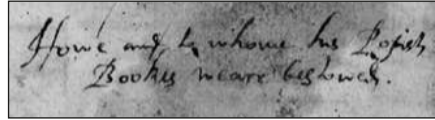


InHouse

the Journal of the Lincoln Cathedral Community Association



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800 years of sainthood

Judi Jones



Eight hundred years ago, on 27 April, Pope Honorius III replied to an important letter sent to him by the two archbishops and all the bishops of England which petitioned him for the canonisation of the late Bishop of Lincoln, Hugh, who had died in 1200.

Matters proceeded quickly and smoothly. There seems to have been a widespread desire for the canonisation, and this was helped by written evidence detailing the cures accomplished at Hugh's shrine. Underpinning this was the existence of at least two Lives of Hugh, those by Gerald of Wales and Adam of Eynsham. The pope set up a commission 'to enquire carefully into the life of this holy man and his miracles before and after death'. The commission outcome offers fascinating insights into Hugh's life and was sufficient to persuade the pope to recognise Hugh as a saint and institute a suitable feast day, November 17th.

Why had this process happened so swiftly? The evidence of the commission explains matters clearly, starting with some biography. Born into a noble

Burgundian family, Hugh first entered a house of Austin Canons and then a more austere order, eventually becoming the prior of the Grande Chartreuse. At the behest of King Henry II, he moved to Witham, Somerset, to help establish the priory there before being promoted to Lincoln in 1186. As bishop he 'proved a pastor worthy of the name, choosing with care those whom he appointed to office and delivering his church from servitude to the civil power'. The commissioners report that all the clergy who knew him said they had never known anyone whom they would prefer to resemble in outlook and actions. Interestingly the commissioners do not dwell on the great building innovations that he pioneered in our cathedral or his role in national and international politics; instead they mention his care for lepers, his burial of the dead, the miracles that he performed in his lifetime and then the twenty nine miracles which took place at his tomb. This was enough evidence to quickly convince the pope!

We are rightly proud of 'our saint' and

the cathedral has a series of events this year to celebrate this significant anniversary. I spoke to Mark Steadman, the Acting Dean, to find out more, and he explained that the aim was to celebrate different aspects of Hugh's life and ministry. For example, David Carpenter will speak at the Magna Carta lecture on both St Hugh and Thomas a Beckett. A concert is being planned to be given by one of the country's leading Early Music Ensembles and there will be pilgrimage events around St Hugh. The Flower Festival's theme will be 'Vision' with St Hugh's shrine being a major focus. Mark says, 'It is a real joy to be able to celebrate this significant anniversary in what will be an exciting year for the cathedral. Hugh's legacy is seen both in the fabric of the building and, importantly, in the way our community life is ordered. It is particularly appropriate that, alongside all the events, we will be opening the new Visitor Centre, the most significant addition to the fabric in centuries, which also provides an opportunity to reimagine the way in which we relate to the community.'

Placement adventures

Rachel Revely

The earliest reference to garments made by looping yarn with a hook is found in 'The Memoirs of a Highland Lady' by Elizabeth Grant.

This might not sound like the obvious way into a discussion about a parish placement; however, it was during this time that I was given the gift of being able to crochet. This did not come naturally to someone who is not terribly dexterous, but was one of the many gifts I received from my placement in the parish of All Saints Bracebridge. I was taught to crochet during my time with the knit and natter group who meet weekly on a Tuesday morning and who discussed everything from faith to shoes!

On my first Tuesday, everyone I met was welcoming and very keen to offer me a cup of tea and a biscuit; I felt slightly out of place, not being overly gifted nor used to practising a "wool-based" hobby. But through sharing their hospitality and in their laughter I soon found my place amongst the group. The parish of All Saints Bracebridge consists of 2 churches, a traditional Anglican church and a more unusual local ecumenical project which is a combination of United Reform, Methodist and Anglican. The knit and natter group meet in All Saints. Later on that afternoon, I was taken to the other part of this parish.

In the afternoon, St Columba's run a cake and coffee cafe which people can drop into as the day goes on. This provides a presence of hospitality in the local community whilst also helping with the loneliness epidemic that has swept across our ageing population. Andy, the parish priest, operates and believes in a ministry of presence in the local community; he walks alongside all the people for whose souls he has cure. This is lived out in social groups and events from meals to Advent films.

During my placement I had the opportunity to preach several times and



this provided space for trying many new things. For example on Christ the King, I wrote a dramatic monologue, from the perspective of the thief dying on a cross next to Christ. This style took its influence from the Rabbinic tradition of midrash to attempt to break open the text. On Christmas morning we played pass the parcel with every layer of paper taking us deeper into the mystery of the incarnation and closer to God. These ex-

periences were all tremendous opportunities and gifts of space that allowed for experimentation and creativity.

I am grateful to both churches for their welcome and hospitality, for their willingness to allow me to experiment in preaching and for their generosity. I am incredibly thankful for Andy and Christine's generosity, kindness and for putting up with me! (Oh, and also for letting me play with their wonderful dogs!)

La Nativité du Seigneur

Michael Newstead

Pre Christmas sometimes feels too long for some of us, particularly when things in Lincoln and at the cathedral kick off so early in December with the Christmas Market.

This is followed by a range of carol services for a wide range of organisations in the cathedral leading up to Christmas itself. It is sometimes difficult in all this, let alone the commercial aspects of Christmas, to be focused on the Incarnation itself. For me there are two elements during this period which help to keep a sense of purpose in all this activity (which I am very aware gives great pleasure to lot of people), the first being the proper liturgical keeping of Advent with its sense of thoughtful quiet expectation and the other the annual organ recital of Messiaen's great organ piece *La Nativité du Seigneur*.

La Nativité du Seigneur, or *The Birth of the Saviour*, was written by Oliver Messiaen, a staunch Roman Catholic and gifted organist, at the age of twenty seven. It is a deeply devotional meditation on the themes and characters of the Christmas story. Written in nine movements, it sets the events of the first Christmas in contexts of

both time and eternity: the Incarnation, the Ascension, the Holy Trinity, the Saints in glory and the Holy Sacrament. Four of the movements depict the characters: the Virgin and Child, the Shepherds, the Angels and the Magi. Messiaen's aim was to convey the joy at the presence of God in His Son and it provides a serious, thought-provoking contrast to the superficial commercialism of Christmas.

This complex and thoroughly theological work is challenging and magnificent in its depiction of key elements in the story of the Incarnation. This year Jeffrey Makinson played the highly complex work with great grace and thought - an inspiring performance. For the first time this year, there was a short introduction in French and English on the theme of the next movement. My personal thought was that this really worked to give context to this complex work and highlighted the key themes of each element. I am sure this was a great help to many people who attended who have not had the opportunity to get familiar with these key themes.

Transport of delight

Carolyn Kendall

It was very good to see again the Nativity scene which was displayed in the sanctuary during the celebration of Epiphany complete with the Holy Family, the animals, and the Magi.

The origin of the figures (which may be Victorian) is not known. The set spent some time in storage in the Sub Dean's cellar for fifteen years or so, then later was used during the early Christmas Markets, before the larger grey fibre glass models became available. However, the origin of the rather handsome camel is known.

Back in 1998 Margaret Campion, who was the Schools Officer at the time, wanted a small Nativity scene to display in the retro choir for school visits during the Christmas period. The models were found in the clerestory area but were in need of restoration. The figures were beautifully restored by the then Ancaster High School Art Department. Margaret realised that the Magi didn't have any transport, so she asked Lea Bason, a local potter on Steep Hill, if she could make a model camel. (This was a new venture

for Lea as she normally specialised in making cats!) The camel was, and is, an absolutely essential form of transport in hot and sandy desert areas, not only in biblical times but also in our times too. It is the animal equivalent of a 4x4 all terrain vehicle with a 10 day endurance between watering holes! The camel, although absent from the Gospels, is a likely candidate for transport for the star-led journey of the Magi to visit Jesus after his birth and to escape the clutches of King Herod following their departure by a different route, some 2,000 years ago.

Happily The Association of the Friends of Lincoln Cathedral agreed to fund the project and the black and white picture shows the finished camel being formally handed over to Margaret by Lea. Present at the ceremony from left to right were Potter Lea Bason, the late Cecil Jollands, the then retired Chapter Clerk, Margaret Campion,



Schools Officer, and Peter Kendall from the Friends Executive Committee.

Artist in Residence 2019

Margaret Campion

From May to December last year the Artist in Residence in the Cathedral was the Revd. Matthew Askey who is an Anglican Priest and artist and formerly school chaplain at Workson College in Nottinghamshire.

His project in the cathedral was to find volunteers among the staff and volunteers to be models choosing characters from both Old and New Testaments whom they felt were particularly meaningful to them from their own work and personalities. Small groups of interested amateur artists were then invited to workshops in the Chapter House and under Fr. Matthew's guidance produced sketches and finally complete portraits of the volunteers in the character they had chosen. All the models agreed to be photographed so that their presence was not needed during the workshops – although I imagine they must often have popped in to see how 'they' were coming along!

The completed portraits were in the Chapter House in January and they were an interesting selection! Some almost jumped off the wall, they so readily capture the character. One of the Stonema-



sons chose as her character Judith from Judges Chapter 10. Our stonemason felt that Judith was 'strong, independent and stood no nonsense'. She was shown with a hammer and holding the stone head of a lion. Remember the story of Judith and Holofernes? I think the lion is rather better suited to the Chapter House!

Another which appealed to me was the portrait of Martha, chosen by a floor guide



who gave her age as 81 – she chose Martha because she was a worker who allowed her sister, Mary, to sit and listen to Jesus whilst she was working in the kitchen – but then felt rather irritated because she was getting no help. In the story (Luke 10) I always feel that Martha does not get the sympathy she deserves, but then, I too am elderly and occasionally feel under-appreciated!

Ruth, chosen by one of the Duty Chaplains, and Boaz from the Temple of Solomon chosen by our well known Domus Supervisor were also interesting, and King David, Moses, Mary Magdalene, James, Peter and Paul were also represented. It was altogether a most interesting exhibition but, although the project had taken place over 7 months I, at least, had been unaware of the enterprise and I am sure many others would have been interested in the progress of the enterprise, had they known it was happening!

Music department volunteers wanted

Drivers: can you spare an hour or two?

The choir is made up of children from 13 different schools who come together on four mornings and four afternoons a week to rehearse and sing Evensong. We are responsible for taking them to school in the morning and collecting again in the afternoon using the Cathedral's 17-seater and 9-seater minibuses and local taxis. We have one permanent and three volunteer drivers. Our insurance policy has an age limit of 75 and all drivers need to be DBS checked. If you think you may be able to help us, please contact Shirley Jordan on 01522 504 398 or music@lincolncathedral.com for further information.

Are you a Mr or Mrs Kipling?

We provide a snack for choristers when they come in from school and before rehearsals start. This always includes fruit or vegetables along with something else, not quite as healthy but more fun!! If you like baking, cake always goes down a treat. Due to allergies etcetera, vanilla or chocolate would be preferred so they can be enjoyed by all. If you would like to help, the choristers (and staff if any leftovers), would be most delighted. Please contact Fiona Beemster, Choir Matron on choirmatron@lincolncathedral.com

Do you enjoy sewing?

If you have some time to spare, please contact Fiona Beemster, Choir Matron on choirmatron@lincolncathedral.com

Would you be interested in standing for Deanery Synod?

Muriel Robinson

The LCCA is allocated two seats on the Deanery Synod for the City of Lincoln (Christianity Deanery).

Deanery Synod members meet three times a year, in a different church each time, for a short evening meeting. There is some business but it is by no means dull- recent meetings have discussed the best ways to support the annual sleepover for the homeless at St Nicholas's Church, and the legal responsibilities of charity trustees and how these relate to safeguarding. There is a chance to meet fellow Christians from the parishes in the city and to share fellowship with them as well as to see something of other churches.

Most significantly this year, the members of all the Deanery Synods elect the lay representatives for the Diocese of Lincoln on General Synod, and the elections for General Synod happen this autumn. So you could help to shape what is the law-making and public face of the CofE. Members are co-opted onto the LCCA committee and take turns to report back from the three meetings. If you would be interested in standing in the elections this summer, talk to June Pallister, the LCCA Secretary, and to get more of a feel of the meetings, you're welcome to talk to me, as I'm also currently a member of the Deanery Synod by virtue of being one of the current General Synod lay members.

Ready Steady Choir

Jeffrey Makinson, Assistant Director of Music



Every Saturday morning during school term time from 10am until noon, children who are members of 'Ready Steady Choir' meet at the Song School.

The choir was founded by Clea Prentice in 2003 to provide opportunities for children from many ages and backgrounds to learn to sing and to regularly perform in the cathedral and elsewhere. Children in the choir currently attend a large variety of schools in the city of Lincoln and surrounding areas.

'Ready Steady Choir' is currently directed by the cathedral's Assistant Director of Music, Jeffrey Makinson and by Rachel Cooper, a professional singer who teaches many of the cathedral choristers. Membership is entirely free of charge and open to all children who enjoy singing. No audition is held, but we do ask for a regular weekly commitment to rehearsals. The current age range of children in the choir is between 5 and 13. The choir performs a wide repertoire from both sacred and secular fields.

During their time in the choir, children receive specialist tuition in vocal technique, learn how to read music proficiently and build on their aural perception skills and general musicianship. Many of the children also receive instrumental and theory lessons privately with the cathedral's own music staff. They form strong friendships and learn how to work as a group to achieve a very high standard of music making.

Highlights of the year include a carol concert in the Chapter House during Lincoln Christmas Market weekend (always to a capacity audience), the Christmas Eve crib

service, a summer concert, regular Even-song alongside the cathedral choristers and participation in the 'Be a chorister for a day' event. Many children perform solos in services and concerts and display enormous confidence and enthusiasm. Over the years, numerous former 'Ready Steady Choir' children have gone on to become cathedral choristers.

I spoke to two members of the choir, to ask them why they enjoy singing with the group so much. Tom and Emily have both been members of the choir for just over three years. Tom is 10 and has two siblings who are also members of the choir. He heard about the choir when he came to a 'Be a chorister for a day' event four years ago. Alongside singing, Tom also plays the piano and French horn and wishes to start to learn to play the organ soon. He loves singing and has made a lot of friends during his time in the choir. He really enjoys singing alongside the cathedral choristers. Emily, who is 11, also heard about the choir when she attended a 'Be a chorister for a day' event. Emily has two sisters who are also keen members of the choir. Emily also enjoys dance and martial arts. She likes the variety of repertoire which is offered in choir.

We are always very keen to recruit new members into the choir. If you know a child who loves to sing and thinks that he or she would enjoy the experience of being in the choir, please contact Jeffrey Makinson at assistantdirectorofmusic@lincolncathedral.com or on 01522 561600.

One, whose name is Reason

Thomas Wilson, Senior Lay Vicar



Over the last 10 years or so, I have been collecting stories about members of the Cathedral Choir from ages past - stories that remind us that we are continuing an unbroken chain of musicians that stretches back to the time of St Hugh.

I am delighted to share some of these stories with the readers of *InHouse* over the next few editions.

To me, one of the most intriguing characters in the history of the choir is Mr John Reason. He was admitted as a chorister in 1547, and when his voice broke he became a 'Scholar of the society of poor clerks'.

In 1556 the Precentor, Roger Dalyson, nominated him for a scholarship at Lincoln College, Oxford, but four years later, shortly after all Catholics were expelled from Oxford, he returned to Lincoln and was admitted as a Lay Vicar on 22 May 1561, being described as 'once a chorister' of the cathedral.

During his years in the choir, Reason formed a close friendship with the Organist and Master of the Choristers, William Byrd, and when Byrd left Lincoln in 1572, Reason resigned as Lay Vicar and accompanied him to London. A 'John Reason, singing man' often appears on government records in association with Byrd, and more particularly with Byrd's wife Julian, for whom he seems to have acted as a personal assistant. When

the Byrds moved to Harlington in 1577, Reason once again followed, establishing himself as a yeoman (one degree below gentleman). Between then and 1587 Julian Byrd was summoned as a recusant twelve times, and Reason's name occurs almost every time

in conjunction with hers.

On the 27th January 1588, there was a government raid on the house of a mistress Hampden of Stoke in Buckinghamshire, in which various items, including 'a coppie of y^e pope's lettre,' were seized. While the raid was in progress, Reason approached the house on horseback, but becoming suspicious at what he saw, tried to beat a retreat.

"One whose name ys Reason, comynge to the gate while the house was in searchinge, he conceainge sum suspecte of the company wch he sawe began to ryde back agayne apace, but he was ov'taken and searched. Ther was founde about hym one old prynted song booke [...], and a letter, from one mr Byrde of the Quenes Chapple. Ther was also founde about him the Officium Beate Marie w^{ch} he sayd was hys own prayer book."

Reason was committed to life imprisonment for his 'disobedience in Religion', the records describing him as 'Enclyned to y^e Romysh Religion.' After 20 years, as one of 'two obstinate recusantes that have been there longe', he was offered pardon in return for his disavowal of the popish ways, but he refused.

In 1603, John Reason, once a chorister of this cathedral, succumbed to the plague – still a prisoner of conscience, having never relinquished his loyalty to the Byrds nor his devotion to the *Romysh Religion*.

Stillpoint

Rev'd Ann Mazur

'Nothing in all creation is so like God as stillness.' (Meister Eckhart)

Stillpoint takes place once a month on a Saturday morning in the Longland Chantry from 9.00am - 9.45am. This is a time of guided silent prayer where we can be aware of the presence of God. Many of us have very busy lives and we are also bombarded by noise wherever we go. It can be hard to be still. We may also worry about the future and spend too much time regretting the past, while all the time God is with us in the present moment. Each moment is a precious gift, a God-given gift and therefore requires our full attention. All too often we are rushing through the present and so hardly ever live in it.

Most of us find it hard to come to terms with silence and to practise the presence of God. Being still makes us feel guilty. However, human beings were not made for constant activity and often we do not know how to slow down and stop. Throughout the ministry of Jesus, he found time to leave the crowds and be still with his Father. By being still before God we offer up ourselves, to listen to him, to gaze at the wonder and mystery of our world, to refresh and renew ourselves in his presence. We wait in silence trusting that God is and that whatever life throws at us, whatever happens in our world, we are loved by God.

At Stillpoint we try to be open to the presence of God at that particular moment. If we give attention to God, we will become who we are truly meant to be. Prayer, spirituality, is about giving proper attention to God. Love is about giving proper attention to people, which means being attentive and aware of what is before our eyes in the sacrament of the present moment.

'There should be in the soul halls of space, avenues of leisure and high porticos of silence, where God walks.' (Bishop Jeremy Taylor)

Forthcoming Dates: Saturdays - March 14th, April 18th, May 16th, June 13th, July 11th, September 5th.

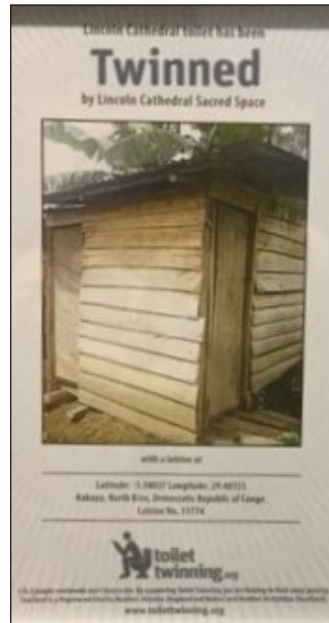
Toilet twinning comes to Cathedral

Richard Mazur

Some time ago, during a visit to Salisbury Cathedral, the Precentor felt the need of a toilet break.

As she sat there she saw, on the back of the cubicle door, a picture of what looked like a roughly made hut, but what was actually a toilet in Central Africa which was twinned with the one she was sitting in! Thus the Precentor became aware of www.toilettwinning.org and the seed of an idea was sown, which is now coming to fruition.

The Sacred Space initiative at Lincoln Cathedral was conceived to give people the opportunity to experience the beauty and spirituality of the building at their own pace and at a time when the cathedral is free of visitors. This



has been much appreciated by those who attend, from a variety of backgrounds and ages, many with no direct links to the Cathedral. There is no charge or request for formal giving but it was evident after a few sessions

that people wanted to give a donation in appreciation of their experience. And so toilet twinning came to Lincoln Cathedral! The idea has come full circle and those who attend Sacred Space have generously donated enough for the cathedral to have six of our toilets twinned with toilets in some of the poorest parts of the world. Our aim is to keep going and to twin all of our toilets; of course, the additional toilets in the new Visitor Centre have made this quite a challenge!

Toilet Twinning is a charity administered by Tearfund. Worldwide 2 billion people do not have somewhere safe and hygienic to go to the toilet. This makes them susceptible to disease from poor sanitation and many children die because of this. Women and girls are particularly vul-

nerable because they go to the toilet in the open at night when they can be attacked, or bitten by snakes.

For £60 anyone can twin their toilet, whether it be at home, school or church. This enables the charity to build a corresponding toilet and educate those using it in hygienic practices. If you twin with a toilet you receive a photograph of it, a certificate and satellite coordinates so you can pin point exactly where it is. Do look out for the pictures of the twinned toilets in the cathedral loos, and visit www.toilettwinning.org to find out more.

If you would like to contribute to this and help us twin all our toilets through this Sacred Space initiative, just come along or contact Richard Mazur, Sacred Space Treasurer, on 01673 857720.

Shrove Tuesday

Muriel Robinson

As usual, the LCCA Shrove Tuesday event was a happy social evening, despite a few absences with flu; we had around 70 people there who enjoyed the meal, the table quizzes and each other's company as we made the most of our last evening before Lent.

The highlight, though, was our very

own Rachel Revely entertaining us in song - not only was she wearing a wonderful dress and shoes, but we finally had a chance to hear much more of her vocal range and genuine talent. It was a splendid performance and much appreciated by all present - thank you, Rachel!



A word from the editor

Muriel Robinson

When we had our first editorial meeting for this edition, we were a bit concerned that we might not have enough articles—but in the end, thanks to all those who have contributed, we have the usual 12 pages of fascinating insights into life in and beyond the cathedral.

In fact, we had to make the hard decision to carry some items over, but this has also turned into a plan for a summer themed edition on our beautiful cathedral and the treasures contained within the building and Close.

Since our last edition we have had all the joy of Christmas, and it was lovely to be involved in many ways. The extra Monday afternoon carol service may not have done as much as expected to spread the congregation between the two services but instead brought in many more, so that the two services between them had a greatly increased impact.

For me, though, the highlight was probably the well-attended crib service. We had children dressed as angels, Mary, kings, shepherds and various animals, including a few characters not mentioned explicitly by Luke and Matthew! The youngsters and their parents were welcomed and brought forward so that everyone could enjoy being near our nativity figures and listening to a simple retelling, taking part at relevant moments (and those not in costume were also encouraged to come forward if they felt they wanted to be Mary, or a sheep, or any other role). I shall not quickly forget hearing the Acting Dean encouraging them to join in with sound effects including the noise of a spitting camel! Many of the parents afterwards said how special the event had been, with none of the stress of trying to entertain children quietly during a very grown up service.

After Christmas we were delighted to hear that Melanie Weatherley, a long standing member of our community, had been awarded the MBE for her work in adult social care; we look forward to hearing about her visit to the Palace in due

course. We have also had the excitement of St Hugh's big anniversary (see cover story) and the sadness of learning that we are to lose our much-loved Subdean quite soon; we wish John and Jo every happiness in future and will miss them both very much.

This issue tries to strike a balance between looking back to recent events and

looking forward. In particular, there are requests for volunteers, both to help in various ways with the music department and as our Deanery Synod representatives. This Lent, why not add to your Lenten discipline by considering how you could give back more time to our community, either in these ways or by talking to our Volunteer Co-ordinator about other needs?



A General Synod of Challenges and Apologies

Muriel Robinson

The General Synod met in February in London, for its penultimate meeting in this quinquennial.

This was one of the most emotional sessions I have been to, as we tackled some very challenging issues. As always now, we had time on safeguarding, this time focussing on the response to the IICSA report; we heard of the progress of Living in Love and Faith; we addressed climate change, children and youth ministry and poverty; we heard of the terrible and unchristian response of our CofE to new arrivals from the Caribbean on the SS Empire Windrush, with parishes turning away black Anglicans, and the remaining racism still encountered today. This latter debate was one of several which moved me to tears, and the Archbishop of Canterbury set aside his prepared speech and spoke from the heart, apologising for the institutional racism still endemic in our Church and emphasising the need for us all to take action.

sising the need for us all to take action.

The Archbishop spent a fair bit of Synod apologising - for the clumsy and mismanaged issuing of the recent Pastoral Statement on marriage and civil partnerships, and for our failures as a church to protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse, as well as with regard to being properly inclusive of BAME fellow-Christians. We were left in no doubt that something needs to change - and that, as he said, we must stop 'weaponising God' in the pursuit of factional and divisive personal positions, a phrase that continues to resonate with me this Lent.

We also found time to deal with some significant legislation - it's worth remembering that General Synod does make law which becomes the law of our land with regard to church matters. We showed we can act swiftly when needed, passing significant legislation affecting the Channel Islands through all three stages over the four days transferring them to the care of the Diocese of Salisbury.

The draft Cathedrals Measure, sensibly adjusted from its first appearance, was also passed through its revision stage with very little debate, as we all recognised its worth, and similarly the draft Diocesan Boards of Education went through unamended (much to my relief, as one of the people on the platform standing to rebut late amendments!). Both these will now come to General Synod in July for final approval and should be able to go to Parliament in the autumn.

We also had two diocesan motions and two private members' motions, all passed. The diocesan one on carbon reduction led to much debate, after which an amended target of Net Zero by 2030 for parishes, cathedrals and dioceses was passed. This sets us all a huge challenge and the central church will need to be actively involved in supporting the local, but we will all have to face up to the need for radical change, particularly in rural areas.

A private member's motion on so-called paupers' funerals challenged us to work to stop the current practice in many local authorities of denying relatives the opportunity to attend such funerals or even to know when they were or where ashes were being scattered or inhumed. And we had a Lincoln private member's motion from Karl Fender of Stamford, urging the church to press for reforms to improve access to legal aid.

All in all, a very significant few days in the life of the CofE which should set a direction for future progress. As ever, fuller details can be found in the Church Times and on the CofE website. Or catch me after coffee and ask!





Wallace and Gromit

Prue Chadderton

On Saturday 4th January I was a steward at the final showing of *The Wrong Trousers*.

It proved to be a really enjoyable duty. On my arrival at 19.40 I walked into a joyful cacophony of noise as the audience from the previous performance

were making the most of the invitation to experiment with all the instruments and talk to the musicians.

The final show of the day was well attended, but not a sell out, as I understand the earlier performances had been. However those of us that were

there experienced the fun of the Wallace and Gromit story, with the added bonus of some magical lighting effects in the evening gloom of the Cathedral. It was wonderful. Well done to Aric and all the orchestral performers for a splendid day.

John Patrick

Elaine Johnson

As Sub-Dean of Lincoln Cathedral for eight years, John Patrick has been Canon Pastor, Master of Fabric and Master Governor of Trinity Hospital, Retford, which means great enjoyment for John in all three aspects.

Canon Pastor is always part of the Sub-Dean's role in Lincoln and it has been the majority of John's ministry. He has had responsibility for all the offices, such as weddings and funerals, hospital visits and home communion, although the other clergy do their share. John always remembers that he was ordained as a priest in the church of God and that is who and where he is. He is there as a servant of people and it is a privilege of his calling to be alongside others at the high and low points in their lives.

It has also been a great privilege and a joy to be Master of Fabric of one of the greatest buildings in the world. John admits that he has probably not seen every single corner because there is so much to see but he knows it very well. He has all the keys, of course, but if he goes off on his own, he takes a radio and tells the vergers, just in case of accident. Fortunately, he has a good head for heights as he has had to go up in the cherry-picker

on occasion which, he says, has a surprising amount of movement once you are up there, even when harnessed in. He thinks Lincoln is very fortunate in the skill of its Works department; the Cathedral is a beautiful building but there are many challenges in maintaining it and pieces of stone do fall off at times.

John came to the position of Master of Fabric with some past experience. His previous parish was in Sleaford where they became the first church to successfully place solar panels on a part of the roof which caught the sun but were concealed from view by the parapet. This experience was particularly helpful when Cathedral Connected needed to place a contemporary building between the Grade2* listed Old Deanery and the Wren Library. This was never going to be an easy task and the group, who worked very well together, did a lot of research before engaging the best architects for the job. They are very pleased with the outcome, the high standards and the quality of the contractors' work. It has been a great joy to John to bring the project to fruition.

As Master Governor of Trinity Hospital, Retford and sole trustee, John has found



being part of something that has been there for 350 years, very interesting. Again, there has been the opportunity for new building and sympathetic development and he leaves the Hospital in a very healthy position.

Here in the Cathedral community, we will be very sorry to see him go. He is known and liked for being warm and welcoming, for his ability to put people at their ease and for his caring and compassionate ministry. We wish John and his wife, Jo, every success and happiness in the future.

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

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, the Cathedral external communications team and authors.

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, carry forward or not include submitted articles.

Copy for the next edition should be emailed **to the Editors** at inhouse@lincolncathedral.com by **May 15th 2020 as attachments in Word format**; accompanying photographs are also welcomed as JPEG files. **Please don't insert photos, clip art 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. You will then be sent the link to the uploaded copy on the cathedral website. The electronic version has full colour photographs and is available ahead of the print version, so there are advantages!

