

# InHouse

the Journal of the Lincoln Cathedral Community Association



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## Our Dean writes:

**What a time to return to ministry as your Dean! It is an enormous privilege to be working alongside such dedicated colleagues as we manage the current situation and prepare for the future.**

I am saddened that just ten days back we entered lockdown. I have missed you all very much and was looking forward to being with you in worship and prayer, re-establishing relationships, hearing your news and anticipating the launch of the Old Deanery Visitor Centre. Thank you for the many very kind messages of welcome and encouragement.

Since back, preparing worship for on-line services has been quite a learning curve and I think we can all agree that our talented choral scholars have proved themselves to be extremely resourceful. Mark Wilde, one of our lay vicars, has revealed his great gift in digital technology to enable us to gather together online. I hope that soon we will be able to meet again in our wonderful building.

The Choir community's rendition of *Somewhere Over The Rainbow* was a delight and it was good to show our continued support for the NHS and all carers. I am extremely grateful to the Subdean for being such an anchor amongst us and for choosing to stay and support our life together into the future. As the Precentor moves on to new pastures we thank her for her contribution to our worshipping life and the creative flair and musical gifts



she brought to the role. We warmly welcome back our Chapter Clerk, Will Harrison, who is offering outstanding leadership in a time of many challenges within the operational work of the cathedral.

As we look to the future as a Christian community, it is good to discern what has been learnt of the Kingdom of God during this extraordinary time. What have we rediscovered by way of values and insight during lockdown which resonate with the Gospel? Positive outcomes have been a greater care for the vulnerable, an understanding of the importance of wellbeing and mental health, the benefit to the planet in the reduction in carbon emissions, the recognition and value of those who serve us sacrificially on the front line, often in low paid work, and the reality of our interdependence.

When we talk about "the new normal" we set it in the context of the faithfulness of God and the abiding presence of Christ in our midst. Our building stands

as testimony, despite war, earthquake, fire, plague and scandal, to the enduring faith and witness of the people of Lincolnshire and the grace of God down through the ages. The Kingdom of God remains the sustaining vision for Christians and the current situation challenges us to consider how we can participate in the life of God and reach out with God's love to those facing loss and uncertainty as we seek to contribute to God's mission in the world.

As we continue joyfully to proclaim the love of God in worship, outreach, service and welcome please join me in this prayer:

Faithful God,  
in the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,  
we pray that you would strengthen us as your people.  
Help us to be the Body of Christ,  
a people of generosity and goodwill,  
seeking to live out the life of the Kingdom  
and walk in His Way.  
Open our eyes to see the need of our neighbour,  
to show comfort to the anxious,  
friendship to the lonely  
and compassion to all who are in need.  
We look for the day when we can return to the cathedral  
asking for patience and safety in the waiting,  
and make this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

# History beneath our feet

Margaret Campion and Elaine Johnson

**It is quite well known that beneath the Lincoln Sub-Deanery there is a Roman Hypocaust – but how many have actually been down the hole and visited it?**

Not many, I think – and neither have I, because on the day the visit was organised it was wet, slippery and dank and the thought of possibly slipping and needing the fire brigade to haul me out was not appealing! However, John Patrick and another *InHouse* reporter were not put off and together with Dr Anne Irving made the historic visit.

The entrance is concealed by a manhole cover and as we arrived two members of the Works dept. were on hand to open it up and check that the rain had not made it impassable. Then I watched as the three heads slowly sank below the surface and disappeared from sight....

Our intrepid team were really exploring 2,000 years of history and as the hypocaust had not been opened by the Works Dept for at least eight years, it was also a first for both the men on hand. I peered down the hole – it literally is a hole – with a short ladder needed to reach the worn and slippery steps, presumably used originally by the slaves whose job it was to keep the furnace burning and haul down the logs to feed it. I am told it was noticeably warmer at floor level and very dry. The site extended under Exchequer-gate from the Sub-deanery; the pillars were square, about two feet apart and not high enough to stand upright, although



they were measured at about five feet high when the hypocaust was discovered and investigated in 1739, according to the records.

When found, they were covered in 'large tiles, 2 inches thick, reaching from pillar to pillar' (Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology). These were, in turn, covered with cement, on which was laid a tessellated pavement. The niche where the furnace existed alongside the room is still visible with blackened stones. It is about two feet wide and the same deep and high. It would hold an open fire served continuously with wood; the ashes cleaned out by sweaty slaves!

After the explorers resurfaced, we were conducted to the hinterland of the Sub-deanery – I had not realised how extensive these back regions are – to the first of several chambers all with brick barrel-vaulted ceilings. Here an-

other manhole was uncovered to show the remains of the Roman mosaic flooring which forms the upside of the roof of the hypocaust. There is about eight square feet visible, and it is thought it may continue further along the line of Exchequer-gate. It is an undecorated mosaic, simply tiny one-inch square chips tessellated to form an unbroken carpet.

Our very grateful thanks to the Works dept and John Patrick for giving us such an unprecedented opportunity to visit this unique archaeological feature of Lincoln's Roman past. It was an unforgettable experience.

The accompanying photo clearly illustrates the pillars as we saw them. For further information and a contemporary drawing of the 18th century archaeological investigation, please see the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology website.

# A word from the editor

Muriel Robinson

**This edition of *InHouse* is probably the only one that has ever been produced just electronically - until the cathedral is open again, there is no sensible way of distributing paper copies - but we felt it might be welcomed even so.**

Please do let other people know about it and how to find it! This issue was going to be almost entirely about our buildings, as we had hoped to be reporting on the new Visitor Centre and other Cathedral Connected developments. Instead, we have a mix of articles about the cathedral and Close, some Lockdown stories from members of the congregation, and a couple more farewells, most significantly to the Dean's Verger, John Campbell.

As I write, the Prime Minister has just announced that from Monday we can meet in groups of up to six, and even in each other's gardens. I hope that for those of you who have been locked down alone, this will be particularly good news- we are certainly excited by the thought of a little very carefully managed socially distanced socialisation. Let's pray that we don't get a second peak and that we can gradually move to our new normal, and even eventually to worshipping together.

The other good news, rather more local, is that we have a new



sponsor for *InHouse* for this year, so that after this issue we will be able to continue to print copies for you. We have to thank Jo Blanchard for helping us find him - his name is Andrew and he runs his own joinery company, Andrew World Joinery, working both commercially and in people's homes. We are really grateful to him for offering to support us in this way.

We are hoping that this edition may have a slightly longer shelf life in terms of accuracy than the last one! Between it going to print and appearing, we had the good news that Dean Christine was back, and the equally good news that John Patrick (to whom we said goodbye in the last edition) had decided to stay with us! We advertised the flower festival, now delayed till next year, and our acting Dean, smiling at us from the last front cover, had gone back to his usual role as Archdeacon of Stow and Lindsey. At one point the editorial team thought of running a 'spot the inaccuracies' competition! It's lovely to have a message from the Dean for our cover, together with a great photo of the cathedral in its golden splendour on Easter

Day, which may be of particular interest to those of you who live too far away to enjoy the way our new lights have been used to mark liturgical moments and VE Day as well as being blue every Thursday to thank all key workers. We hope this edition may be a little more accurate...

## Locked down and on furlough

Janis Daly

**Initially locked down, I thought that working from home would be an anchor, my new normality and although anxious about the undoubted challenges I was confident that it would be fine.**

However, the initial preparations had to be packed away when I was furloughed. The first reaction to furlough was shock and heightened anxiety in a world where overnight all normality had gone. I tried to find a new routine. In a normal world there would likely have been an end date when work would recommence that I could move towards;

of course, there is none. There are still too many unknowns and uncertainties for us all. If it was a permanent end to my working life (back in the world we knew) e.g. retirement, I could build on my volunteering roles and look forward to exploring others; they too have gone for now.

So, I currently have far too many books on the go! I reach out to people (phone/email/write a letter/talk to friends and strangers in shopping queues) to try to reinforce that we're not alone in our personal struggles and if I can, share a smile and share hope.

Meanwhile my husband Mike has been on a steep learning curve including letting our cat out before lessons. The initial daily live video lesson included her yowling to be let out! He uploads worksheets, power points (hours of work viewed in moments by pupils!), marks on-line and constantly prepares more.

My anchor has been my faith. Using technology, I can still attend evening prayers at a local Church. To feel connected in "real time" with others during services can bring me a sense of peace; looking forward to when we can all meet again and join together in worship.

# Lincoln Cathedral Treasury

Derek Wellman

**Lincoln Cathedral Treasury is home to a fine collection of church plate which dates from the thirteenth century to the present day.**

All but a few of the items on display are on loan from churches around the diocese. Much has already been written about the silverware itself and helpful information about the individual pieces and the times in which they were made can be found in the three-volume catalogue which is kept in the Treasury. Information in relation to the room which houses the Treasury appears to be less readily available though this area does undoubtedly have its own points of interest.

The Treasury is situated at the corner of the north choir aisle and the eastern transept crossing; on the corner outside the Treasury is one of the well-known Trondheim pillars. What is now the Treasury dates from the thirteenth century and was originally part of a larger area which extended eastwards to the wall of the eastern transept. It appears that this area was reduced in size in the

fourteenth century by the addition of an internal wall in order to form a chapel. The original north and west walls featured the double arcading which is also to be found in the two choir aisles and much of this can still be seen today. At one time there was also another room above but its floor and the means of access to it were removed long ago.

The Treasury is in what used to be called The Medicine Chapel. At various times the room has also been known as St. Hugh's Chapel, The Dean's Chapel and Pooley's Pantry (see below). The name The Medicine Chapel suggests that at one time the Treasury may have been the Cathedral's dispensary or pharmacy. Little evidence remains to suggest this former use but cut high into the south and east walls are some niches which are thought to have been cupboards for the storage of the herbs and potions which were used in the preparation of medicines. There is also a drain hole set into the floor beside the north wall which may have been used by the pharmacists for the disposal of surplus fluids;

alternatively it may have served as a piscina for liturgical use. The room has also been used at different times as a Dean's Vestry, as a general Glory Hole and as a place where a cleaner named Mr. Pooley kept his cleaning equipment and materials until his death in 1922 – hence Pooley's Pantry as mentioned above.

The initial idea for the Treasury came from Charles Oman, Keeper of Metalwork at the Victoria and Albert Museum. The required funding was provided by The Goldsmiths Company who appointed Louis Osman as the architect in charge of the project. Canon Peter Hawker was also much involved and was appointed as the first Keeper or Custos Thesauri. The Treasury was officially opened on the 17th May 1960 and so will celebrate its sixtieth anniversary later this year.

The establishment of the Treasury necessitated the carrying out of fairly extensive work and this was done so as not to detract from the original architectural character of the chapel. The doorway from the choir aisle was unblocked to form the present entrance and iron gates were put in place. Under-floor heating was installed together with four new stained-glass windows designed by Geoffrey Clarke who also designed some of the windows for the new Coventry Cathedral.

The most notable modern architectural feature of the Treasury is the asymmetrical central display case. It is suspended on a Purbeck marble column and its individual sections follow the pattern of the irregular vaulting of the roof high above. The large light fitting immediately above the display case is similarly designed.

There is much to see and enjoy in the Treasury so do please come along and pay a visit. The Treasury is usually open to visitors from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm on Mondays to Saturdays.



# The Paulinus Banner

Gordon Jackson

**At Easter 627 Paulinus baptised Edwin, the Northumbrian King, at York. This was followed up by tireless instruction in the Christian faith and baptisms in the rivers Glen and Swale, before he came to Lindsey and Lincoln.**

Here his first convert was Blecca, the city's reeve, with all his family, and no doubt hundreds more, for Paulinus was nothing if not zealous.

It was probably not the first bringing of the good news to Lincoln. There was most likely a wooden church already in the city, but Paulinus replaced it with a beautiful stone church where many healing miracles were enjoyed. This church we now know as the site of St. Paul-in-the-Bail. But "nowt's as fickle as fortune", and by Bede's time a century later the King and his folk were routed and the church Paulinus had built was destroyed, although many still availed themselves of healing there.

Despite Bede's graphic account of these events, and the fact that his history is so widely available, I have looked in vain for a suitable memorial to Paulinus in Lincoln or the diocese, and still haven't found one. Some years ago a service was held at the site in the Bail on his feast day, October 10th and we were able to descend to the original graves, some ten foot below ground and gave thanks to God for Paulinus and his followers. I recorded it in my poem *Akropolis*.

But that wasn't enough. And so I conceived the idea of a banner, and a visible reminder that could celebrate his feast day. I enlisted the help of my son Paul, who, as always, gave it thought and produced a design both apt and original. On a green ground edged in red are two figures – Paulinus, tall, in full canonicals, holding in his right hand a large



and weighty volume of the Scriptures, and Blecca, encumbered with a pen and many papers, in short Saxon tunics, with long white socks (one with a hole in it), and both of them bald with halos of white hair. Paulinus' left hand rests on what seems to be a tombstone, but as the eye travels downwards it becomes the chancel of the church's ground plan. This is in the same red as the edging, and bears the legend *Upon the hill I will build my church*.

So much for the conception, the finance and planning, the administration. We now see how the work is done, not just the building but the effort of its creation. This is shown in more figures, twelve in all, mostly stripped to the waist like modern builders since the work is heavy and hot; they are bare-legged too, not a pair of jeans in sight. One pair is digging and shovelling; two more are smoothing rough timbers with adzes; another pair are working a saw dividing a beam; two others are adding mortar to a large stone; another pair are carving a stone with masons' hammers that look like ice lollies; and lastly two labourers carry wicker baskets full of stones for foundations and infills.

It shares with the trade union banners a call to respect for the workman that is worthy of his hire, for the virtue of skill and the hidden glory of industry. Paul's design celebrates not only the zeal of Paulinus, and the shrewdness of Blecca, but also the strength-sapping labour that underlies all churches. But that's not all. On the banner's reverse is the text of Bede picked out beautifully in semi-uncials:

*Paulinus also preached the word of God in the province of Lindsey; his first convert was Blecca reeve of the city of Lincoln with all his family. Here he built a beautiful stone church which today either through neglect or enemy damage has lost its roof although the walls are still standing and each year miracles of healing occur in this place among those who seek it in faith. Bede.*

The banner was designed by Paul Jackson, hand-sewn by Dilys Jones and Margaret Pond, mountings by Norman Bonner, and is currently housed in the Guilds Chapel in the South Transept.

# The Chantry Chapels: Bishop Grosseteste

Margaret Campion



**This apsidal Chapel in the South Transept is actually dedicated to Ss. Peter and Paul although more usually referred to as 'The Bishop Grosseteste Chapel'.**

From early records we are told that here the mass was said daily for the Chapter as a Common Brotherhood (Revd. Strawley again) and it was here too, that former bishops of Lincoln were commemorated. Bishops Gravesend, Lexington and Repyngdon are also buried in this transept.

However, it is Bishop Grosseteste who is of greater interest to the modern community, since his contribution to education is remembered with the university bearing his name and with which many of the present cathedral community are connected. In his life Grosseteste was a famous scholar and theologian; he is recorded as having studied in Paris and held offices, studied and lectured in Oxford and Cambridge and may also have been Chancellor of Oxford.

The present ledger stone commemorating the Bishop was dedicated in

1953 and was the gift of the Readers of the Diocese. The two bronze and parcel gilt candle standards adorning the ledger were the work of Frank Knight of Wellingborough. The communion rails are of dark oak and the altar frontal was worked by the Cathedral Embroidery Guild. It depicts a wise old owl standing on the Book of Knowledge thus furthering the connection of the chapel to education. The altar ornaments, two candles and an unusual crucifix with two figures – St. John and the Blessed Virgin Mary – as well as Jesus actually on the cross, were also the work of Frank Knight. All the furnishings of this chapel are very much in the modernist style of the post-war years and we are told that the costs, over and above the various personal donations, were largely provided from funds raised, especially from colleges in both Oxford and Cambridge and from schools in Lincolnshire.

There is one minor feature of this chapel, not recorded in any of the information sources but well known to guides of a certain vintage, and that is 'The Man in

the Moon'. It is an imperfection in the stone work surrounding the south westerly window which is crescent shaped and if you look closely it seems to have a man in the centre of the crescent! It is difficult to see if the sun is shining through the window – but it is there! Trust me!

Another interesting feature on the north wall is a little 'squint' into the neighbouring chapel now used as the Servers Vestry. If you look through it from the Servers Vestry your eye will be directed to the altar thus enabling people to see the Host being raised and to murmur a prayer without actually attending the mass.

One final footnote – Frank Knight of Wellingborough was a well-known silversmith and my brother was an apprentice with him in the 1950s. The apprentices were allowed to help on the more important pieces from the firm and my brother David remembers that he worked on the silver for the altar of St. Pauls and a Processional Cross for Nairobi. Sadly, he doesn't think he actually did anything with the Grosseteste furnishings!

# Life in Lock Down

Margaret Campion

**I almost got locked out of Lock Down in Lincoln since I didn't believe it would happen and only returned on Sunday 22nd March when I could no longer ignore the awful warnings!**

As a result, having had two weeks away with my family, I was full of energy on my return and went into lock-down with gusto – the airing cupboard was my first target and, as it had not been excavated since we moved here in 2003, it was quite an adventure. That completed – it took a whole week – the garden came under assault and was in danger of becoming 'manicured' in appearance which was not what I wanted since I favour the 'wild' approach.

Energy levels were beginning to get depleted by this time and, turning to books, I started (and finished) Hilary Mantel's trilogy about Thos. Cromwell. When the poor Thos. eventually reached the scaffold, I heaved a sigh of relief and turned

to lighter materials in the form of Georgette Heyer and Ngaio Marsh, whose mid-twentieth century detectives were still gentlemen, never, ever used bad language, were always polite to old ladies and loved their mothers. After reading three in succession they also lost their appeal and I turned to Eric Newby and happily followed him around the Mediterranean in his 1982 travels 'On the Shores of the Mediterranean'.

Finally, I must confess that on my daily walks around the roads and footpaths I managed to include visits to neighbours and sit in their gardens, dutifully 2 – 3 metres apart, and discuss world affairs and local gossip. Banging saucepans with the other Bee Field residents on Thursday nights has also been a ritual and finally twice a week my granddaughters visit with my shopping and I have the pleasure of younger company.

All in all, not a bad lock-down experience at all!

# Prayer for Corrymeela

God with us  
and God within us:  
just because  
we're all going through it  
doesn't mean this is normal.  
Everybody's a little stressed out,  
'out of our comfort zone.'  
So we need to find a reserve of patience  
with ourselves and everyone else.  
We all could use a bit more compassion,  
and the time to take a deep breath.

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Help us draw out our more tolerant selves,  
the ones who can cope with this mess.  
Give us the space to centre ourselves  
and find you. At peace. In our midst.  
Amen.

From the Facebook page of The Corrymeela Community, also on line at <https://www.corrymeela.org/news/180/prayers-for-community-in-a>

(Thanks to Rev. Dr. Helen Hooley, one of the Methodist Ministers for the Lincoln Circuit, for introducing us to this prayer.)

# Locked down in Minster Yard

Anne Senior

**A moment of panic! Pulling up the kitchen window blind on the first morning of lockdown, I see the Cathedral West Front, the new, pale face of Exchequer Arch, the Number Houses, but there is nobody there! Has the world stopped and everyone else wisely GOT OFF? No joggers, no dog-walkers, no satchelled children. No sound. Then four familiar metal voices: the quarter chimes from the south-west tower.**

For many years, an almost daily Choral Evensong in the Cathedral has been a much-loved entr'acte, gently separating day from evening with superlative music and comfortable words. For a few days

we are able to sit near the pulpit while a disembodied, though well-known, voice offers Evening Prayer. Then even this must stop as full closure is decreed.

At home, familiar words from a service: 'have done' and 'ought not to have done,' seem to relate to this new life. Not 'Serious Sin', I think, but much indulgence in reading, drawing, painting, music, thinking, messaging and facetimeing with loved people, caring for families of birds in what is no longer a tidy garden but a wildlife sanctuary. These delights can happily last all day, while evening brings Radio 3 or BBC i-player (another world to which I have succumbed). 'Not doners' – well,

proper cleaning, sorting out cupboards and chests, photographs and all those bags of what? under the bed. There's still time – but!

I've previously refrained from on-line shopping, but, oh dear, the joys of tapping the screen and a DVD of beloved Trollope or CDs of new or favourite music appear on the doorstep. I've cut my own hair. Now we may meet a friend outside, observing the 2m distancing, I think the wonderful cartoonist, Matt, might picture a salon wizard operating a very long pair of scissors! Some friends profess to need tight structure to tolerate lockdown: I am revelling in the lack of it!

# The Campbell Marras in and out of lockdown

*Quite a few of us from the Cathedral Community have been being sustained, encouraged and amused during lockdown by the daily posts and photos on the Campbell Marras Facebook page. We asked Jo Blanchard, instigator and primer mover, to tell us about the page and about how she goes about writing her very inspiring posts at the moment.*

**How do you say thank you to someone who has quietly given so much to so many? Let me introduce The Campbell Marras.... a Facebook group started in April 2019. A gift of thanks, love and celebration of happiness for the duration of John Campbell's last year.**

After a chat with Patrick, (John's son) and a need to get fit by myself and the Canon's Verger, a plan was formed to run the Lincoln 10k 2020 dressed as John, (cassocks, moustaches and glasses included!) hopefully raising some essential funds for the BHF. The Campbell Marras was formed... (a marra being a friend in Geordie). Within months The Campbell Marras had spiralled into a beautiful, international community, a true testament to John himself. Through the creativity of our members we have had events such as Christmas Wreath making, Santa Fun runs, (moustaches under beards of course!), Interfaith coffee morn-

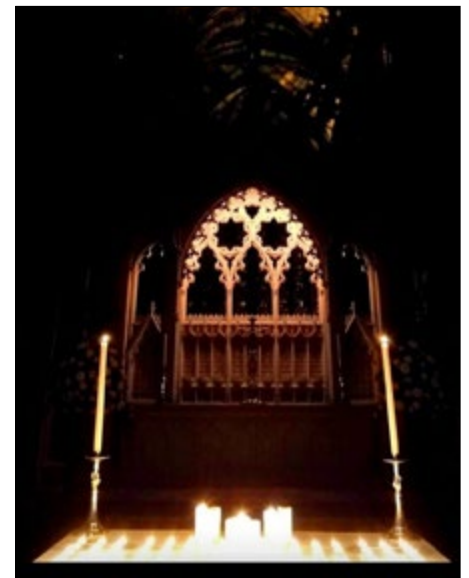
ings, a gin night, little and often 10k, Badge creations (with thanks to Chris Flintham) and an Interdepartmental Campbell Bake Off!

Sadly, with the arrival of the Coronavirus, a lot of our plans have had to be sidelined. The Campbell Marras naturally took on a transformation. In these uncertain, scary, lonely and unpredictable times the members started creating beautiful, uplifting posts of love and support for each other. Undeterred, members have completed their 10ks using the hour exercise allowed each day, real inspirations, beacons of light during these dark times. The Campbell Marras developed into a support, a voice, a togetherness when some are alone, a source of strong faith and of course laughter to many. Members sent messages from the heart, reflecting God's likeness and character reminding us we are born in him, but also reflecting his unconditional love allowing the group members to feel

like they are never alone.

I was asked if I could talk about my inspiration for my own posts, that's not easy. I am fascinated by people, their characters and their differences. I love the imperfectness of every day. Nature bubbles up everywhere and smiles on us, it teaches me kindness, it belongs to everyone, no matter what stature. I am fascinated in finding God everywhere too. If I am stuck for inspiration I ask and pray. I wait and I listen. It may be a while but always an answer comes, often when least expected and during simple tasks such as washing up. I am forever grateful for this, my journey is nothing without God.

My main inspiration will always be Verger 1 and his ability to understand the gift of caring and the gift of knowing why to care, something I can aspire to become. I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone involved in The Campbell Marras, and at the moment the total raised for the BHF is £1809.44.







# Precentor Sal McDougall

Elaine Johnson

**After almost three years, we are very sorry to be saying goodbye to our precentor, Sal McDougall.**

In her time with us, Sal has brought innovation which has extended and enhanced the cathedral worship for many. Wanting to work through the liturgy to ensure that the cathedral is a place of welcome to anyone who comes through its doors, she has facilitated several new services such as those for the street homeless, baby loss awareness and Lincoln Pride. Sacred Space, a time for reflection and meditation, one evening a month when the cathedral is closed, has brought many regular attenders from several different churches or none.

Sal has enjoyed working with and supporting the 'high-performing teams who contribute to the cathedral's worshipping life', including a music department which, she feels, consistently produces liturgical music of the highest standard. However, given her talents, knowledge, skills and experience, she is looking forward to her new role as a



deputy director of the Royal School of Church Music, although she says she will very much miss the people who make up the cathedral community: staff, volunteers and those who worship with us. We send Sal and Griff our very best wishes for success in Salisbury; our loss is the RSCM's gain.

## 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, 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](mailto:inhouse@lincolncathedral.com) by **August 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](mailto: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!

# John Campbell,

Margaret Campion

**This summer we must say goodbye to John Campbell, the Dean's Verger, who retires after 30 years residence in the cathedral.**

Because of the restrictions of Lock-Down we had to conduct our final interview 'virtually'. This we managed by compiling a list of 10 questions and asking John to respond in his own words. We have tried where possible to use his own words, only adjusting his own text to reflect our own feelings of regret, gratitude and goodwill. Here goes:

John and Pauline arrived in Lincoln on the Feast of the Transfiguration [6th August] 1990. The tragic death of the previous verger created an opportunity which John found irresistible. He had been in Carlisle – his native country – for 5 years but, although not planning to move, as he said, 'When an opportunity like Lincoln comes up, one has to bite the bullet. Two of my [then] favourite cathedrals were Durham and Southwell; I got the size and majesty of Durham and the location of Southwell. Thirty years later we are convinced it was the right move.'

He inherited a well-trained team and notes that he gained 'Brownie Points' when he introduced regular Sundays off! His present team is as strong as the team he inherited but very different. With almost 100 years of collective service, the majority graduates, all with very different talents, they help serve a very different cathedral from that of 1990. He is proud to say that one of the original team, Kate Wilson, is still with us – a testimony to the longevity & commitment of the team to the cathedral.

John has served with eight Deans altogether, four of them at Lincoln Cathedral. When Dean Christine Wilson arrived three years ago, one of her 'strap lines' was 'Shared Endeavour'; John would like to believe that his ministry

has been shared with all eight deans he has worked with over forty-two years as a verger.

We asked John what some of his favourite memories were and again, in his own words he responded: 'I cannot be anything but humbled and grateful for the variety of experiences witnessed during my time here, experiences which have been balanced with grandeur and pathos, from weddings of great joy with the Nave filled with 1500 in the congregation and lasting two and a half hours to a simple gathering of a small wedding party at the shrine of St Hugh, the bride being terminally ill – she died within days.'

He says that, as a pacifist he found facilitating military funerals and commemorative services challenging but a privilege; one of his saddest moments was holding and comforting a grieving mother who bravely read a poem at the funeral of her murdered child.

His best memories come from the grandeur of the Royal Maundy: six months in the planning, eight site meetings here in Lincoln and one at Buckingham Palace, 2000 in the congregation, over 100 in the procession, the hardest work he has ever done - but he got paid for it, a whole 10p [a one pence piece a two pence piece a three pence piece and a four pence piece] which hang in memorial on the study wall. 'It was good to get to know HMQ and HRH together, they were like any other married couple – they bickered from beginning to end!'

Filming in the Cathedral is a recent innovation and although John told us he is not a name-dropper ('as I said to the Queen on Maundy Thursday 2000', he added), to work with Tom Hanks, Ian McKellen et al was extraordinary and also, of course, put Lincoln Cathedral on the map for the best of reasons, giving rise to a variety of 'specialist' tours which

helped visitors understand the significance of the cathedral and its architecture: orientation, shape, position of the font, significance of the great crossing and the chancel and so on.

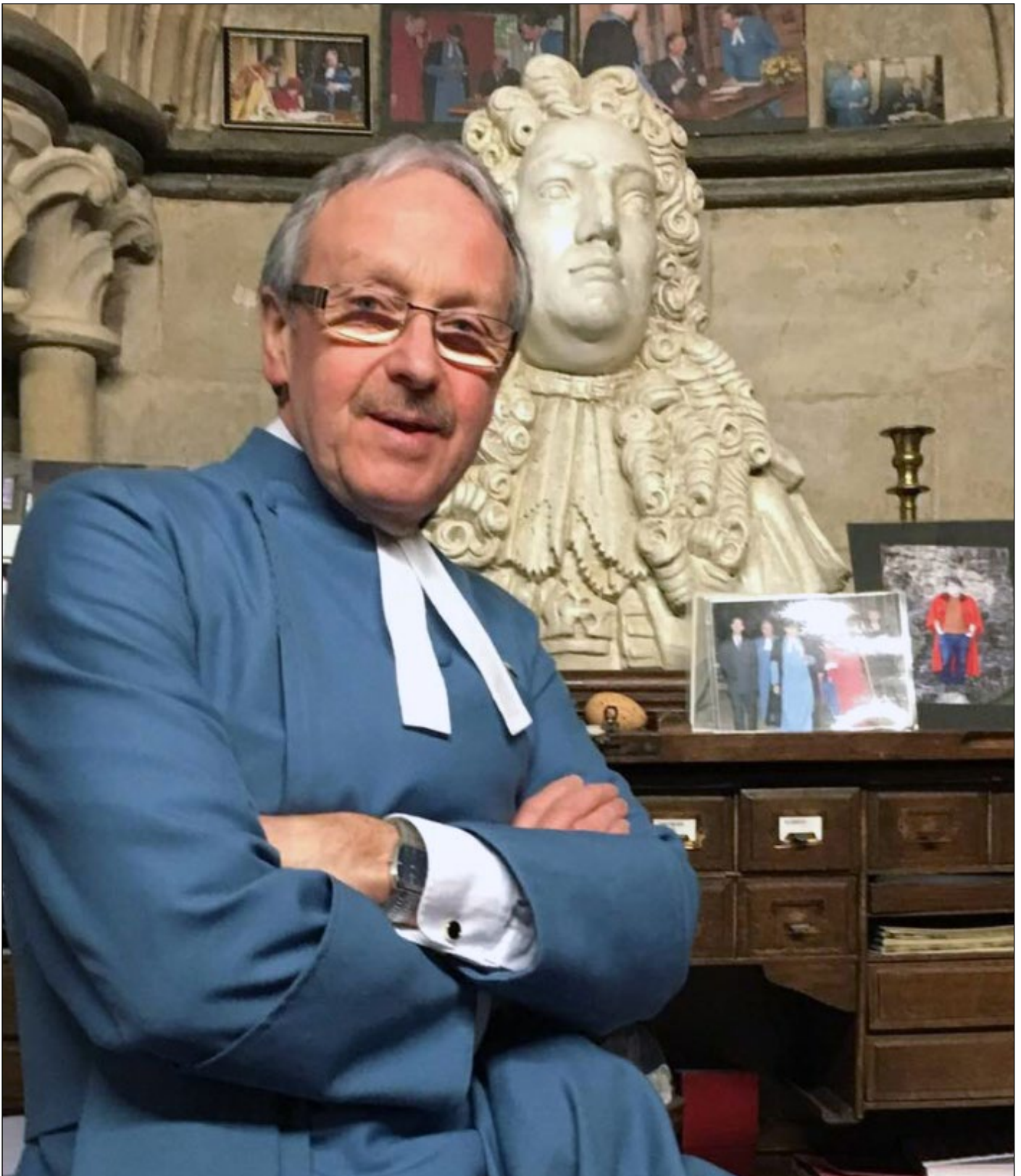
The fabric of the building is not, of course, his [total] responsibility but as the first responder he has had alarming moments. An example was dealing with a group of three young teenagers who had climbed their way onto the apex of the nave roof one October night, putting themselves and others in danger as they shouted obscenities down to those who were trying to help them - that is until the flood lights turned off at midnight and they started to take fright and all three wanted their mothers!

John is a prolific and popular public speaker and a great raconteur. He was Mayor's Chaplain on four occasions and he has greatly enjoyed taking the cathedral to the people, promoting its life and work and enriching people's memories of its history and the people who have worked, served and loved it for nearly a thousand years. He has spoken in venues varying from local groups in Lincolnshire to Livery Companies, leading weekends in New Jersey and being the keynote speaker in Nashville, Tennessee, and has a thousand memories he could share – and will – just ask him to speak at your next group meeting! And he has raised a great deal of money for good causes in the process.

Many would say that John has always been the most important member of the cathedral's pastoral ministry team because he, more than any of the staff is always there, seeing regular members to all the services – there are quite distinct congregations – the 8am communion congregation will not get to know those who attend the 9.30 Eucharist and the

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# Dean's Verger





regular Evensong community might not know those who regularly attend the weekday services. John sees and knows them all which makes him unique and the first person to turn to when asking 'What has happened to so-and-so? I haven't seen them for ages'.

To quote his own words:

'The church as a building is of great importance but the church as a body of believers [and unbelievers] is for me the core of our existence; being ready to welcome and serve 'the bad, the mad, the glad and the sad' is paramount to my ministry. Being a part of the cathedral's pastoral team has been a privilege, sometimes a painful privilege. Spending time with the dying on their last journey, comforting the bereaved, feeding the hungry, directing the lost, both in the cathedral and in the wider community, advising and listening, offering hospitality- all has been an experience shared in partnership with my

wife Pauline. We met in 1977 when we worked as Parish Social Work Assistants in Jarrow. We worked as a team then; I was the talker, she was the listener and we continue as a team now, forty-three years later. Pauline has been an integral part of my life and work, without her influence and support most of the above would not have been possible. When Patrick was born, in 1993, he brought the average age of residents in Minster Yard down by 100 years; I was the first Dean's Verger to produce a child in office since George Logsdail at the end of the nineteenth century. George was Dean's verger for 55 years; sadly, my thirty years pale into insignificance compared with his tenure, but we both produced incredible sons. Pauline's and my future remains in Lincolnshire where we are relocating to Ingham. Retirement there will be a great adventure, not least having our own property

and being able to choose fixtures & fittings etc. – oh, how we will miss the Works Department! Patrick, however, migrates to the USA in July and is getting married in Manassas, Virginia in August. He and Liam will be living in Washington DC where Patrick will pursue a career in education, so we look forward to a new adventure as we get to know that area of the US as and when they invite us to stay that is!

All of us who regularly serve, work and worship in the cathedral will have our own special memories of John, his work, his family and his friendship. From all of us and especially from the InHouse Team, we wish him and Pauline a long and happy retirement and hope sincerely that they will continue to be members of our community and join in our communal life.

We give thanks, individually and communally for his 30 years with us in Lincoln Cathedral.