and architecture which is key to their interest and to others it is its religious purpose which matters most. For a lot of visitors it is simply that the buildings inspire or, of course, a mixture of all these elements and more. This will be a reality for these 'Journeys of faith'. For some the Journeys will reflect their religious beliefs and are pilgrimages walking in the footsteps of Saints and key people

and movements in the story of faith in Greater Lincolnshire. For others they will be an opportunity to explore themselves, or gain 'time out' to think, or just enjoy our landscapes and buildings in a thoughtful and reflective way

We are extremely fortunate (and this was not planned!) that we are developing this project under the Heritage Lottery funded 'Lincoln Cathedral Connected' project which will massively improve facilities at the Cathedral for visitors. A key element in this is to encourage more visitors/pilgrimages to the Cathedral which we hope will be achieved with the help of 'Journeys of Faith'. The Cathedral will be a welcoming, prayerful, and informed destination for those undertaking these Journeys of Faith. Work will be undertaken to develop this further as the project moves forward. Watch this space!



Epworth Parish Church



Looking at the tomb of Rev Samuel Wesley (father of John and Charles Wesley) who was Rector of Epworth for many years



The Wesley Memorial Church (Methodist)

# Blooming bluebells

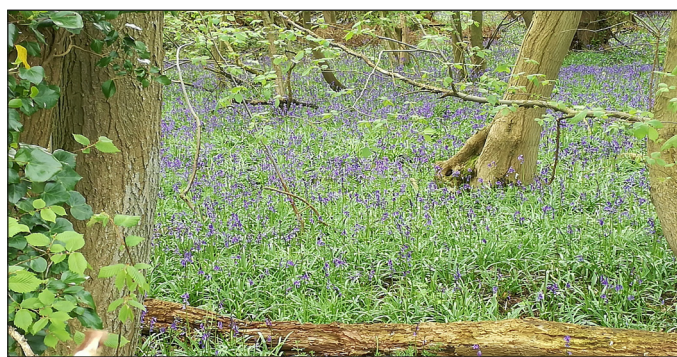
John Harker

**What a difference a week makes. The route of the LCCA Spring Walk had been firmed up weeks earlier. However, having mentioned “bluebells” in the Chapter Letter advertising the Walk, it seemed sensible to check the week before to see if any had emerged.**

On that preview visit there were a few clumps of bluebells, but fewer than I hoped. Fast forward seven days to Saturday morning 22nd April around 10.30 a.m. at the Royal Oak in Little Cawthorpe and we started the Walk with reasonable weather.

One of the joys of walking is the ability to stop and look for things of interest. Just outside the pub car park there is a footbridge over the ford / stream. Half way across the footbridge on the left there is a lovely view of the stream cascading downhill and a waterwheel turning. But it is the life-size Gorilla statue perched in the long grass in the garden on the right side that makes the stop worthwhile.

The morning walk included a tour of Legbourne village with its restored Windmill, trout farms and ruined Abbey before heading towards Legbourne Wood – an ancient woodland managed by the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. The canopy at Legbourne is mainly ash and oak and beneath the trees, over 60 species of wild flowers have been recorded. As well as bluebells there was a good supporting cast of other wild flowers including primroses, wood anemone, celandine, and purple orchids that carpeted the woodland floor. *Hyacinthoides non scripta* is the humble bluebell's official name. The bluebell is associated with ancient woodland, is rich in pollen and nectar and is chiefly pollinated by bumble bees.



Happily, the rain showers earlier in the week had helped stimulate a growing spurt so we encountered an array of bluebells in Legbourne Wood. Further along the route at Blindwells Holt ( an extension of Legbourne Wood ) there was a proliferation of bluebells – see picture.

After pleasant lunchtime conversations and some tasty food at the Royal Oak, we started the short afternoon stroll around the charming village of Little Cawthorpe as the weather improved and sun started to shine.

The nine walkers had another enjoyable walk with good conversation throughout the four hours walk including bar meal, a tour of two interesting villages, and of course some bluebells.

# Introducing the next Precentor of Lincoln

Elaine Johnson

**Sal McDougall has been actively involved in the church since she was a child. Joining the local church choir when she was 11 years old – “My brother was doing it and I thought it looked like fun so decided to have a go” – she quickly developed an appreciation of Anglican music and liturgy.**

Her love of music allowed her to develop her skills to a high level by completing an honours music degree at the University of Glasgow. After graduation, rather than pursuing a career as a performer, Sal stayed in the city and worked behind the scenes at the Royal Scottish National Orchestra before taking up a post with the Iona Community. “The Iona Community taught me that faith is about all of life, and about living out the gospel wherever we are,” says Sal.

Putting faith and gospel values into practice came alive for Sal when she was invited to pilot two projects in Scotland. The first was aimed at breaking the cycle of persistent re-offending in young men across the country. The project’s approach attracted the attention of the Scottish Government, who supported the work for several years. “It was tough work, but there were some real successes, and it was profoundly rewarding to see lives turned around,” said Sal, who takes up the post of Precentor of Lincoln in September.

Later, Sal was invited to pilot an innovative community music project in the notorious Gorbals area of Glasgow. “The project started from a basic premise that music is for everyone, and we used singing and music as a medium to help address issues of sectarianism, poverty, social isolation and poor health,” explains Sal. “We experimented with using music as a way to break down divisions and build and strengthen community.” The project now employs six full-time



music project workers and continues to engage people of all ages and backgrounds in making music together.

“I have been lucky enough to see the transformative power of music at work in people’s lives,” says Sal. “Just think how that potential to transform is magnified when music is also part of a vibrant liturgy in the incredible space of the Cathedral, offered to the glory of God.” Sal is looking forward to playing her part in that, and wants everyone who comes into the Cathedral for worship to feel welcomed and included. “That is not just a job for clergy and stewards,” says Sal, “but for all of us.”

Sal says that she will be taking time in

the autumn to listen to and learn from the congregation, and to gauge how best the Cathedral’s music and liturgy can serve and support our mission to the city, the diocese and the county.

Having worked as chaplain to the Bishop of Lincoln and as a priest-vicar in the Cathedral for the last five years, Sal brings a great deal of knowledge about aspects of church life in Lincolnshire to her new role. And she is very clear about the Cathedral’s role in the life of the region: “Lincoln Cathedral is the spiritual heartbeat of this great city, this diocese and the whole of Greater Lincolnshire,” she says. “It is a place for all of us, and everyone is welcome.”

# Where Heaven and Earth Collide

Muriel Robinson

**Recently I was leaving the Cathedral by the West Doors when I overheard a small boy say to his parents, 'But I'm afraid to go in'. My first reaction was sadness that he should be scared.**

My own experiences of church started before I could walk and never involved fear. My parents were some of the many people inspired by Bishop Bell in Chichester after World War II and confirmed as adults. By the time I came along they were deeply involved in our local church. Dad was a lay reader then and Mum an active member of the Mothers' Union and Young Wives. She always said that I learned to walk holding onto the brass altar rails as she was trying to polish them. I have been in and out of churches ever since, Dad having been ordained when I was six. Once we moved to Norfolk and a group of parishes outside King's Lynn, I was perfectly comfortable going into our church alone at any time if something needed fetching or doing, and although it was many years before I read TS Eliot, once I did I could strongly identify with that sense of a place 'that prayer has made valid'. So church buildings have never scared me, for which I was glad. Or so I thought.

Later, though, I began to wonder. Was



this the superstitious fear I had sometimes encountered amongst schoolfriends? Or was it actually something more powerful and positive? I remembered my days working with teenage confirmation candidates and the attempts to explore the gifts of the spirit. Last on the list in our translation was 'Wonder and Awe in God's presence'-sometimes expressed as 'Fear of the Lord'. Was there a way in which being scared to go into the Cathedral might be for some an awareness of this awe and wonder?

The theologian Rudolf Otto popularised the word 'numinous' as a way of capturing the sense of the holy that we sometimes encounter. Celtic spirituality talks about 'thin places' where heaven and earth seem almost to touch. I suspect many of us have places that are like this for us. I remember being moved to tears on my first visit to the church at Taizé in Burgundy. It's not particularly beautiful, being made of what appear to be prefab warehouse units, and the decorations are modest- reproductions of icons, candles, flowers and greenery from the surrounding countryside, with contract flooring- but God felt very close there. Others will have felt that thinness in nature, or in a solitary moment. Every time I walk in to the Cathedral when the nave is free from chairs, I have a sense of being in a place 'where the walls are weak'. So many people over so many years, praying and working to glorify God, and they feel almost tangible as part of the great cloud of witnesses. Maybe what that small boy was sensing was that sense of awe and wonder- in which case being afraid was entirely sensible and even good- and my first reaction of sadness should instead have been one of joy that for yet another tourist the visit had become a pilgrimage.



Photos of Taizé (of the church from outside, and the daily evening service) from Flickr, taken by Carsten Leinhäuser in 2016. Reproduced under Creative Commons licence.

# My year of Miseri(cords)

## -part two

Abigail Hurst

*Aiming to sit in every misericord seat over a year, excepting those belonging to the residentiary canons, eighty-eight in all, choir mum, Abigail Hurst, continues her description of the beautiful carvings which form the misericords. The hinges of the seats are very delicate so Abigail used Carol Bennett's book 'Lincoln Cathedral Misericord Seats', available in the Cathedral shop, as her main source of information.*

**In the process of attending the many services in which my daughter sings, I have heard the glorious choral music from every angle and made some friends by sitting next to regulars.**

It has involved a little planning so that I do not sit in someone's preferred seat (sorry, Alan, if you felt hunted for Bedford Major) and also to avoid sitting right next to a bemused member of clergy when the Cathedral is otherwise almost empty (I stalked the Subdean for a while). Sorry too to my choir mum friends who must have thought that I was elaborately avoiding them.

The legends of King Arthur and their inspirations make several appearances with North Kelsey showing Sir Yvain at the point that a portcullis falls on his horse. You can also find Tristram and Iseult meeting beneath a tree in which hides King Mark and Sir Perceval in his armour. As if that was not romantic enough, try Welton Brinkhall where a seated maid holds the horse of a knight who sleeps with his head in her lap. Unicorns make two appearances, one about to be captured having been lured by a virgin.

I also met a centaur, a beautiful pelican (the Subdean's elbow rest), a griffin and a mermaid with a mirror. The medieval wood carvers had fun, particularly with the well documented series of monkey carvings, perhaps to make fun of a money grabbing canon. Amongst the strangest are the 'naked child rising from a whelk to attack a dragon' and 'boy astride a crane and attacked by two others'.



Some of my friends have been following my quest on Twitter. I dared to sneak a photo of Judith and Holofernes for my Twitter feed and was (rightly and very politely) told off by a verger. I have gained a Twitter follower in Hagia Sophia which is the oldest Cathedral in the world, in Istanbul, predating Lincoln by 500 years, and as proud of its mosaics as Lincoln is of its sculpture.

In ticking off each seat, I have enjoyed for another year the ancient rhythm of the liturgical year as well as marking some huge local and global events such as a new Dean, the shock of the EU referendum and the initiation and emotional reading out of choristers. The Cathedral stands as a dignified witness to all of this transient human experience and through it God remains a constant and unchanging support for us all.



# The Morning Chapel

Margaret Campion

*The Morning Chapel is the space for private prayer for visitors who don't want, or aren't able, to go into the main building. Many of us will have popped in to light candles, but how much do we know about this space? Read on to find out more...*

**The Morning Chapel is the largest of the side chapels and is dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene, as can be guessed by the altar frontal and kneelers which depict the tears which Mary shed over the feet of Jesus and her luxuriant hair with which she dried them.**

It is called the Morning Chapel because it is where the medieval workmen gathered for prayers before starting their work. It is interesting to note that today the Works Chapel is the first of the three side chapels in the south transept and on the Feast of St. Hugh (17 November) there is still an annual service for the Works Department held there.

The earliest records of the chapel dates from the time of Bishop Sutton (1280 – 1299) and it was he who ordered the building of the separate church of St. Mary Magdalene in the Bail. The right to use the old Morning Chapel was retained by the new parish and there is still an annual service of Evensong held in the chapel on the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene (22nd July) and taken by the parish priest, with the choir and organist of St. Mary's. The Cathedral font was originally in the Morning Chapel and moved to its present position in Victorian times. However, all baptisms in the Cathedral are still recorded in the Baptismal Register of St. Mary Magdalene. When a marriage takes place in the Cathedral and it is celebrated in the East End, it is recorded in the parish register of St. Peter in Eastgate, but if it is cele-



brated in the West End of the Cathedral it must be recorded in the register of St. Mary Magdalene! This is because the footprint of the Cathedral actually covers a part of both parishes.

The rear of the Morning Chapel, which now forms a small museum of ancient stones, removed mostly from the Norman Frieze, was originally dedicated to St. James the Deacon and divided from the Morning Chapel by a wooden screen which was removed and sold to Sleaford church for £100. Prior to this the area had been used for the storage of coals used for heating the Cathedral.

It is a very beautiful chapel and with its central column and shafts of Purbeck marble it is thought to be the model for

the Chapter House. There are pretty details – the curly haired head of a young boy opposite the very pretty head of a young girl – could they be the son and daughter of the carver? There is a good Green Man as well. The wooden staff on the north east wall was gifted by the family of Archbishop E.W. Benson who was Chancellor of Lincoln in 1898. There is also a cut-out figure of King David with his harp which was noted in the memoirs of A.C. Benson (son of the Archbishop) but which had disappeared by 1923, only to reappear again in 1955 having been restored by a Mr. N. Kukso of Woodhall Spa. Where it had been in the intervening years is not recorded!

# Lincoln Theological Society

John Davies

*"Martin Luther: The Destructive Power of a Troubled Conscience," a lecture given by the Revd Dr Jonathan Trigg in the Hardy building at Bishop Grosseteste University on 29th of March 2017. The full review of this lecture can be found on the LTS website at <http://www.lincolnthelologicalsociety.net/jonathan-trigg/> but is too long for inclusion here. What follows are extracts to tempt you to read more..*

**This was not a chronological retelling of Luther's career, but an account of aspects of his thought and their results in theology and the life and politics of Germany from 1517 onwards.**

Almost single-handedly, but with some predecessors, Dr Trigg seemed to say, Luther began the destruction of late mediaeval Western Christendom's unity. This in turn initiated persecution, warfare and atrocity. Despite his Bible-based theological rebellion against

sion of radical reform and of peasant insurrection inspired by it.

But was Luther troubled in conscience by the consequences of what he had written and taught? Dr Trigg seemed to think not. He attributed the bursts of energy and of almost manic anger which made Luther so intransigent and abusive an opponent, not only of the Pope and the church but of other reformers, to psychological causes. The lecturer speculated that Luther had bi-

disturbed) personality came astonishing cultural and theological achievements. Luther's translation of the Bible was at least as important for German language and culture as the King James Version is for the Anglophone world. His hymns are still sung today[...]. The best known is *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott*, "A safe stronghold is our God, based on Psalm 46 – and of course, most famous of all are the 95 theses nailed by Luther to the door of the castle church in Wittenberg (where he was professor of biblical studies) on October 31 1517.

[...]

[But] what is his legacy for us? Unlike other reformers, he[Luther] believed in the real presence of Christ's body and blood in the communion, but this was for him not a sacrifice offered by the priest but a gift from God. Luther believed that the Christian soul, like Christ himself, travelled through suffering to glory by God's grace; and that by the cross of Christ, the baptised Christian is a truly free person. [...]. Luther's translation of scripture and liturgy into the vernacular, his composition and use of vernacular hymns for congregational singing fed into the music of J.S. Bach and other composers, as well as into worship today including ours. His insistence that the ordinary believer be brought into the centre of worship and of Christian life potentially democratised the faith in the face of a controlling hierarchical church.

Paradoxically, if Luther did achieve this last he did it, as Dr Trigg said, as a control freak himself. The lecturer made clear the contradictions of a conservative reformer who preached love with anger and freedom which must be carefully controlled. It was an interesting evening.



Photo of Luther sourced from

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the sale of indulgences (I am tempted to write "the indulgence racket"), Luther turned out to be a paradoxically conservative figure, seeing himself as in continuity with the Bible and the church fathers and encouraging the suppres-

sion of radical reform and of peasant insurrection inspired by it. But was Luther troubled in conscience by the consequences of what he had written and taught? Dr Trigg seemed to think not. He attributed the bursts of energy and of almost manic anger which made Luther so intransigent and abusive an opponent, not only of the Pope and the church but of other reformers, to psychological causes. The lecturer speculated that Luther had bi-

Out of this disturbing (and perhaps

# Colin Walsh, Organist Laureate of Lincoln

Margaret Campion

**Colin has an impressive C.V. which those who have a special interest in organ music can read on-line but for those of us who regularly worship in the Cathedral, he is something of a Phantom of the – well, not the Opera but certainly of the Organ!**

We hear him, love him but perhaps do not recognise him because he is always up aloft, an unseen but certainly not unheard presence.

He came to the Cathedral in 1988 which makes him almost the longest-serving regular member of the Cathedral staff, having served continuously for 28 years. Since 2002 he has had the freedom to travel and fulfil the many opportunities to play throughout the world and also to spend more time with his organ scholar students at Lincoln and at Cambridge, Oxford and London.

His philosophy for his pupils – and for any aspiring young organist is simple: "Practice, practice and practice". There are no short cuts and most days he practises for at least three hours. He recalls the legendary conductor, Leonard Bernstein, who on being asked directions to the Carnegie Hall replied robustly: "Practice, practice and practice."

Playing as an accompanist takes skill, practice and experience; there is much to think about if you are accompanying and accompanying the liturgy can be challenging because of the timing. For instance, during great processions with the congregation following the choir from the West End back to the Choir, there is inevitably an element of guesswork. We don't move

at the same time and tend to straggle back to our seats but somehow he has to keep the rhythm and verses in time.

The Father Willis Organ is one of the greatest treasures of the Cathedral. There are approximately 3,500 pipes in the organ, the smallest a couple of inches in length, the longest 32 feet! Most of these are hidden away in the North

Colin is looking forward greatly to the return of the Triforium pipes.

On a less exalted level, Colin has many interests apart from music; he is a great traveller, both as a professional organist and for his own pleasure and interest. He is keenly interested in animals and has had the opportunity during his travels to visit rehabilitation areas and

has wonderful photos with sun bears, orang-utans and all kinds of monkeys. He visited the zoo in Taipei ten years ago, just after the Chinese government had given a pair of baby pandas to Taiwan, and earlier this year he re-visited the zoo to see 'his' pandas and to photograph them as full size adults. Until three years ago he was often accompanied in the Cathedral by a German shepherd dog and I certainly remember looking up to the organ loft and seeing the furry face of a German shepherd resting his paws on the ledge, observing the comings and goings beneath him! He was never allowed into a service though – just in case he emitted a 'woof' at a critical moment!

Colin particularly enjoys playing as the services end, but is surprised that so few members of the congregation stay to listen. It is only an extra five minutes or so and perhaps we should all be

aware that we are, in fact, being given a recital which is absolutely free.

Asked which organ of the many he had played was his favourite, or the 'best', he replied that although the great organ at St. Ouen in Rouen is superb and is a similar age to our own, Lincoln's Father Willis stands as a very close second!



Choir Triforium which is currently being re-roofed and that part of the organ has been out of action for a while and returns this summer. There was concern that the reduced power would be noticeable – rather like having an arm or leg removed – but in fact the sound has been pretty good, even wonderful, and

# The Sparks Engineering Show

## Lincoln Cathedral, May 2017

Richard Carter

**This was an exciting exhibition held in the enormous space of the Cathedral nave and was well worth a visit. The exhibits were well presented starting with the showman's engine outside the Cathedral, ticking over so quietly it could hardly be heard above the noise and chatter of admiring tourists.**

That is the appeal of steam – none of the raucous noise and vibrations that come with diesel. There was a BRM racing car, one of the very few surviving Ruston cars and now in the care of the Vintage Vehicle Museum, plus two very expensive motor cycles. Apart from the chromium plating and other bits of glitz they looked remarkably like the Brough

Superior, circa 1920, which was used by T E Lawrence when he lodged here in Lincoln!

The other interesting vehicle was not an exhibit. It was a mobility scooter being used by a visitor. I contemplated asking the lady if she would give me twirl but decided it would be a bit too cheeky!

A great exhibition in every way!



## Community Tea Party in the Cloisters

Margaret Campion

**Pentecost Sunday seemed a good day to have a community event and neither the weather, food nor the people disappointed!**

Between 30 and 40 gathered together and enjoyed laughter, conversation and the many delicious cakes provided. It was a relatively simple event to organise, which was good because two members of the four-person Social Committee were unable to attend, but with the help of the rest of the committee all went off smoothly and the Vergers and Works Department benefitted

greatly from the remainders of the various foods!

It has already been decided that the event should be repeated next year but we are considering asking representatives from the Nomad Trust to join us and then perhaps some of the donated food could be taken by them to give a little treat to whoever is staying in the hostel at the time.

Does this idea appeal to members of the Community? If so, do please make your views known to the committee.



# Reasons to be cheerful

Muriel Robinson

**As I write, it is one of those June days when summer seems something of an illusion.**

Following a cold day of heavy rain we have high winds and the clouds scudding across the sky do not promise much in the way of summer warmth, today at least. Yet it is the week after Pentecost, a time of hope and rejoicing in the gift of the Holy Spirit, and so I am trying to look out with grateful thanks for a new day and optimism for the future!

One thing which does make me optimistic is the recurring theme of 'all are welcome'. We have heard it from our Dean and in this edition you will find it again in our feature on our Precen-tor-designate. I am a Bishops' Adviser, which means I help with the selection of future ordinands across the country, and at a recent selection panel several candidates talked about how their home churches were or were not welcoming. They talked about the challenges of getting beyond the smiling face at the door

to encouraging regulars to attend such events as family services, of finding ways to include new attendees at coffee time when it is all too easy for familiar groups to appear cliquey and uninviting and, even more challenging, of being genuinely open to what people were bringing and being ready to embrace the possibility of change. All this has made me think about how lucky we are to have so many opportunities to welcome the new arrival or transient visitor in our own Sunday services.

Obviously we have vergers, duty chaplains, guides and stewards who do so much but we all have many chances to show welcome. First of all, we get many more visitors than the average parish church on a normal Sunday, all offering us the chance for unobtrusive support – for example making a welcoming space for latecomers, sharing booklets when these are in short supply, finding the place in the service book or identifying the right hymnbook.

Visitors are explicitly welcomed and invited to coffee and it is common to see regulars taking time to help people feel able to take up that invitation, to chat to newcomers and introduce them to others. But we also have the privilege of welcoming the wider diocese and joining in worship with them – for example at the annual ordinations, or during the Easter Vigil or Christmas services. Then there are the days when we have a baptism during the 9.30 Eucharist – the epitome of welcome in terms of the candidate, but also another chance to support the candidate's wider family and friends who are very often in the Cathedral for the first time.

In so many ways, then, we have great potential to live out the ministry of welcome every time we are in the Cathedral – and so, despite the blustery winds outside my window, I am indeed starting this June day with renewed hope and optimism for us in this week when we have celebrated the Church's birthday.

## Given in your names - a note from the LCCA Committee

**Those readers who are members of the LCCA will probably know that of the income derived from the Planned Giving Scheme, in accordance with the wishes of Chapter and with the LCCA Constitution, 25% is allocated by the Committee to local, national and international charities.**

All such giving is reported each year at the AGM, and when we receive thank-you letters we try to display these on the LCCA noticeboard in the South Transept, but we thought readers might appreciate more regular updates.

The Committee is also always happy to be told about deserving causes (which must be registered charities) which we can consider supporting. And don't forget that if you are not already a member of the Planned Giving Scheme, it is never too late to join!

Most recently we have given:

- **£1624.50** to the Kensington and Chelsea Foundation for their Grenfell Tower appeal. This was made up of £1500 from LCCA funds and an additional £124.50 raised from the collection taken after coffee on June 18th.
- **£500** to MASH. This local charity, which we have supported before, provides assistance to families in the Monks Road area who qualify for free school meals by giving food vouchers to help with the extra costs of feeding their children during the school holidays.
- **£1500** to the Nottingham Hospitals Charity. This donation was in response to a suggestion from one member of the congregation who has been a patient there and who was aware how many of our congregation have been helped by Nottingham hospitals in recent years.

# Forthcoming Events

## Lincoln Knights' Trail

**Until Monday 4 September 2017**

For further information please visit [LincolnCathedral.com](http://LincolnCathedral.com) or call 01522 561600

## The Nadin Group Exhibition

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

## Lincoln East Art Group Exhibition

**Monday 24 July to Saturday 5 August 2017**

## Exhibition of Six Knitted Churches

**August 2017 (Dates TBC)**

## Artist in Residence Exhibition

**Tuesday 5 to Thursday 28 September 2017**

Our Artist in Residence 2016 to 2017, Dominic Parczuk will be exhibiting some of his finest works for visitors to appreciate from 10am to 4pm, Monday to Friday and 1pm to 5pm on Sunday.

## Jekyll & Hyde: The Musical

**Tuesday 22 August to Friday 1 September 2017**

Theatre in the Nave

## Lecture Series- Jekyll & Hyde

**Wednesday 28 June and Wednesday 5 July 2017**

## Hallé Orchestra

**Saturday 9 September 2017 7pm**

## Lunchtime Concert Series 2017

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

15 July – Alessandro Bianchi (Italy)

16 September – Henk Galenkamp (Germany)

## Advance Notice

### The Snowman

**Saturday 19 November 2017** Screenings of Raymond Briggs' film

Tickets on sale at the beginning of August 2017.

## Handel's Messiah

**Saturday 25 November 2017**



Cathedral artist-in-residence Dominic Parczuk  
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## Disclaimer

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Decisions on content are made by the editors for each edition of *InHouse*. Submissions of short articles is welcomed though it may not always be possible to use all pieces as space is limited; articles are also commissioned to address identified issues. We reserve the right to edit submitted articles.

Copy for the next edition should be emailed to the Editors at [murielr@btopenworld.com](mailto:murielr@btopenworld.com) by **September 1st 2017** in Word format; accompanying photographs are also welcomed as JPEG files. Advice for contributors is available- please email for a copy. Regrettably it is not possible to accept hard copy as we do not have any secretarial resources.

If you do not currently receive *InHouse* by email and would like to do so, please email your address to us at [murielr@btopenworld.com](mailto:murielr@btopenworld.com). The electronic version has full colour photographs and is distributed ahead of the print version, so there are advantages!