

# InHouse

*the Journal of the Lincoln Cathedral Community Association*



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## Welcome to the Discovery Centre

Elaine Johnson and Sally Bleasdale

**The introductory panel says it all: build your own arch, illuminate a manuscript, print a page from the library, watch a real ceremony, then dress as a priest or a wedding guest.**

Entered from the Cathedral through the cloister, to the right of the new Exhibition Gallery, the aim of the Discovery Centre is to share an understanding of what the Cathedral is about in all its guises, particularly for younger people. It reminds them that the Cathedral is a Christian place of worship, a community of living, breathing people. It's a building which has to be looked after and there are many people behind the scenes who do this.

Beautifully illustrated panels tell the story of the Cathedral and its people – who we are and why we are here – inviting visitor participation through interactive narrations and activities. An introductory film describes the Works department: the joiners, the stonemasons, the glaziers, the current people in a long line of craftsmen and women who have gone before. They feel privileged to be part of the creation and conservation of this wonderful building which was built for the glory of God. In short videos they describe their job and the techniques required, then visitors are invited to try tasks for themselves such as putting together joints for the roof, or pieces for a stained-glass window.

'Let's Celebrate' explains Christian faith at the Cathedral, including the services which are held daily. Projected wall images show special events such as baptisms and weddings. The symbols of Christianity are explained and illustrated, including the church year and its liturgical colours. Here is the dressing-up rail, where real vestments and accessories have been skilfully copied into a range of sizes.

In a final section 'Power of the Word', about the collections and books of the medieval and Wren libraries, there is more information before visitors are invited to draw and seal their own illustrated letter, print a page from an ancient book and do a brass rubbing.

The Discovery Centre is a hands-on, experiential introduction to the beauty that is Lincoln Cathedral. Adults and children alike will learn more of the Christian faith which inspired its construction almost a thousand years ago. Look out for the opening date this Autumn!

### WELCOME TO THE DISCOVERY CENTRE

Here in the Discovery Centre, you can learn more about Lincoln Cathedral by handling objects, building things, dressing-up, watching films and more.

Take a journey to discover the Cathedral's amazing art and architecture, where you can build your own arches to walk through. You can find out how to illuminate a manuscript or print a page from our famous library. You can watch a real ceremony filmed inside the Cathedral, then see how you look dressed as a priest, or a wedding guest.

After your journey of discovery, tell us about your day in Comments Corner, or just relax and reflect on your visit.

#### ART & ARCHITECTURE

Discover the amazing art and architecture of Lincoln Cathedral. You can build your own arches to walk through. You can find out how to illuminate a manuscript or print a page from our famous library. You can watch a real ceremony filmed inside the Cathedral, then see how you look dressed as a priest, or a wedding guest.

#### SIGNS OF FAITH

Discover the symbols of Christianity and the church year. You can see how you look dressed as a priest, or a wedding guest.

#### MARVELLOUS MANUSCRIPTS

Discover the beauty of the medieval and Wren libraries. You can draw and seal your own illustrated letter, print a page from an ancient book and do a brass rubbing.

# Introduction to InHouse

**Welcome to the new edition of In House. After the past eighteen challenging months it is good to be returning to a more normal pattern of worship at the Cathedral, as the Precentor describes in this edition.**

And the Lincoln Cathedral Community Association is delighted to be able to host our annual Harvest Supper once again. We are looking forward to an opportunity to gather together and enjoy fellowship and hospitality.

Life at Lincoln Cathedral is always exciting and we have many new things to celebrate. Our new Cathedral Centre and Dean's Green opened over the summer, and we now welcome many visitors to the restaurant, shop and garden every day. And in our pages, you can also read about the Cathedral's new Discovery Centre. You can also read news about the reorganisation of the diocese, and about new arrivals and departures in the staff.

The LCCA is the membership organisation for the Cathedral's congregation. We arrange social events throughout the year to provide opportunities for fellowship, and we also collect con-

tributions from LCCA members to support the Cathedral and other charitable organisations, locally, nationally and internationally. Please look out for news of our stewardship campaign in the Spring of 2022.

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday 16 November this year, and we are seeking nominations for people to join us on the committee. Please contact one of the current members for details.

Simon Crookall, Lay Vice Chair

June Pallister, Secretary

David Ford, Treasurer

Margaret Campion

Prue Chadderton

Marie Crooks

Duncan Garmonsway

Will Harrison

Elaine Johnson

Andrea Paterson

## Colin Walsh - an organist of great merit!

Simon Crookall

**Dr Colin Walsh played his last services after 33 years, firstly as Organist and Master of the Choristers and then as Organist Laureate, at Lincoln Cathedral on Sunday 25 July 2021, having been appointed as Organist Emeritus.**

In typical and exemplary style, his final voluntary was Bach's epic *Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor*, BWV 582, but he also played music by his beloved mentor, Jean Langlais, and even managed to fit in a brief rendition of Arthur Sullivan's *The Lost Chord* ("Seated one day at the organ....").

Thus Colin ended his tenure at Lincoln with the customary skill, artistry and wit with which he had graced the role for the past 33 years. But his voluntaries were not the only treats for the congregation that day. During the Eucharist, Colin gave us several examples of his

inimitable improvisation skills – an inspiring and grandiose processional, an uplifting and "Missaenic" gradual, and a beautiful and evocative accompaniment to the prayer of consecration – all delivered with seamless fluidity and a beautiful soundscape which lifted our worship that morning to a higher plane.

Early in his career, Colin travelled regularly to France for organ lessons with Jean Langlais. One of his "Damascus moments" as a musician was hearing Pierre Cochereau at Notre Dame in Paris at the age of 24. Colin was on holiday in France and found himself in Notre Dame.

"After the service I heard a wonderful purring sound coming from the organ and then it was as if a bomb went off!" he said.

"Cochereau himself was at the organ. I laughed to see the regular congregation

immediately leaving. I had to sit down because it felt as though you could be blown away.

"I wondered how on earth it was possible to make such sounds from an organ."

Colin asked for advice about a teacher from Nicholas Danby, who recommended him to study with Jean Langlais. He had lessons with Langlais for the next three or four years, commuting to France during half terms and holidays.

"Langlais was a small man, about 5 foot 4, with big black spectacles – he was totally blind by that stage," he said.

He told Colin some wonderful stories about Franck and Vierne, and taught him to play each one very differently. He also learnt improvisation from Langlais. During his trips to France Colin had the opportunity to hear Messiaen, Langlais and others playing.



Colin moved to Lincoln in 1988, initially as Organist and Master of the Choristers, where he has enjoyed playing the famous Father Willis organ for the past 33 years. Immediately on arrival, he began establishing an international series of organ recitals and making recordings on the organ and with the choir.

In 2003 Colin became Organist Laureate at Lincoln, giving him the freedom to invest more of his time to his career as a recitalist and teacher. The years that followed saw concert tours to Australasia, Hong Kong, Moscow and most of the European countries. He started teaching and examining in Cambridge and London, and several of his former students are now working in cathedrals throughout Britain.

The Director of Music at Lincoln, Aric Prentice, said: "It has been a pleasure to work with Dr Colin Walsh for the last almost twenty years.

"His outstanding musicianship, his great wealth of experience and his sense of humour have all made him a superb colleague and it has been very good fun to work alongside him.

"Colin has delighted worshippers and audiences every day with his invention

and fresh approach to accompaniments, psalms and hymns – as well as his mastery of a large repertoire of voluntaries and concert pieces. None of us will easily forget his ability to improvise on any theme, including on one occasion an intrusive car alarm!

"We all wish him well for a long and happy retirement from his regular duties and look forward to seeing and hearing him as he becomes Organist Emeritus, a well-deserved honour."

In Colin's view, the cathedral music world has changed in recent years, principally because of the way that the choristers are educated now – there has been a huge revolution in the way children are taught, and expectations have changed. But choirs throughout the country are still pursuing excellence and giving a superb musical training. He feels that the model of drawing choristers from several local schools, rather than one choir school, can have advantages for the choir, in that there is a better social mix, and a less pressurised environment. This was the case in St Albans, and is now the case in Lincoln. The new arrangement can be more difficult to manage, in terms of rehearsals and logistics, but the musical

results can still be just as excellent.

Colin considers himself a "liturgical organist" rather than a concert organist. As he explains, playing in a great medieval cathedral can be very complicated in terms of timing, as the organ always needs to be in front of the choir. In his view, the role of a liturgical organist is to make the services flow seamlessly, with no gaps in the service. Being able to play the great organ repertoire is one thing but being a liturgical organist is, he feels, a much more challenging and ultimately satisfying role.

And the week following his "retirement" from Lincoln? Colin was to be found at the organ of Ely Cathedral ("the only medieval cathedral I haven't yet visited") giving the opening recital in the Summer series, with an eclectic programme of music featuring the cornerstones of Bach's *Tocatta and Fugue in F* with dazzling pedal work and brilliant keyboard dexterity, and Jean Langlais' *Evocation from the Hommage a Rameau* which shook Ely's lantern and gave us a glimpse of the technicolour musical heaven beyond.

Retired? Not a bit of it! Colin will continue to thrill, move and inspire us with his recitals for years to come.



# Liturgy and Music

The Revd Canon Nick Brown, Precentor

**After a significant article last time on the changes afoot regarding the governance of the cathedral, and a brief pen portrait of some of those involved in this as members of the cathedral's governing chapter, this edition sees a shorter update on some of the changes that we have seen in the Liturgy and Music Department as we have resumed something nearer a normal pattern of services this term.**

Firstly, at the beginning of September we welcomed Ian Taylor as our new Dean's Verger. Born and brought up a little way north of Lincoln, Ian had a career in the army, followed by varied experience working to support the naval

chaplaincy – and with a stint as verger at another cathedral in the east of England.

Coming to Lincoln, there is now the opportunity for Ian to become a tri-service verger through the cathedral's connections with the Royal Air Force! Ian's first weeks had been planned as a gentle introduction to cathedral life, but unfortunately the reality of the unpredictability of the cathedral meant that some unexpected shortages, combined with the University of Lincoln graduations threw Ian into the full depth of vergering pretty much from day one!

As we welcomed Ian into his new role, Paul Birkinshaw was also publicly thanked for the way that he has held the

fort through a much longer period as Acting Dean's Verger than he (or anyone else) could have anticipated and with a series of changes that was at times dizzying as we, the cathedral, coped with the impact of COVID-19 on our life. Along with the other vergers, Paul has helped ensure that the cathedral has functioned throughout a time when things were sometimes changing day-by-day. I suspect that Paul, with the rest of us, hopes that he (and we!) are able to relax into a more settled pattern as we move onward!

September has also seen the musical side of the cathedral's work take a step to more normal routines with the re-





sumption of regular morning chorister rehearsals. This is the start of what will probably be a recovery period of up to two or three years as we make good the lack of regular singing and training that was a consequence of the disruptions of the last 18 months – one set of experienced choristers left us during this period, and those coming up behind them have not had the regular level of frequent singing that would normally prepare them for their role in leading and setting an example. (Meanwhile, of course, recruitment has been somewhat challenging – though we do have 10 probationers of varied ages on the books).

All told, it will be some time before we see both the boys' and girls' choirs singing separately at full strength, and a full pattern of services resumed. However, over the next few years, it is the chapter's hope that we will resume this full pattern. Given all that has happened, our choristers (and the music team who lead them) need to be congratulated on maintaining the standards of singing that they have been able to do in sometimes adverse circumstances – and the parents of the choristers need thanking for their commitment through sometimes difficult times as well!

As well as beginning the process of recovering the strength, standards and regular routine of the choir of the cathedral foundation, there have been three developments that have arisen over the past months, and which we hope will contribute to a varied (and in the end perhaps extended) pattern of choral music in the cathedral:

- one of the discoveries of the lockdown periods was a result of the need to find appropriate music for the lay vicars of the choir to sing when they were maintaining the pattern of choral services without the choristers. This has seen the emergence of a completely new repertoire within the cathedral's music scheme – and this is something that will hopefully be maintained by the addition of regular services for the lay vicars and choral scholars. Whilst at the moment, this

is something of a necessity whilst the choristers regain in strength and numbers, it is probably something that we will see become a long-term feature of the musical life of the cathedral.

- having a large group of choristers leave in the summer has also presented an opportunity to bring to fruition an idea that has been mooted for some time – a youth choir to fill the gap in provision from the ages of 14-21 within the cathedral's music. This group of singers, many (but not all) of whom are former choristers, joined with the lay vicars and choral scholars to sing their first service as the new Cathedral Youth Choir on Saturday 11th September. As well as providing an opportunity for singers of this age to benefit from singing music to a high standard in the setting of the cathedral, this will also provide a group that can complement the singing of the main cathedral choir as it builds in strength in the coming months.

- finally, a small group of clergy (and a lay reader!) drawn from parishes in the diocese gathered together to sing evensong on Monday 20th September. Again, this is something new – intended to provide something to maintain a lively spiritual connection between the cathedral and diocese, and hopefully a source of spiritual nourishment and fellowship to resource ministers in their day-to-day ministries. At first this group is focusing on singing largely to plainsong – but with the hope that this will grow and expand in the coming months.

I hope this gives an insight into the life of the Liturgy and Music Department as we adjust once again to living, working and worshipping in new ways and to new patterns.

This term is undoubtedly the busiest of the year, so your prayers and support for all those involved in our liturgy and music will I know be much appreciated!



# The Teams behind the

Claire Taylor

**At the end of June 2021, the long-awaited Cathedral Visitor Centre opened its doors.**

The local community and visitors alike have loved seeing the previously neglected former school buildings transformed into the bright open spaces of the new shop and café and have already started taking advantage of booking the new community and meeting rooms.

Here, some of the people responsible for the new spaces, tell us how the opening has been for them.

## Community Meeting Rooms

Bookings and Events Officer, Lesley Alexander-Kirrage is responsible for co-ordinating bookings for the new community and meeting rooms which are on the first floor of the Centre. These tastefully refurbished rooms are now available to hire for businesses, charities and community groups.

There are three rooms: Fry, Butler and Dunlop, all named after former Lincoln Cathedral Deans. The Butler and Dunlop rooms can be hired separately or

joined together to create a larger, more flexible space, ideal for larger groups. The Fry room is set up in a contemporary boardroom style, ideal for smaller meetings and conferences. All of the rooms have a kitchen area, climate control, wifi, AV equipment and, of course, the stunning views of the Cathedral and the Dean's Green.

Open since June, the rooms have already been used for private dinners, informal coffee mornings, team meetings and most recently as the Lincoln University HQ for this year's graduations.

For prices, booking enquiries and to find out more please contact Lesley Alexander-Kirrage on 01522 561632 and [Lesley.Kirrage@lincolncathedral.com](mailto:Lesley.Kirrage@lincolncathedral.com)

## Cathedral Shop

Sam McKay, Shop Manager, is rightfully very proud of the new space and the shop staff and volunteers who worked tirelessly to transfer the content of the old shop in the Cathedral over to the new Centre and create the engaging and inviting retail space which it now is.

The previous, enclosed shop in the

nave was cosy but a highlight of the new building for Sam are the large, modern windows through which to enjoy the views of the Dean's Green and courtyard and to watch the seasons pass. Retail has moved on since the previous shop was created and so the team has to move on likewise. This sense of moving forward and embracing the new is evident wherever you look in the shop. There are brand new, carefully selected lines displayed on new shelving and units which highlight rather than detract from the products. Everything is spotless and placed with precision and purpose.

The shop volunteers have also embraced how the position of the new shop has changed their role. They are now much more involved in the Cathedral's welcome than ever before and find themselves answering more questions about the Centre and the Cathedral than previously. This more customer service-focus has been a new but welcome challenge.

The current top seller in the Shop is, unsurprisingly, the brand-new Cathe-



Lesley Alexander-Kirrage



Cathedral Café



# new Visitor Centre

dral guide book which has only been available since June. This is followed by the bespoke Sophie Allport range of homeware designed exclusively for the Cathedral and depicting the iconic Lincoln views of the Cathedral, Chapter House and IBCC with the red arrows flying overhead.

As if the summer hasn't brought enough excitement, Sam and the team are all looking forward to Christmas when they will be able to adorn this new space with Christmas lights and decorations for the first time.

## Cathedral Café

Victoria Hammond is the new Manager at the Cathedral café. Originally from Lincoln, Vicky has spent the last four years working in the restaurant and hospitality sector on the Isles of Scilly before returning to Lincoln to be near family.

Vicky is brilliantly supported by Kieran Arkle, Assistant Manager, and a brand-new team of 20 part-time staff who have worked ceaselessly to get the café off to a flying start during one of the busiest times of the year.

When asked what the best bit about opening the new café has been, Vicky



The Café team

said that it was watching the new staff team gradually grow in confidence; starting to see regular faces returning

to the café day-after-day and seeing daily improvements in how the café operates.

Vicky and her team have plenty to look forward to. Planning for the Christmas market is already well underway and they are looking to host more exclusive events, such as pre-concert dinners and evenings where the café is transformed into a formal dining space.

Asked what the most popular item on the menu is, Vicky said the Lincoln Cathedral Club Sandwich is a hit with customers but, to quote Vicky, the Big Breakfast is "the best on the Bail" with everything you would want from a full English breakfast but at a reasonable price. Save us a table!



# Cathedral Volunteer Update

Claire Taylor

**The pandemic, subsequent health and safety measures and being closed for much of 2020 has taken its toll on the number of cathedral volunteers. During that time, people relocated, found other things to do with their time or lost their confidence when it came to volunteering with members of the public.**

Our ability to respond was limited and I would like to thank all of the cathedral volunteers who have shouldered the additional burdens and done more shifts whilst we have been below full strength. You have been an inspiration and we are incredibly grateful for your enthusiasm and dedication.

However, better and more exciting times are to come! This autumn we have

several NEW volunteer roles in the exciting soon-to-be opened Discovery Centre, introducing young people to the wonders of our cathedral, and later in the year in the jaw-dropping Exhibition Gallery which is going to put on public display some Cathedral treasures for the first time. We also have vacancies in some of our established volunteer groups:

- Choir Chaperones
- Choir minibus driver
- Discovery Centre Volunteers (NEW!)
- Visitor Experience Team admin volunteer
- Social Media volunteer
- Welcome Team
- Information Desk
- Stewards
- Roof Guides
- Tower Guides
- Garden Volunteers

If you or anyone else you know is looking for a new challenge this autumn or winter, and would like to find out more about any of these roles, please do get in touch at [volunteers@lincolncathedral.com](mailto:volunteers@lincolncathedral.com)

A very warm welcome to the new volunteers who have joined us over the summer:

- Jan Ashby, Welcome Team and Library
- Max Ferguson, Treasury
- Jeanne Hardy, Needlework Guild
- Tessa Hood, Treasury
- Bev Lorking, Cathedral Shop
- Doug Robinson, Roof Guide
- Finlay Shuttler, Welcome Team
- Mal Stainforth, Roof Guide
- Cathryn Young, Needlework Guild

And finally, good luck to our new cohort of trainee Cathedral guides who will be starting in October.

## Farewell, Claire Taylor

Elaine Johnson

A coffee and cake morning for as many volunteers as could make it, epitomised Claire's approach to her role as co-ordinator for all volunteers. Appointed three years ago, Claire aimed to be a visible presence on the cathedral floor and a specific point of reference for any queries or issues. She has created a useful volunteer induction pack and also instigated an induction programme for all new volunteers. She made a point of keeping in touch with people once they started, to check how they were



settling into their role and if there were any problems. Feedback from several volunteers indicates that this has been very successful: "Always smiles and says hello"; "Very encouraging"; "A reliable contact" were just some of the responses I was given. A weekly virtual coffee morning during lockdown was particularly appreciated by its regular attendees online.

With her family growing up, Claire is now returning to her original role in the Law, so on behalf of all the volunteers and the cathedral community, we would like to thank her for everything she has done here at the cathedral and wish her every success in the future.

### Editor and Editorial Policy

The current editor of *InHouse* is Simon Crookall, supported by Elaine Johnson and Margaret Campion and with photographs supplied by the editorial 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 November 15th 2021 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 as soon as it is on the site.



# Welcome to our new Dean's Verger



**On Wednesday 1 September, Lincoln Cathedral welcomed Ian Taylor as its new Dean's Verger.**

Ian and his family have relocated from Plymouth to move into Minster Yard and be on site for Ian's new role. This move to Lincolnshire marks a homecoming for Ian, who was born in Brigg and grew up in Scunthorpe.

After leaving school, Ian joined the local Territorial Army Unit while he completed a Youth Training Scheme. A year later (along with a group of school friends who all remain in touch to this day), he enlisted into the regular Army. That was the start of a 24-year career which included 16 years serving as a Supply NCO in the Royal Logistics Corps. This was followed by a memorable year spent in Kabul, Afghanistan, with the US State Department responsible for providing security for former

President Hamid Karzai and, after re-enlisting, as team leader providing security for the Royal Marines in Plymouth.

On retiring from the army, Ian was a verger at Ely Cathedral before 'going back to school' where he completed a Certificate of Higher Education in Theology in Cambridge before studying for a BA degree in Community and Society at the University of St Mark and St John, a Church of England Foundation University in Plymouth. Ian's dissertation was entitled 'The role of chaplaincy in a secular world'.

After graduating, Ian put his studies to practical use and for the last five years has been a pastoral worker at the Aggie Weston's Charity, working alongside Royal Navy Chaplains to provide pastoral care to Royal Navy personnel and their families. Last year, Ian was

licensed as a Reader (LLM) in the diocese of Exeter.

Ian brings his dedication to pastoral care and ministry to his new role at Lincoln Cathedral. When asked what he was most looking forward to about the role, Ian said, 'Working with people' and I think we would all agree that it is the people that make a Cathedral. After a difficult year for many people, Ian is also looking forward to the reassuring liturgical routine of Cathedral life.

At the completely different end of the scale in terms of peace and reflection, Ian is also looking forward to the renowned Lincoln Christmas Market, and the Christmas season in general is one of Ian's favourites. On this, we will all wish Ian the best of luck!

Please do join with us in wishing a very warm welcome to Ian, Tamsyn and Zachary.

# In Memoriam Derek James (1938-2021)

**Derek Herbert Picton James was born in Cardiff on 9 October 1938, the fifth of eight children.**

Following his youth in Cardiff and Swansea and an apprenticeship, Derek was enlisted into the Royal Engineers for his National Service in 1958, giving his 'trade or calling' as 'Trainee, Mechanical Draughtsman'. Eschewing the mandatory two-year period of service in favour of a six-year commitment, which offered greater opportunities for service overseas, Derek undertook basic training and service in Britain, before departing for Singapore where he spent much of his National Service.

Returning to civilian life in 1965, he embarked on a career in planning in Wiltshire, moving to Lincolnshire County Council a few years later, where he met his future wife, Joan. Married in 1967 they settled in Sturton-by-Stow, where Derek became actively involved with Stow Minster, bringing his expertise to bear on the conservation problems facing the Anglo-Saxon church.

Moving to Lincoln in 1981, Derek be-

came increasingly active in the Cathedral, as a member of the congregation, server, and Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Finance, alongside his career at Lincolnshire County Council as Assistant Chief Planning Officer. Retirement in 1999 gave Derek and Joan the opportunity to travel, which they embraced eagerly, exploring Europe, the Middle East, and Asia, including a holiday in Singapore, which was the first time that Derek had returned to the country since its independence.

Following Joan's illness in 2002, they moved to a smaller house nearby, which was readily adapted to the new circumstances and enabled them to continue entertaining their many friends. Derek devotedly cared for Joan with characteristic love, patience, and humour, while giving of his time to a number of charities and the Cathedral, but her death in 2016 was a devastating blow, tempered only by the knowledge that their life together, which had seemed so fragile, continued for much longer than they had dared to hope in 2002.

Drawing upon his profound and stead-

fast faith, and with the support of family and friends, Derek began to recover his *joie de vivre* and in 2018 he celebrated his eightieth birthday with a large party. In the same year Derek retired from his duties as a server at the Cathedral and, in recognition of his many years of service to the Diocese of Lincoln, he was nominated to receive Maundy Money from the Queen at St George's Chapel, Windsor in April 2019.

The pandemic and lockdown was a difficult time, but the easing of restrictions in summer 2021 enabled Derek to meet with family and friends again, visiting Hampshire in July and fulfilling a long-held ambition to see the Mary Rose. Sadly, and quite unexpectedly, he died some days later on 20 August 2021.

Derek was an assiduous reader of *The Times'* obituaries, frequently remarking on the remarkable lives of those memorialised in its columns, in contrast to what he felt (quite unjustly) was the paucity of his own achievements. An obituaries editor of *The Daily Telegraph* once commented, however, that such worldly triumphs should not be over-estimated, since ultimately 'nothing mattered beyond kindness, good manners and humour'. The messages of condolence that Derek's family have received from those who knew him as a friend, a colleague, a mentor, a fellow-worshipper at the Cathedral, and a devoted husband and father, testified many times over to his 'kindness, good manners and humour' – qualities for which he will long be remembered.

*Derek James' funeral took place in Lincoln Cathedral on 4 October 2021 and his ashes will be interred beside those of his wife Joan in the Cloister of Lincoln Cathedral. Donations in memory of Derek may be made to Lincoln Cathedral Fabric Fund (c/o Lincolnshire Co-op Funeral Services, 11 Proctors Road, Lincoln, LN2 4LA, tel. 01522 535800).*









# A Time to Change - Together: news from the diocese

Muriel Robinson

**As Resourcing Sustainable Church (RSC) moves into its next phase, we are increasingly referring to the programme by its earlier subtitle, A Time to Change- Together, and that is certainly the case in many ways within the diocese right now.**

Having had a significant approval vote from July's Diocesan Synod, the RSC programme is under way. The new RSC Director, the Revd Canon Aly Buxton, on secondment from her role at St Botolph's, Boston, together with a small seconded and volunteer team, is busy setting up three workstreams to look at Parish Support (the necessary diocesan level support functions of the kind currently based in Edward King House), Diocesan Shaping, and the College of St Hugh (the home for formation and growth, mission and ministry).

An oversight group has had a productive first three-day meeting and will be meeting monthly as the work unfolds, and the staff team will be meeting twice a month. All this work is rooted in and supported by prayer and theological reflection, led by the Revd Alan Moses, the Warden of Spirituality. The next few months will see covenant pastors beginning their interactions with parishes, and decisions about the categorisation of churches and the shape of deanery partnerships and local mission partnerships.

Another change heading our way is a likely change of location for the diocesan offices. Edward King House, which is too big for our needs and not ideal as a modern office base, is on the market (with Savills, for those who want to know more!) and there have already been viewings. The figures suggest that we should be able to invest the proceeds in a way which will generate more

than the likely rental of new premises that are more fit for purpose. And for those who might be anxious about the chapel, there are alternative strategies in place to manage this, depending on the buyer.

And last for now, but by no means least, we have the big change ahead of a new diocesan bishop. In brief, the way this happens is that the Vacancy in See Committee, a permanent standing committee of the diocese, is currently preparing a diocesan profile to inform prospective candidates and a consultation process to help us be clearer about what kind of a bishop is needed next.

This diocesan consultation runs along-

side one by the Archbishop's Appointments Secretary. Later, the members of the Vacancy in See Committee elect six of their number to the Crown Nominations Commission, where they will be joined by six of the national members of the CNC (elected by General Synod) and the Archbishops. CNC will meet to prepare a shortlist from the longlist and to interview and, we hope, make a recommendation for appointment. If all goes smoothly, we should have an announcement some time in 2022 and with luck a new diocesan bishop enthroned later that year.

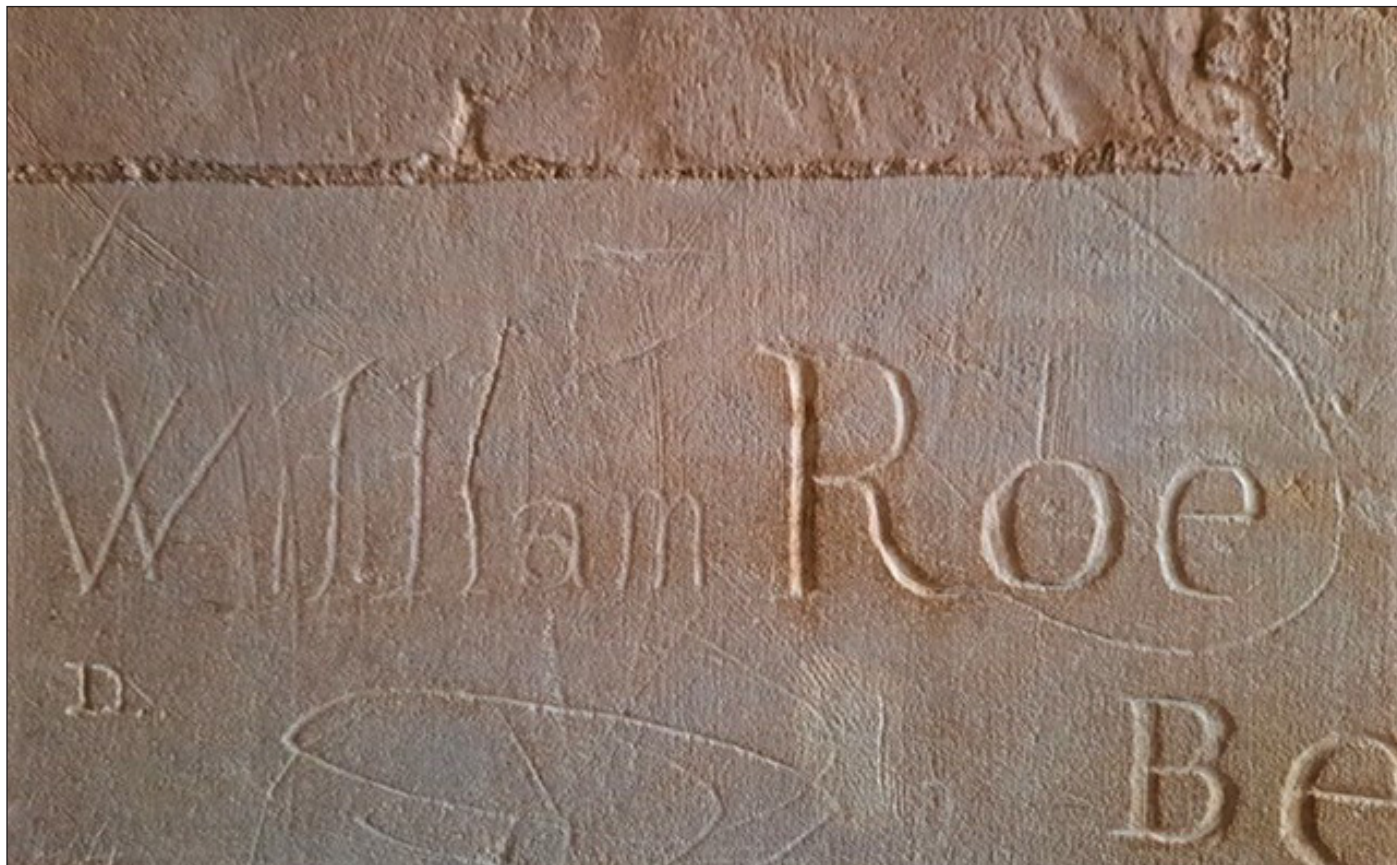
Please do keep the diocese and all these changes in your prayers!





# A shared hope in dark times

Jo Blanchard



**The beating heart of Lincoln Cathedral lies within a humdrum of people: its community. During lockdowns this beating heart had to take a moment of rest and for most the days felt very isolated.**

I know I lived for sunny days where you could find the stained-glass dancing across the Nave floor, creating a sense of space but also giving a much-needed sense of life. I would often walk to the Nave stone lip. There I found names carved into the stonework, echoes of past lives of a Lincoln Cathedral community ..... those lost voices gone by, the beating heart that was.

You may call it "Graffiti" and likewise feel it destructive and anti-social in nature, however not all may be as it seems. In the Middle Ages "graffiti" was encouraged and also accepted within the church, in fact it was about the people and their faith. Maybe their prayers lie within the stone, silent and humble, waiting to be heard, devotional and reli-

gious at heart: prayers for souls, prayers for a good harvest or for a safe journey.

The names carved here would have faced daily fears, worries, hopes and dreams, very similar to us now living through a pandemic. Back when these names were carved, they could have provided the same solace as lighting a candle.

As a person carved a name, they would perhaps be whispering their silent pleas and prayers; the "graffiti" then would become its own prayer offering, a sign of faith and a hope for comfort. I often find solace lighting a candle whilst whispering a prayer, perhaps for another person, but always in the hope of finding the light of Christ to illuminate my heart and lighten my burdens. It feels very comforting to share these moments together in Christ being the light of the world, moving both mine and their worlds from darkness: of death, fear and sin, into a world of light: of hope, promise and life.

In lockdown, being based at the West

End desk, these names soon became my own community, and a part of me and my prayers; an ever evolving, ongoing project, a community of faith through the ages who together expanded the dwelling place within us all. They all, like me, came to find comfort and strength within Lincoln Cathedral in their greatest times of need.

Today in a world thrown into crisis by the Covid pandemic, we have lived our lives as never before - many still feeling the shadows of darkness and despair all around them, but hope always springs eternal. Just like those lives gone past, I hope you find strength here to not give into your fears.

When next looking at those names, I hope you can keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and pray all find the Peace of God passing all understanding in Lincoln Cathedral, so all who enter can leave in the Peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God

# Lost Churches, part 2

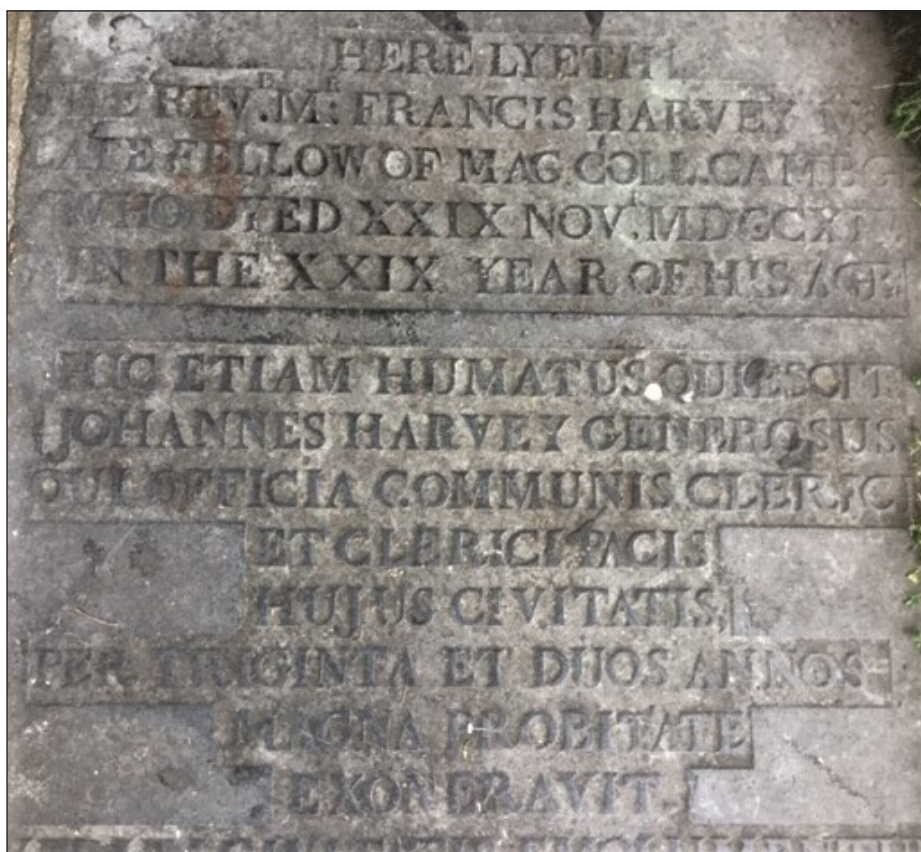
Penny Forsdyke

**When I started to investigate the lost churches of Lincoln, I assumed that many were demolished after the Reformation, but several disappeared much earlier, possibly because of the Black Death in the C14th.**

The walk starts in front of the Castle and goes downhill. Just south of the East gate, recent excavation work uncovered the remains of a church or chapel from the early 11th century and several skeletons and partial skeletons were removed and examined. One in particular caused a great deal of excitement as it was enclosed in a stone sarcophagus and had leather shoes. However, of the eleven remains examined in detail, all were people who had manual occupations and poor diets. Only two were from Lincoln. Further information can be found in 'Lincoln Castle Revealed' by Jonathan Clark, Justin Garner-Lahire, Cecily Spall and Nicola Toop.

Walk down Steep Hill and take the left fork to Michaelgate. **St. John the Poor** stood here between St. Michael's Terrace, Wordsworth St. and Michaelgate. This was the old Fish Market and it's reasonable to assume that it was the church of the fishmongers. This church was not mentioned until 1260 when a grant to an anchoress was made. An **anchorite** or **anchoress** was someone who, for religious reasons, withdrew from secular society and led a life of prayer. They lived in a small cell attached to a church and were effectively sealed in, although they had access to the church through a window. The highest number, around 200, were recorded in the C13th, the majority being women, of which Julian of Norwich is the most well-known. The church was gone by the end of the C15th and the site is now luxury apartments.

Further down on the right is the site of **St. Peter Stanthaket** or **St. Peter** in



the **Skinmarket**. Archaeological excavations in 1983 found the remains of the church and dated it to the mid C11th. The name **Stanthaket** translates as stone-thatched or stone-roofed which would suggest the church was well endowed, when most churches would have wooden roofs. The church was first mentioned in a document of 1155. It was connected to the wealthy skin or parchment markets.

The guild of St. Anne was founded here in 1344. By 1428 there were fewer than 10 parishioners and in 1437 it was destroyed by the Precentor. Several stone coffins were unearthed during C19th house building; more burials were discovered in 1983 and further work in 1997 discovered the extent of the churchyard to where Stanthaket Court now stands.

A short distance further on and to the left is **St. Martin**. All that remains today is part of the churchyard on St. Martin's Square. The church dated back to the early C10th, and its churchyard housed several important markets: butchery, poultry and hay. It had the longest sequence of burials in the city. Ruined during the Civil War, it was rebuilt, 1739-40, in the Georgian style. This building was demolished in 1873. Look for the grave slab of Rev. Francis Harvey and John Harvey who died in the early 1700s. There is evidence that silver coins were minted in Lincoln before the end of Viking rule and it was probably here, as this was the commercial centre of medieval Lincoln. Examples are in the Sir Francis Hill Collection.

*(This walk will be concluded in the next issue of InHouse – ed.)*