

# InHouse

*the Journal of the Lincoln Cathedral Community Association*



Archaeology  
Page 2

The Lincoln Imp  
Page 6



## Hospitality and Lincoln Cathedral

Muriel Robinson

**Those of our readers who attend the 9.30 Eucharist on Sundays have heard several sermons recently around the theme of hospitality.**

We thought it might be interesting to explore this in terms of how it applies practically to our cathedral community. An initial conversation with our Dean revealed so much that is already happening, often unseen by many of us, that I persuaded Dean Christine to talk to me at greater length- an act of hospitality in itself, as she welcomed me into the Deanery on a cold January evening after Evensong when I'm sure she would rather have been relaxing after a long day.

The Dean reminded me that the Cathedral has a strong pastoral mission, in which hospitality plays a central part. Our priority needs to be building on hospitality and welcome. We are of course not a parish, but we are a community, and that community includes not just staff, regular worshippers and volunteers, but some of those in greatest need in our city. Those of us who are regularly in uphill Lincoln are aware of homeless people and rough sleepers, and although such agencies as the Nomad Trust and P3 do their best to offer support, some of the most complex cases are often either reluctant or unable to go into hostels because their mental health issues can lead to violent behaviour or substance abuse. Christine is proud that our vergers know the regulars and that they support them, not just through the care packages provided after an overwhelmingly generous response to an appeal through the Chapter Letter, or by offering hot drinks, but by befriending, listening, and treating everyone with dig-



Lincoln Cathedral- reaching out to the diocese and county

nity. 'Our vergers have a wonderful ministry' she told me. 'They treat the homeless with respect and get to know them'. The coffee shop also plays a part, and Susan, the manager, is often on hand with coffee on a cold day for those in distress. Christine herself tries to talk to those who are seeking shelter in or around the cathedral, to learn the names of regulars and to use names when speaking to them, as part of recognising their human dignity.

We are of course aware of the key role played by staff and volunteers in welcoming visitors, but I hadn't realised how early each day that can start. Christine talked about those who find their way into the cathedral from the moment the doors open, seeking support and a space for prayer, coming in to light candles very early in the morning and clearly in distress from events that have unfolded overnight. The vergers and residentiary staff are clearly central here but the duty chaplains also have a crucial role. Those

of us who are stewards will also know how often we help people to slip in to light candles around the edges of formal events. Many of us were amazed to hear how many candles were used during the Christmas market, and there are developments underway to realise the potential for mission here, for example so that people are helped to recognise the significance of candle lighting.

As the announcement of the extra national funding coming to the Cathedral had just been made, I asked how this would link to the mission of hospitality. Dean Christine pointed out the strong link in the extra possibilities for being incarnational and 'walking the talk' that the money will offer. The Strategic Development Funding gives us all permission as a cathedral community to 'get out there and share' what we have to offer, to welcome people in and to reach out to the diocese. The next few years are going to be exciting - watch this space for more news!

# Archaeology beneath the Cathedral grounds

Fern Dawson



**In December, a 13th century medieval road was uncovered by archaeologists undertaking works at Lincoln Cathedral. Discovered by Allen Archaeology Ltd whilst carrying out excavation works as part of the Lincoln Cathedral Connected project, the road likely dates back to between 1280 and 1290 – the same period that the Cathedral's cloister was built.**

The purpose of the road remains unknown, although experts believe it could have been used to transport stone and building materials for the construction of the cloister.

The excavation also revealed part of a wall of an early medieval building, likely to be part of the Norman expansion across the area following the Conquest in the 11th century. It is believed that the building may have been demolished in the 13th century as the diocese purchased dwellings along Eastgate and created the Close. The medieval road was built following the demolition of

this building down to floor level.

Since these discoveries were made, archaeologists have been excavating beneath the medieval road in the hope of finding further building remains, which will likely expose a small part of the original Roman city. Excavations of the defensive wall and ramparts have revealed that the ramparts were made from a mixture of high-status Roman painted plaster and rubbish, including pottery, animal bone and oyster shells.

In addition to the medieval road and building, archaeologists also recently discovered some fascinating Roman pottery vessels and a carved bone object, which has yet to be formally identified but may be part of a medieval musical instrument.

Mark Allen of Allen Archaeology said: "These findings are just the latest discoveries that have come to light as part of the excavation works that are ongoing at Lincoln Cathedral. We have uncovered so much since the project began

and to unexpectedly find a medieval road was amazing. We're eagerly working away to see what else is hidden on the site."

Allen Archaeology has made a number of other amazing discoveries working on the Connected project, including re-discovering the medieval Deanery and Works Chantry, both complexes of medieval buildings surrounding a courtyard immediately to the north of the Cathedral. Whilst the buildings were demolished in the Victorian period due to their poor condition, they were previously noted as featuring some of the finest medieval architecture in Lincoln.

Made possible by £12.4m raised by National Lottery players and awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), these excavations and other works will protect the Cathedral and its rich history, whilst creating new spaces for all visitors to enjoy. Newly unearthed treasures will form part of the exhibitions in the Cathedral's new visitor centre which opens in 2020.



# A window onto Minster Yard

## (part 2)

*The view from Minster Yard is always a delight, and a reminder of the many different groups and individuals who are welcomed into our great cathedral to celebrate, to mourn, to pray, to admire the architecture... so many reasons, so many people. Here one of the residents captures some of the moments that captivate her.*

Anne Senior

**When the wonderful old house in which I now live was built in Minster Yard about 800 years ago, and became the residence of the Sub Dean, the room which is now my kitchen was, I like to think, an ante-room and the window which faces north towards the West Front was probably very useful, to warn and inform, as well as to let in light.**

Nowadays, the many mundane activities during the day are enormously enlivened by a simple turn of the head to the left, or, for something very special, leaning the elbows on the deep windowsill and blatantly 'people watching'. A rich warming cup of breakfast coffee is enhanced by the runners and dog walkers doing their cathedral circuits. I am impressed by the magnificence of some of the hounds, of ever-more interesting blends, many seeming to be practising for Crufts. As the day passes, it is good to see so many friends and acquaintances coming and going, the postman, the 'little bus' and our familiar pony and trap in summer taking visitors round.

In September the Battle of Britain service and parade is very special for many of us as we are Bomber County; for me

a very personal connection as my father was a 17-year-old fighter pilot in the First World War. He survived and served in Bomber Command in Egypt and what was then Palestine, for the whole of the Second World War. He kept a daily diary and I have visited many of the places in North Africa he wrote about.

*"Many troupes in colourful, ribboned clothes gather in Minster Yard and delight residents and visitors alike"*

At least three times a year we have graduation ceremonies; students emerging from the cathedral, they and their families full of relief and joy, ap-

plauded by their Dons. So many young people, yet for each one such a special day.

Many brides and grooms come to be photographed at the West Front, but I remember one wedding, held in the Cathedral; afterwards 800 brilliantly arrayed Nigerian guests gathered on the Parvis, blue and yellow being the wedding colours, like an enormous flock of exotic butterflies.

We have a Harley Davidson weekend with huge numbers of leather-clad riders on their gleaming machines proving to be much less fierce than they at first appear. Steam Punk aficionados have adopted Lincoln as their favourite annual Festival gathering place, amazing us with all their inventive plumbing-themed costumes. Drums, pipes and the shaking of small bells announce the arrival of the Morris dancers. Many troupes in colourful, ribboned clothes gather in Minster Yard and delight residents and visitors alike with their old dances, music and clashing of sticks. I read that the word 'Morris' derives from 'Moorish' and maybe the blackened faces of some of the dancers reflects that origin.

# Grateful thanks

**The LCCA committee would like to thank the anonymous donors of a new urn after the old one, which was used for coffee on a Sunday morning, broke down.**

The committee would also like to thank a local business which sponsored the cost of the ethically-sourced tea and coffee until January as part of their corporate social responsibility, and another individual who sponsored it for the month of February. It

costs £30 a month to provide refreshments after the 9.30 Eucharist and sponsorship means that the net coffee proceeds, which the LCCA donates to The Nomad Trust, is correspondingly higher. Last year we were able to donate £1,400.

If other businesses or individuals are interested in doing this, please contact the LCCA treasurer, David Ford, via the LCCA email: [lcca@lincolncathedral.com](mailto:lcca@lincolncathedral.com) for further information.

# The Bells of Lincoln Cathedral

Margaret Campion

**It is impossible to live in Lincoln and not hear the cathedral bells ringing out at all sorts of odd times and for a huge variety of reasons.**

Depending on the direction of the wind you might hear the bells as you are shopping in the High Street or if you are out for an evening stroll almost anywhere within a few miles radius of the city. But why do they ring? Obviously for weddings and joyful occasions such as the Jubilee celebrations or to ring in the New Year – and of course for the regular ringing practice nights (Mondays 7 – 9pm) but they do seem to ring at other times for no particular reason.

One of the most intriguing rings is the Curfew Bell which has been ringing every evening for as long as the cathedral has had bells. Today the Curfew bell is rung at 6pm on winter evenings and 8 pm on summer ones, but why? The word 'curfew' comes from the French 'couvre feu' meaning 'cover

the fire' and although curfews have been rung country wide since long before the Norman Conquest (1066 in case you had forgotten!) it was enforced by law by William himself who wanted all his new, and possibly quarrelsome, subjects to "cover their fires and go to bed" thus hopefully reducing the opportunities for lawlessness and fire-raising. By 1103 the law had been repealed but the tradition of ringing the curfew bell remained and was presumably one way of marking

the hours in a world where clocks and watches were not yet imagined.

In Lincoln though, the curfew tradition does not end with a simple ringing, it follows a specific routine. There are two bells ringing the curfew; they are sited in the NW tower, called St. Mary's Tower, and the sequence is for the first bell to ring 101 times minus the day of the month and the second bell to ring the remaining number to bring the total

this varies from day to day - and again at midday for the Angelus. The Angelus Bell rings 3 times, then the verger who is on the ringing duty says one 'Hail Mary'; this sequence is repeated 3 times and then followed by the second bell which rings 9 times! This sequence again has been performed daily for as long as records exist – again it is part of the rich traditions of Lincoln Cathedral.

Most intriguingly the biggest bell of

them all, Great Tom, who lives in the Central Tower, is tolled at the death of a member of the Chapter or Foundation – which includes not only the important clergy but also the essential people who actually maintain the cathedral – the masons, glaziers, plumbers, the Chapter Clerk and senior officers in the administrative team. Most importantly it is also tolled at the death of a senior member of the Royal Family and again there is a



rings to 101. Thus on Armistice Day on 11 November the first bell will ring 90 times followed by the second bell which will ring the 11 making 101 in total – simple!

Armistice Day was another occasion when the bells nationwide rang out at 12.30pm for an hour-long peal in thanksgiving for the end of WW1 as it did on the same date 100 years ago.

The bells in the N.W. Tower also ring each morning for 5 minutes before the morning service begins – the time of

special sequence of ringing: for royalty or Cathedral dignitaries Great Tom is tolled at 30 second intervals for half an hour, but for others connected with the Cathedral it is tolled at 15 second intervals for 15 minutes. This sequence is called 'The Passing Bell'.

In compiling these notes I have been helped by the advice and expertise of Les Townsend, past Master of Lincoln Cathedral Ringers, who also taught me to ring the bells!



# The Collection Plate

David Ford



**As Treasurer of the LCCA I was asked if I would kindly contribute an interesting article to InHouse magazine about the collection plate.**

Now there is an oxymoron that ranks alongside 'deafening silence' and 'open secret' or my favourite 'military intelligence'! I embarked upon a bit of web-based research to hopefully gain some inspiration and came across a cartoon of a Fred Flintstone caveman-type character clutching a perfect stone disc. He was saying to his caveman friend, "My new invention is going to make me filthy stinking rich," to which his friend replied questioningly, "The wheel?" The Fred Flintstone character replies, "The collection plate".

Most churches are really good about telling visitors not to feel compelled to give but passing around collection plates still creates a potentially uncomfortable situation. I'm sure there are some people who only have a pound to give, but I wonder how many put a pound or two in the collection plate, so they won't look like they're giving nothing. We certainly shouldn't think that way as many of the congregation give online or by direct debit and not dur-

ing the church service. Peering into the collection plate last Sunday by way of research, I couldn't fail to notice that it contained not just bank notes and coins but also blue (and white) envelopes and even something resembling a business card.

During my term as LCCA treasurer I have become acquainted with the different methods of plate giving, of which many of you may already be aware, but I will share my own limited knowledge with you. The business cards which I saw in the plate collection last Sunday are actually 'plate tokens'. Plate tokens (pictured) are available from the LCCA treasurer, or through any member of the LCCA committee, to members of the Cathedral community who give to the LCCA by direct debit and wish to put a token of their planned giving into the collection plate. The main purpose of the plate token is to provide a tangible way of having your direct bank payment to the LCCA blessed in the same way as if you had donated coins or bank notes.

Some members of the LCCA choose to undertake their plate giving by using the blue envelopes. The blue envelopes (pictured) are available on request to all

members of the Cathedral community and are distributed annually in March as a pack of 52 envelopes. Each of the 52 envelopes has one pre-printed unique number that links the envelope to you. Any donations placed in your blue envelope is attributed to you by the Grants and Donations Officer so that gift aid can be reclaimed if appropriate. Each year the treasurer orders a batch of approximately 30 pre-numbered packs of 52 envelopes from Church Finance Supplies. Again, blue envelopes are available from the LCCA treasurer or through any member of the LCCA Committee to members of the Cathedral community.

The main purpose of this article is to create awareness of the alternative ways for people to give as we must have the opportunity to invest in our Cathedral's and Diocese's ministry. It is an important part of worship. One article which I read was entitled 'Losing the offering plate' which some believe could become a reality as we inevitably move towards a cashless society. On reflection, we may be more like the caveman in the cartoon than we think – he has invented the collection plate but there may be no cash, just envelopes and plate tokens.

# The Lincoln Imp

*At the LCCA AGM our Chancellor talked about the experiences of his first year. We asked him to write something about that for us but he suggested that we might prefer an extract from the forthcoming pilgrim guide to the Cathedral which he has been writing. Having seen a sneak preview of the whole, I think sales should be very high, not just among visitors but as a reminder to us all, as we dash in for services or a coffee, that we tread on holy ground.*

Dr Paul Overend, Chancellor of Lincoln

***Putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil...***

***Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.***

***(Ephesians 4:25-27; 6:10-11)***

Hidden away in the foot of the decoration above a carved stone head, where the first and second arches meet, you will see a small and seemingly insignificant figure of an imp. There are in the cathedral many images of dragons and other grotesque images, many on the Choir Screen ...

Here in the Angel Choir there are many beautiful carved angels, which are positioned high up around the arches. They are playing instruments, symbolic of offering worship to God. They portray the whole company of heaven in glory, rejoicing and singing God's praises, proclaiming the Good News of God's love and our salvation.

However, this little fellow at the foot of the arch suggests that our way of ascent into such company of angels can be deflected by the wiles of the devil. In mythology, imps are mischievous figures that bring disorder and disrupt good intentions.

A 14th century legend recounts that when the cathedral was completed, the devil paid a visit, accompanied by two imps. Being annoyed with the completion of the cathedral, they proceeded to wreak havoc in the building. An angel appeared and ordered them to stop. One turned to throw a rock at the angel and was instantly petrified.



*For the tiniest angel, with amethyst eyes, And hair spun like gold, 'fore the altar did rise, Pronouncing these words in a dignified tone "O impious imp, be ye turned to stone!"*

*O'Neill, Susan. Folklore of Lincolnshire (The History Press, 2012)*

The Imp is also said to have been placed near the holy shrine to remind even the most devout medieval pilgrim that malevolent trickery can get in our way. We might think of those things listed by St Paul, 'quarrelling, jealousy, anger, selfishness, slander, gossip, conceit, and disorder' (2 Corinthians 12:20). These things not only distract us from God, but distance us from sharing God's loving care for our neighbour.

Loving God,  
we are easily distracted from our good intentions  
by petty concerns, personal struggles and occasional conflicts.  
Help us to be mindful of your unfailing love  
and strengthen us that we may be faithful and steadfast  
in our seeking you and living in Christ's way. Amen.

## To Ponder

Consider the week past and as you reflect on some of the difficult situations you've found yourself in, ask if somewhere some malevolent trickery has been at work, whether in others or in yourself.



# Our new LCCA committee chair

Muriel Robinson



## **I was delighted when Dr Alison Eagleton agreed to stand as my successor as LCCA Lay Vice Chair and Committee Chair.**

Alison is a familiar figure to many of the 9.30 congregation; although you may not know her by name or have realised her academic title, you will often see her on the altar on a Sunday as she became a server some two years ago and she is very often to be found at coffee on a Sunday morning.

Alison joined the cathedral congregation some seven years ago when she moved to Lincoln and has very strong memories of the welcome she was given when she visited the building, first by Diana Nicholas and then by Joyce Harris, which helped her feel a part of the community. She very much values the ministry of welcome carried out both in the week to general visitors and on a Sunday by the worshipping community.

Alison was quickly persuaded to stand for the LCCA Committee and has been a

committee member for five or six years, most recently being a key member of the social sub-committee and ensuring we have the fun of table quizzes at our social events.

Before coming to Lincoln, Alison was a science teacher; she has a physics degree and a PhD in biochemistry. Her last job was at a prep school in Devon. She is proud of her Welsh ancestry and of course is one of the many of us who support Wales when it comes to rugby, though her preferred football team is Southampton (with apologies to all our Imps fans). She has always enjoyed being active and currently enjoys walking and swimming. She also enjoys music and plays the piano.

As a proud grandmother of five grandchildren aged between six and two (and with another one due in July) her family keep her busy too. She also keeps her brain alive by studying at the Lincoln School of Theology. Alison has finally moved into her long-awaited new house

off Nettleham Road and has been pleased to find she has wonderful neighbours who are enthusiastic about community. The house is in walking distance of the cathedral (at least for someone as active as Alison!) and it has been a really good move, worth the disruption caused by a lengthy gap between selling and buying.

Not surprisingly, Alison hopes during her time as LCCA committee chair to strengthen the feeling of community still further and to improve the information available about the LCCA so that all the cathedral congregations and volunteers feel it is for them. She would love to see more people getting involved, including younger members of the community and those who have joined us more recently, so that we capitalise on new talent as well as making everyone feel part of the community.

Alison is pictured here with the new committee; do say hello to her if you haven't done so and help her get to know more of you.



# Heilige Geest, Maak Ons Eén!\*

Muriel Robinson

**Many of you will know that the Diocese of Lincoln is 'twinned' (though perhaps 'tripletted' would be a better word) with the Roman Catholic Dioceses of Nottingham and Brugge.**

I am lucky enough to be a member of the Steering Committee and so when we were asked who might be able to go to Brugge for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, I was very pleased to volunteer. Richard and I booked ourselves a mini-break by Eurostar and on a very cold Friday in January we set off for a combined holiday and ecumenical visit.

Brugge is of course a lovely, friendly little town and the whole weekend was a delight. Despite the very cold weather we had bright blue skies and were able to combine outdoor and indoor exploration with breaks for mulled wine and coffee. Even during our 'tourist' time we

could not help but notice the impact of religion on Brugge. The museums and galleries are packed with works by the Flemish masters on religious themes. The places we visited included the Begijnhof, a former lay community founded in 1245 by and for relatively prosperous single or widowed emancipated women who wished to lead a pious and celibate life, and Sint-Janshospitaal, run for many years by priests, monks and nuns, and there are huge churches everywhere. Many of the houses have niches with statues on the outside, many of Mary but also of other saints including one of our favourites, St Roch. Even the Frites Museum is in a historic building with fascinating carvings, including religious images.

However, the real purpose of the weekend was to meet with the people who are our diocesan partners and on Sunday af-

ternoon we were privileged to attend the Brugge ecumenical event for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Two of the Belgian steering committee came to meet us at our hotel and to accompany us to the Roman Catholic cathedral. The service was led by lay and ordained ministers from a wide variety of denominations: Orthodox, Protestant, Roman Catholic and Anglican. Almost all the service was in Flemish, which is not one of my languages, but the Gospel was read in English by the Anglican Chaplain for Brugge and Ostend. We managed to make sense of the other readings and psalms by using my phone to find them in English and I was reminded yet again that not every use of new technology in church is a distraction from the service. Afterwards there was a glass of wine to share and we were greeted with real warmth. Many of those there

had been involved in past visits to Lincoln or had welcomed people from the diocese of Lincoln to Brugge, and there was great enthusiasm for more.

This very brief visit reminded me of how much we have to gain from such exchanges and I hope there will be many more, including exchanges with the cathedral community. I know a choir visit is being planned for a future date- maybe we should consider an LCCA visit at the same time?

*\*Holy Spirit, make us one!*





# A word from the editor

Muriel Robinson

**It is hard to believe I'm writing this in February, with windows open and the sun shining. In our road the blossom is coming out and the daffodils have beaten St David. Tomorrow, we are warned, normal and more penitential weather returns, just in time for Lent.**

We have no theme in this edition although several of the items touch on different aspects of hospitality. Our lead story explores some of the ways in which the cathedral offers hospitality to many. The LCCA hospitality, offered in part through tea and coffee after the 9.30am Eucharist, has been made more possible by some generous donations of equipment and supplies, which in turn means we should be able to donate more generously to Nomad. Other articles mention the many groups welcomed each year and the welcome I received when

I recently visited Brugge. The funding which we are to receive from the national church is designed to enable us to reach out to many more people and to share the richness of our cathedral worship and prayer life. A priest friend of mine always says that for him the touchstone of Christian faith is Matthew 25- whatever we do for our brothers and sisters, we do for Christ. This Lent, may we be moved to re-examine our own responses to that text and the ways in which we all reach out to those in need around us.

One other very important, if small, item of news included here recognises the generosity of Savills, who have agreed to sponsor this year's editions of InHouse, which will be printed by the Pelican Trust, thus preserving the free printed edition. This has been spon-

sored for the last few years by Chris Shelbourne and Wright Vigar but this partnership has recently ended. We are both grateful to Wright Vigar for their years of generosity and to Savills for taking up the baton. If you might be able to sponsor a future edition, either as an individual or on behalf of a company, please do talk to David Ford, the LCCA treasurer.

Our next edition will have a theme, the Benedicite and the way it is lived out and represented in the cathedral. We would welcome any short articles and/or photos along that theme- if you might be interested, do get in touch so we can tell you what has already been written and which areas are still to be explored. As usual you can contact us on [inhouse@lincolncathedral.com](mailto:inhouse@lincolncathedral.com)

The copy deadline is May 15th.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

**If you wish to be added to the list for electronic contact, or if you have an article to submit, please remember our new email: [inhouse@lincolncathedral.com](mailto:inhouse@lincolncathedral.com)**

**See our editorial policy for more details. Thank you!**

## Editor and Editorial Policy

The current editor is Muriel Robinson, supported by Elaine Johnson and Margaret Campion and with photographs supplied by the editorial team, Michael Newstead, Jim Newton and authors, or printed under a Creative Commons permission.

Decisions on content are made by the editors for each edition of InHouse. **Submissions of short articles are 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 [inhouse@lincolncathedral.com](mailto:inhouse@lincolncathedral.com) by **May 15th 2019 in Word format**; accompanying photographs are also welcomed as JPEG files. Please don't insert photos or illustrations into the Word files but send them separately in as high a resolution as possible. 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 [inhouse@lincolncathedral.com](mailto:inhouse@lincolncathedral.com). The electronic version has full colour photographs and is distributed ahead of the print version, so there are advantages!

# Lincoln Street Pastors

## Part one

Elaine Johnson

**In the UK nationally for fifteen years, Street Pastors have been in Lincoln for twelve. Originally out every Friday and Saturday night from 10.00pm - 4.00am, a recent lack of both funding and volunteers now means they are out every Saturday but only 'payday Friday' at the month-end.**

With their calming influence in supporting revellers, the police who are a key partner say the Street Pastors have made Lincoln a safer city. Four volunteers patrol on the street and two remain at their base office at Lincoln BIG (Business Improvement Group) as a prayer team, and they keep in contact throughout the shift. The BIG is a major supporter, offering accommodation, and enabling them to work closely with both the night-time economy manager and venues.

The Pastors are very visible in their uniform including hats and a big winter coat or fleece. They have ID badges and carry rucksacks. These contain a flask of hot water and sachets of sugar and coffee, which mainly go to members of the street community. They also have emergency foil blankets, first aid kits, sick bags, water and radios. They are linked to Lincoln City CCTV, being on camera and in direct contact with that office throughout their shift. The blankets are used mainly if someone is completely intoxicated with drink or drugs or there has been an accident and it is needed for modesty. The rucksacks also include flip-flops, offered to those in bare feet, and a dustpan and brush to sweep up broken bottles. Bottles are picked up and deposited in bins for both safety underfoot and prevention of use as a weapon.

Figures are not available for Lincoln but, national research suggests that approximately 85% of the cases Street Pas-



tors are called to would have resulted in a police or ambulance call. The Pastors can offer pastoral care and support which the uniformed services can't; for example, walking someone round and round until they are sober enough for a taxi. People know who they are and that they are there to help, not confront.

The volunteers, aged 18 – 80, go out once a month as Christians together from 16 churches across the denomi-

nations. Although they may hold some different opinions, all totally agree that the hand of God is at work in this ministry. Fewer recruits have resulted in the Friday cut-back; more people are needed for both the street and prayer teams. New members would also be welcome on the Board of Trustees which meets five times a year. It costs about £16,000 per annum to run the Street Pastors, of which 15% comes from the police; the rest is from donations and bids. Insufficient funding after this financial year may mean further cuts.

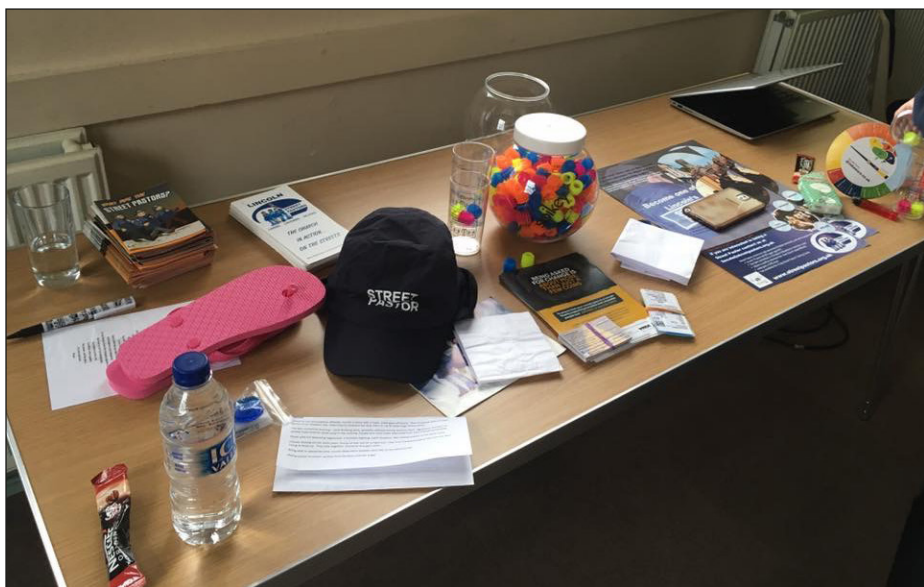
The Pastors encounter both young and mature people who need support on their night out. They don't judge and they are not preaching. Their commissioning prayer is that of St Teresa of Avila:

Christ has no body but yours...

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,

Yours are the hands with which he blesses the world...

To volunteer or find out more, please contact Teena, one of our choir mums: [lincoln@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:lincoln@streetpastors.org.uk) or on 07504 511119.





# A most pleasant surprise!

Michael Newstead and Wendy Lloyd

**It is no secret that over the last few years the sound system for lectures and other events in the Chapter House has been poor and has put off some people from attending such events.**

How good it is to report that the recent excellent lecture (co-ordinated by the Cathedral Chancellor) as part of the new Lincoln Theological Network which supersedes, by mutual agreement, the successful Lincoln Theological Society was really clear and fine thanks to the new portable sound system which worked very well. A huge and positive improvement.

## LCCA Shrove Tuesday social

Margaret Campion

Around 70 members of the Community attended a splendid Shrove Tuesday party last week - great food, two quizzes and five members of the Choir led by Sara Wilson sang Madrigals between the courses - very elegant and civilised!

The food was, always, plentiful and good and although we missed the Orange Sauce which in previous years had been provided by Bob Harvey, there was a plentiful supply of oranges, lemons, sugar and maple syrup to satisfy all tastes.



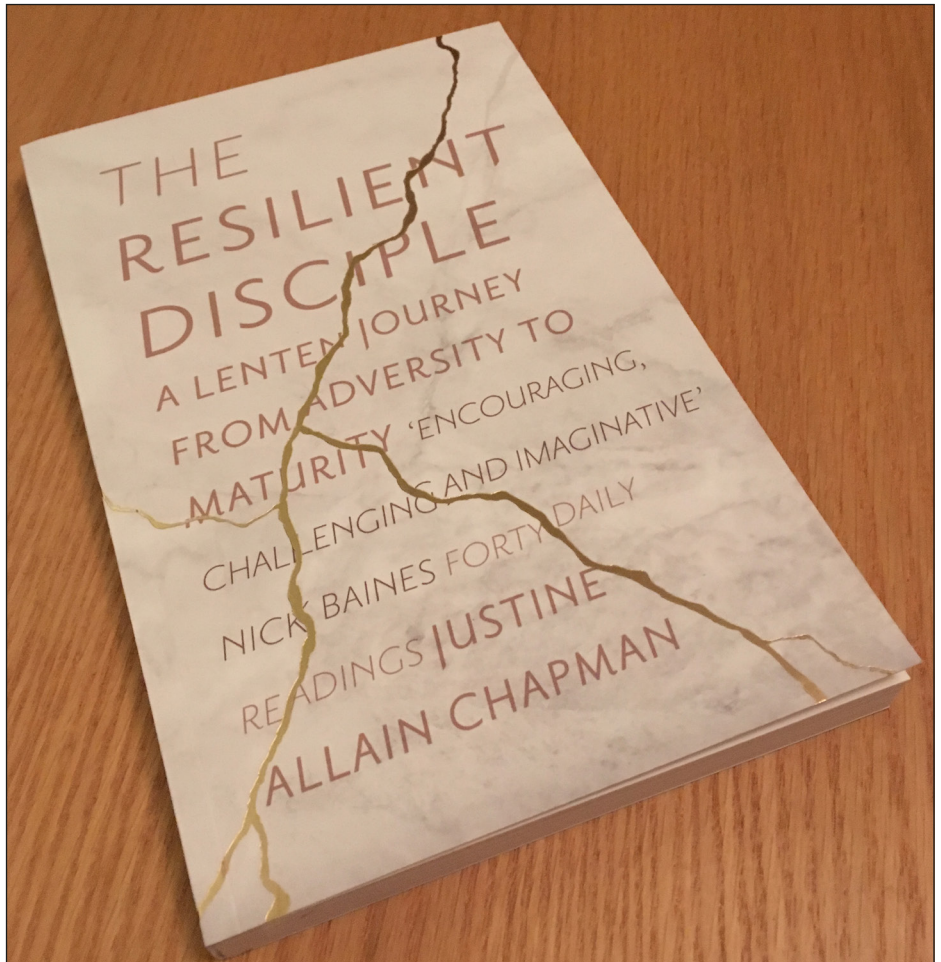
# Learning to be resilient

Muriel Robinson

**As Lent approaches, many of us will be looking out for a Lent book. This year we have the possibility of reading a book by one of our own diocesan clergy, the Archdeacon of Boston.**

I was lucky enough to attend the launch of her latest book, *The Resilient Disciple*, in the Chapter House recently and have treated myself to a copy. You may also have seen that there is the chance to attend one or more of the workshops Archdeacon Justine will be running during Lent, and there is supporting video material available too on the diocesan website: ([www.lincoln.anglican.org](http://www.lincoln.anglican.org)).

In his introduction, Bishop Nicholas told us how Justine had suggested that he didn't read the book before the launch, but waited to use it as intended, with daily readings through Lent, and having recognized the logic in this he had only dipped in and out. Even so, what he told us, and what Justine herself said, has made me eager to do the same. Meanwhile I hold on to the image of the cracked Japanese bowl, mended and with the fracture lines emphasized in gold, which the Archdeacon brought to show us (and which inspired the cover design). The bowl may have been broken, but it is still strong and the mended cracks are part of what



makes it usable. Just so, we encounter moments in our lives when we feel broken, but in mending that brokenness we become more resilient.

The book, published by SPCK, is read-

ily available online and there will also be copies in the Cathedral shop (they are happy to re-order if they sell out). Why not consider this as your Lenten reading?

The LCCA is very grateful to Savills, who have agreed to sponsor this year's editions of InHouse so that we can still provide free printed copies. If you might be able to sponsor an edition, either as an individual or on behalf of an organisation or business, please contact the LCCA treasurer, David Ford, via the LCCA email: [lcca@lincolncathedral.com](mailto:lcca@lincolncathedral.com) for further information.

savills