

InHouse

the Journal of the Lincoln Cathedral Community Association



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Welcome to Bishop Stephen!

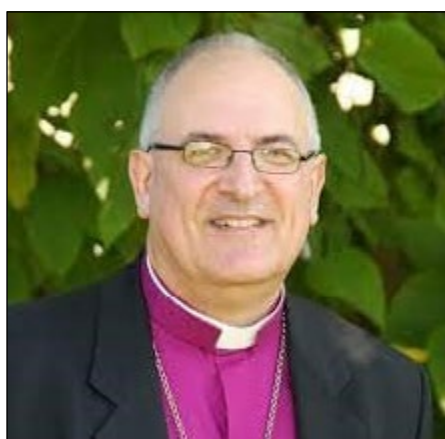
Muriel Robinson

On January 1st 2022, Bishop Stephen Conway, the Bishop of Ely, took on an additional role as our acting diocesan bishop.

Bishop Stephen's prior record is impressive (just look at [Stephen Conway - Wikipedia](#) for all the details), but as well as being a qualified teacher, he's had a variety of roles since ordination across the country, from curacy to episcopacy and from Durham to Salisbury, going to Ely in 2010. His background in education, both as a school teacher and at Westcott, made him a natural choice as lead bishop for education, and I was lucky enough to work with him on the new Diocesan Boards of Education Measure just before he stepped down from that role last year. He also has a strong background in rural issues, as well as an active interest in disability and mental health. All in all, it's hard to imagine a better choice of acting bishop, and we are already reaping the benefits of his wisdom and warmth.

I was privileged to be at Bishop Stephen's commissioning as acting Bishop of Lincoln by the Archbishop of Canterbury, which took place at the end of a three-day meeting of the oversight group for Time to Change Together, the Archbishop joining us by Zoom. At the commissioning, the Archbishop read the Charge (the duties to be undertaken), which included these points:

- To encourage all people across the diocese to live out their Christian lives in faithfulness, confidence and joy, bringing a narrative of hope and life in Jesus Christ and the Good News He shared;



- To lead the whole diocese in its discernment for the way forward for 'A Time to Change Together - Resourcing Sustainable Church', identifying the next steps on the journey;
- To build a healthy relationship with the Cathedral to enable it in its ministry to the diocese and in line with the Cathedral's measure
- To encourage all churches in living out the Good News of Jesus Christ in service to the community and, with and through, clerical and lay colleagues to look outwards to building effective partnerships with community leaders to make a difference to those who are in need.

It was very good to hear this emphasis on a continuing journey, and both these words and the way in which Bishop Stephen is already engaging with the Bishop's Council and others makes it clear that he is not here just to ensure the legal structures of the diocese are maintained but also to energise and engage us all as we move forward, so that the eventual incoming diocesan bishop will find a renewed sense of mission and

discipleship. The emphasis on the role of the cathedral was also strong in Bishop Stephen's first Letter to the Diocese (read it in full on the diocesan website at [A Letter to the People of the Diocese from Bishop Stephen | Lincoln Diocesan Trust and Board of Finance \(anglican.org\)](#)), in which he said:

"The cathedral has rich experience of daily prayer and worship and the challenge to be outward-looking in mission and in community transformation. The cathedral has a long tradition of profound Christian learning and enquiry. It delights me that the Dean of Lincoln and her cathedral colleagues are eager to support TTCT. This readiness exemplifies the commitment to and readiness across the diocese to serve the renewal of hope for the church and the world around us. May we be faithful in our worship; confident in our discipleship; and joyful in our service."

Every one of us, lay or ordained, member of the cathedral congregation, staff, volunteer or visitor, lives in a Church of England parish, and has a member of the clergy charged with the 'cure of souls' - including ours. Many of these parishes are small- that is the nature of rural ministry.

Many are in areas of deprivation on the coast or in our market towns. Just as the Dean is eager to support *Time to Change Together*, so maybe we might be, perhaps by talking to our 'home' parish clergy and lay ministers, perhaps by

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A Cathedral Miscellany

Margaret Campion and
Andrea Patterson

So much happened in the Autumn of 2021 we thought a quick overview of events would be useful.

We started with the Harvest Supper in October, the first time for two years because of the dreaded 'Covid' and over 85 tickets were sold so we had a full house with quizzes, music from The Pick of the Bunch (supplied by our own Allan Johnson) and an excellent meal supplied by the newly formed Cathedral Cafe staff who ensured that all the food was piping hot. The event was summed up by one of the guests: "Nothing could be better on a cold, wet evening than a hot, comforting, well-served meal eaten in the company of friends and this is what the LCCA Harvest Supper provided".

There was an exciting event in September when we celebrated Christmas rather early in the season when the BBC included Lincoln Cathedral in the Songs of Praise, scheduled for viewing on 12 December. It was fun to see the cathedral decorated for Christmas with trees, lights and everyone asked to wear Christmassy clothes and scarves – but

Bishop Stephen

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a little sacrificial giving to support their work, or maybe even by more active involvement.

We are not a congregational church, only there for 'our' minister and building, but members of the wider church - the diocese, the province of Canterbury, the CofE, the Anglican Communion and the whole body of Christendom.

Each one of us is called to discipleship and to mission. Perhaps the arrival of a diocesan bishop being shared with us by another diocese in Christian generosity can be a prompt to all of us to look outwards to see what we might be called to be by Christ?



best of all, after months of no singing we were asked to discard masks and sing lustily! Aric Prentice did a splendid job organising the (slightly rusty) congregational singers but the choir performed marvellously! Mid way through, the scenery was changed, summery clothes were donned and four more songs were filmed ready for Easter 2022! Truly Christmas in September!

Again, in September another milestone passed when we were able to sing in St. Hugh's Choir again and to celebrate, we were treated to the Jazz Mass – one of my own personal favourite events. Although our singing was muffled by masks (which were exempted in the BBC filming) we all sang lustily, it was



such a cheerful event and I cannot believe anyone could fail to feel better for being in such a happy atmosphere.

After the Jazz Mass we were able to once again serve coffee in the Chapter House, so for the first time in nearly two years we could meet, mingle and exchange news in the 'old familiar way'. Some, of course, felt unable to join in this gathering because of infection fears and after one or two more attempts to revive the post Eucharistic coffee it was decided to move the coffee pots to the north east transept in the area vacated by the stonemasons' display, now removed to the new Visitor's Centre across the Dean's Green. This has proved to be a better choice since the whole heating system in the cathedral is undergoing servicing leaving all areas rather chillier than we are used to! (Global warming seems to have missed Lincoln Cathedral).

Another innovation instigated by the Precentor was wine following the Advent Carol Service and hot punch and mince pies following the Epiphany Eucharist. Both events used the north east transept area and both were cheerfully hosted by Simon (chair of the LCCA) and his band of merry helpers. (Merrier afterwards of course, because of finishing the bottles!)

Now, although rather late, the LCCA wish everyone a very happy and prosperous New Year!

Introduction to InHouse

Welcome to our Spring edition of InHouse. As we begin the season of Lent, our thoughts are turning to pilgrimage in its various forms.

The Chancellor gives us his thoughts on pilgrimage, Sandie Stratford tells us about her pilgrimage to the COP26 conference in Glasgow, and the LCCA Committee is planning a pilgrimage of our own – to St Gilbert's Church in Sempringham for a community picnic in June.

Muriel Robinson profiles our new acting diocesan Bishop: Stephen Conway, the Bishop of Ely, and we celebrate other new arrivals with our Clericus Fabricae: Michael Sheppard, and Volunteer Co-ordinator: Katie Taylor. We also pay tribute to Tony Winton's loyal service as Sub-Sacrist for the past 13 years.

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 contributions from LCCA members to support the Cathedral and other charitable organisations, locally, nationally and internationally. We feature an article about one of this year's charities, Hope for Justice, in this edition. If you have any suggestions about charities that you would like us to consider for support, please contact a member of the committee.

The season of Lent has begun in splendid style, with our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, and a BBC Radio Three broadcast of choral evensong on Ash Wednesday.

Simon Crookall, Lay Vice Chair
 Andrea Paterson, Secretary
 David Ford, Treasurer
 Margaret Campion
 Prue Chadderton
 Marie Crooks
 Duncan Garmonsway
 Will Harrison
 Elaine Johnson
 Steven Tune

Ukraine



On Friday 25 February the world was made aware of the invasion of the Ukraine by Russia.

Here in the cathedral prayers and vigils were begun, the cathedral lighting was changed to blue and gold, the colours of the Ukrainian flag, and on Sunday a full congregation joined in prayers for our brothers and sisters both in Ukraine and for those fleeing the fighting and leaving their homeland to find them-

selves refugees in foreign lands. At the conclusion of the service the choir sang the Kontakion which is an ancient chant from Kiev (Kyiv) in Ukraine and was sung at the funeral of Prince Philip. Here in the cathedral, it was very moving to think that the same chant was probably being sung in churches all over the now war-torn lands of Ukraine. We continue to remember the people of Ukraine and pray for peace.



Photo: Andrew Scott

Installation of the Clericus Fabricae

Anne Senior and Margaret Campion



On Friday 17th September, in St Hugh's Choir, a large congregation was able to share in the Installation of Michael Sheppard as Clericus Fabricae of Lincoln Cathedral, a ceremony long delayed by Corona virus restrictions.

The Clericus Fabricae is responsible for the overall care of the Cathedral's fabric and property, promises also to "endeavour to promote peace and goodwill among his colleagues", and is presented with a ceremonial key, symbolising his stewardship of the cathedral as God's Earthly House, before the Dean leads him to his stall near the pulpit.

Following the Installation and Choral Evensong, Michael's colleagues of the Works Department had set up an extremely impressive exhibition of all

aspects of their work, and we were able to see repairs, conservation and renewal of stone, glass, metal and wood in all its stages of artistic creativity.

The displays from the Glass Workers and the Stonemasons were splendid but I was truly fascinated by the Lead Plumber's work. Wes Blythe was the craftsman on duty and as I picked up a heavy piece of lead, I asked where new supplies were mined. He seemed slightly bemused by this and replied: "Derbyshire originally – but we don't get new supplies, we just reuse the old..." It had not occurred to me that the lead on display and all the lead used in the cathedral is actually as old as the cathedral itself! It is simply re-stretched and remoulded and re-used – surely the ultimate example of recycling! He had the tools of his trade



on display and of course the tools used today are just the same as the tools used for centuries. There are new methods of lead casting but essentially this craft is truly a craft that has hardly changed in a thousand years.

Two machines for conserving the stonework were on display: one was for blasting and one for washing or misting. Different types of sand are used for the blasting, depending on the task but it can include fine, garnet sand from the Dolomites.

It was most reassuring and heart-warming to see and hear, from such enthusiastic craftspeople, the love and care each one feels for our Cathedral.

Retirement of Sub-Sacrist



For the last 13 years, Tony Wintin has led the Fellowship of Saint Hugh (Cathedral Servers) as Sub-Sacrist.

At the end of 2021, Tony retired from that post, stepping back into the general ranks of servers.

At the beginning of February, following the 10am Eucharist, we shared fellowship over coffee in the Chapter House where the servers presented Tony with a Lincolnshire Yellowbelly Rose and a patio pot to put it in, a large card hand-crafted by one of the servers, and some National Garden Vouchers. Tony has been ably supported as Sub-Sacrist by his wife, Veronica, another server, and she was presented with a bouquet of

flowers. Both Tony and Veronica are keen Lincoln City supporters, and the servers also presented Tony with a hand-knitted Lincoln Imp, suitably kitted out in football scarf and hat.

Tony has led the team over the last 13 years with a firm hand, but has always been encouraging and supportive. Despite occasional frustrations and many changes over the past couple of years due to the pandemic, he has remained cheerful, and has been a pleasure to work with. Even though Tony has stepped down from being in charge of the team, we hope to have many more years to enjoy his company and to benefit from his wide experience.

Palm Sunday Crosses

Joyce Harris

Every year on the Wednesday before Palm Sunday there is a gathering of volunteers in the Vergers' Vestry to make palm crosses.

There is always a need for new volunteers for this task – but it is great fun! All you need is a pair of scissors and the ability to fold the palm to create a cross. The verger demonstrates and you follow their instructions. It does require a little dexterity but once you have managed your first cross it becomes easier. We have a lot of fun and also enjoy coffee served by the vergers, so it is a great morning.



I have done this for quite a few years, but since Coronavirus arrived, we were not allowed to meet. Hopefully this year we will be able to be creative again. I enjoy taking the offcuts home with me and spend the evening making baby crosses for friends and family, which are especially welcome for people who are not able to attend services for whatever reason

If you feel you would like to join us watch out for the notice in the Chapter Letter – you will be very welcome!

A very warm welcome to our new Volunteer Co-ordinator

Judi Jones

Kate Taylor took up this exciting new role on 10 January this year. Building on the valuable work of her predecessor, Claire Taylor (no relation!), she has the challenging task of supporting the existing volunteers and recruiting and encouraging new ones.

A Lincolnshire girl “through and through”, Kate has lived all her life within 20 miles of our cathedral and it has always been important to her. She has worked in healthcare for most of her life, studying for a degree in Social Science at Lincoln University. Her roles have usually been people based; representing Care Homes and managing doctors’ referrals at a local practice.

In January last year she was involved with recruiting volunteers for a Vaccination Centre and was bowled over by the enthusiasm and skill of those who came forward. In the freezing cold, volunteers were cheerfully prepared to spend hours organising car parking. She realised that people from every walk of life were willing to give up their time for the common good and that volunteers were a huge resource for our society and so she is delighted to take up the role of Volunteer Co-ordinator in our cathedral.

She has a huge challenge to face as many volunteers have been unable to return due to the Covid 19 crisis. On paper, there are about 500 volunteers who belong to one of the 30 or so different groups which support the work in the cathedral. Groups such as: Stewards, Guides, the Needlework Guild, Gardeners, Brass polishers, Social Media facilitators, Flower arrangers... the list is endless.

All these 30 groups rely totally on vol-



unteers and more people are needed. Some volunteer roles require lengthy training whereas others need less. For instance, Floor Guides train for about six months, whilst front of house volunteers for events such as the forthcoming production of “The Hunchback of Notre Dame” need less. Kate emphasises that everyone is welcome to volunteer.

These are still early days for Kate but she is looking forward to the opening of

the Exhibition Gallery and the Learning Centre and supporting the volunteers helping in this new venture. With others, she is planning for the cathedral’s contribution to the Lincolnshire Show and the role of volunteers there. In fact, she has many challenges ahead but she is looking forward to meeting them with positivity and enthusiasm. She may be contacted at katetaylor@lincolncathedral.com or telephone 01522 561620.

A Pilgrim People

The Revd Canon Paul Overend, Chancellor

The metaphor of pilgrim is often used in the church, but we might have cause to reflect whether this is always a positive use or not.

It is sometimes said among those working in well-visited cathedrals that an aim of cathedral guides is to help tourists become pilgrims. I am not entirely sure about this. Whether or not this is a laudable intention should surely depend on the visitor. Some tourists are ready and willing to encounter the cathedral building as a sacred space, a place of wonder, awe, and encounter with the Holy One who has been worshipped here since the cathedral was built. However, other visitors are not ready for such a theological interpretation or faith encounter. They might visit out of an interest in history, art, or architecture, and their payment is willingly given for its historical upkeep and for their learning and enjoyment, but they do not share a religious faith perspective. Hospitality involves us respecting visitors' interests and ways of engagement, while valuing people as they are, without aiming to change them. Guides learn by experience to be sensitive to groups of visitors and they

are usually well attuned to the level of interest, without going into so much historical detail as to bore those who only want an overview, and also responsive to the ways of engagement, without proselytising a religious perspective a visitor might not share. It is a considerable skill, and more of an art than a science.

However, a rather different and perhaps more fruitful use of the metaphor of pilgrim was given at Vatican II, which was The Ecumenical Council of the Catholic Church in the 1960s. 'The Dogmatic Constitution on The Church' (1964) or *Lumen Gentium* as it is known (after opening words '[Christ is] the Light of nations' in Latin), spoke of the church as a "pilgrim church". The conciliar document distinguished between the "Church in heaven", and the "pilgrim Church" on earth (LG.48). (This replaced an older distinction between the "church triumphant" and "the church militant here on earth" which is found in the intercessions of the Eucharist of the BCP 1662.) *Lumen Gentium* explained that, "On earth, still as pilgrims in a strange land' we follow in the footsteps of Christ. (LG.7, cf. *parepedemos* [παρεπεδημος] 'stranger', 'foreigner' Heb

11:13; 1 Pet 2.11). Church members individually and the church corporately are drawn in 'the way' of Christ into our final home in God.

The corporate metaphor of the church as a pilgrim people was warmly welcomed by other Christian denominations, which saw it as a humble admission that all denominations are all on a journey and are fellow travellers. Consequently, the metaphor has been adopted in ecumenical dialogues over the last 50 years.

But for individual members of the church the idea that Christian life is a pilgrimage can be a helpful reminder that we continue to be drawn by the Spirit through our Christian life into the mystery of God. This reminds me of T.S. Eliot's lines, towards the end of 'East Coker' the second poem of Eliot's *Four Quarters*,

Old men ought to be explorers,
Here and there does not matter.
We must be still and still moving
Into another intensity
For a further union, a deeper communion.

Lumen Gentium can be found online [by following this link](#).

Save the date

On Saturday 18th June we are planning to hold a Community Picnic in the grounds of St Gilbert's Church in Sempringham. We will be celebrating the launch of our latest "Journeys of Faith Guide" which charts a pilgrimage route from St Gilbert's Church to our Cathedral. The energetic amongst us may choose to christen the pilgrimage by walking a small stretch of the route towards Threekingham.

More details to follow.

The Camino to COP

Sandie Stratford

Why on earth would you want to walk from London to Glasgow?

A very good question.

I decided sometime during the summer of 2021. I have been painfully aware of the urgency of the climate crisis since 2008. At first, I naively thought that governments would put it right, so I engaged with my MP and local councillors; I lobbied, petitioned, wrote letters, spoke up, marched, lectured, prayed, wept...to no avail.

The IPCC report of 2018 was bad enough: the more recent one referred to 'code red' for humanity. Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust describes the catastrophic loss of species: like me, you will probably recall FLOCKS of lapwings over the fields, and the car windscreen covered with moths.

Where did the crazy idea of a 500-mile pilgrimage come from? It came out of the Faith Bridge, a multi-faith initiative. I have to whisper the words 'Extinction Rebel-



lion' very quietly in some circles, but I am afraid I cannot explain the Faith Bridge without it. Muslims, Buddhists, Jews, Hindus, those with no 'faith allegiance' but a strong spiritual connection to the earth found themselves peacefully united, praying, and blocking Lambeth Bridge in 2019, calling the government's attention to the climate issue by the only method they thought might work.

During lockdown I had gained spiritual support from daily online prayer with Christian Climate Action. So, when a group suggested the Camino to COP I was ready. Camino is Spanish for 'way' or 'road'. An experienced expedition leader took time out of her paid work to plan the route and then to lead us.

Church floors were sought in every diocese on the route. Out of 48 stop-over places, two nights were spent in a Days Inn as the population in Larnarkshire was so thin, no church was nearby, and in Lesmahagow we were accommodated in a Hare Krishna centre.

Most churches and Quaker Meeting Houses provided us a vegan evening meal, some made cake for our arrival, and some even breakfast! In exchange we spoke at meetings, talked to Guide and Ranger groups, school groups, local politicians and anyone else who would listen.

Our focus was always justice: God's love for the world. Those who least deserve it are disproportionately affected by floods, droughts and extreme weather. Sadly, at COP26 the wealthy nations did not step up, either to drastically reduce the damage or to offer financial and technological support to vulnerable countries, so the urgency of the problem increases by the day.

And so, I walked: 56 days, more than 500 miles, not a single blister; aching bones, loving companions (aged 26-77), pleasure in walking and being outdoors. About 20 completed most of the Camino, three of us walked every step. We often had day walkers to swell the number, leaving Salford with 70! I learned to forgive, to be more patient. We shared our griefs and our hopes. My Christian heritage teaches me that change has been wrought in the past through non-violent direct action, or civil disobedience.



Editor and Editorial Policy

The current editor of *InHouse* is Simon Crookall, supported by Margaret Campion, Elaine Johnson and Judi Jones 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 by May 15th 2022 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.

InHouse is produced quarterly; the link to it is published in the chapter letter and also on the cathedral website under 'Latest News'.

Shrove Tuesday supper

On Shrove Tuesday, 1st March, 60 people gathered in the Chapter House for the traditional pancake party. It was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion with table quizzes followed by supper and then first-class entertainment by Lauren Osmond and Edmund Le Brocq, accompanied by Stephen Strugnell on the piano. They ended their programme with a rousing chorus of 'Mud, mud, glorious mud....' in which everyone joined with enthusiasm!



New LCCA committee members

Andrea Paterson

Despite having been christened and confirmed as an Anglican, my early worship was at a Wesleyan Methodist chapel which introduced me to choral music. I moved to Lincoln in the early 1990s where I joined the cathedral congregation in 1996 as my late husband, Duncan, was a regular worshipper. I then followed in his footsteps by becoming a server in 2019. Now retired, I enjoy music (listening and playing the piano and accordion), reading and swimming.

Duncan Garmonsway

I moved to Lincoln in 2018 with my wife, Hilary, who is a steward. We had met as worshippers and in the choir of Wellington Cathedral in New Zealand, and enjoyed choral services when we later moved to Glasgow and London. Our one-year-old son, Ralph is often both seen and heard. I am a civil servant, currently working on the GOV.UK website.

Steven Tune

I am delighted to be serving on the committee after a number of years worshipping at the Cathedral. I am originally from Hull (you may tell from my accent!) but relocated to Lincoln to study business. I began volunteering as a Cathedral Ambassador and this developed into a Visitor Experience Assistant role. I have also supported Marketing in the Chapter Office.

I now work for the National Trust handling communications for a range of places (including nearby Gunby Hall and Tattershall Castle), and assist as a vergers at the Cathedral. In my free time I enjoy learning Biblical Hebrew, reading science fiction novels and have a passion for US history & antiques. I also teach English to students and help as a Mental Health Support Assistant. A big thank you to the clergy, vergers and congregation for supporting my journey of faith.



Stephen Tune (back row, left) and Andrea Patterson (from row, right)

Hope for Justice

Joy Liddle

In 2008 Ben Cooley was invited to a talk in Manchester about Modern Day Slavery.

He was astonished by some of the facts and figures he heard, but one particular UNICEF statistic really hit home: 1.2 million children are trafficked every year; this is on top of the millions already held in slavery.

Ben determined to do something to help bring an end to Modern Day Slavery and so Hope for Justice was born. It has grown to become an international organisation with programmes across five continents, which works directly with victims and survivors, while also campaigning for long-term change for them through their work with governments, police, businesses and the public.

The vision of Hope for Justice is to live in a world free from slavery by:

- **preventing exploitation**
- **rescuing victims**
- **restoring lives**
- **reforming society**

The global headquarters is in Manchester, and they operate from more than 30 locations across the world. The oldest person they have freed from slavery was in her 60s, having been trapped in domestic slavery for 37 years. The youngest was just three months old.

So how does Hope for Justice help? The organisation is made up of world-class specialists with the skills and experience to help end this crime, including:

- **Investigators**
- **Multilingual outreach workers (we currently have 17 different languages interpreters)**
- **Legal experts helping put the perpetrators behind bars**
- **Nurses**
- **Social workers**
- **Benefits experts**
- **Therapists**



When I first became involved with Hope for Justice I thought, naively, it was all about rescuing people from awful circumstances... then on to the next one. But when people have been degraded, abused and threatened for years, it's restoration that is desperately needed and can take years to help people overcome trauma.

Much of what happens is hidden in plain sight so an important part of Hope for Justice's work is training people to spot the signs of slavery – being able to spot the signs and know what to do could make a life-changing difference.

It is estimated that there are 40.3 million people trapped in slavery worldwide, with approximately 136,000 in the UK. When you hear these numbers of people trapped in exploitation and the stories of individual suffering, it's hard not to be stunned and overwhelmed. But these people don't need our tears they need us to stand with them. They need us to use what we have to change their situations and lives.

Traffickers are getting up at 4am to drop broken men off at factories for 20-hour shifts, day in, day out. Pimps will be standing on street corners all night to find 'customers'. These people are not staying at home and watching television: they are relentless and our passion to fight them must be just as relentless.

Hope for Justice wants to create a rescue network, leaving perpetrators nowhere to hide, finding every victim suffering in silence. We believe freedom is worth the fight. We believe justice is non-negotiable. We challenge apathy with action. We choose to greet cynicism with hope, and we refuse to abandon the least, the last and the lost.

(Ed: Joy Liddle's talk was much appreciated at the LCCA AGM. The LCCA have donated to this worthy cause)

A Winter Wildflower Walk

Margaret Campion

On a lovely mild November afternoon, I ventured out onto the new footpath on the eastern side of the new Eastern Bypass, the stretch between Wragby Road roundabout and the turn off for Greetwell Road.

I walked over the Horse Bridge and turned right onto the new path, past what will one day be a lagoon and which is fenced off and inaccessible to pedestrians. Then I turned through a gate and onto a tarmac path with a farm track beside. I walked about 500-600 yards and suddenly the east or left-hand verge began to bristle with

flowers - cornflowers and poppies first attracted my notice and as I walked, I saw corn cockles, pink & white clover, rather grubby mayweed, hawkspit and various small purple thistles. There were clumps of white campion and lots of a fluffy purple plant which I later identified as Fiddleneck or blue tansy or more correctly as Phacelia. There were even a few yellow daisies which looked as if they should have been sunflowers but never made the required size being too short & stubby!

It was such a surprise and I discovered that the footpath / cycle path runs all

the way to Sleaford but there is another bridge over the bypass at the Greetwell roundabout where there is a path on the western side which leads straight back to my starting point. This would be too far for me and anyway, there is no wildflower verge on that side to cheer the homeward route so I simply retraced my footsteps and enjoyed the flowers.

For more energetic walkers and cyclists, at the third junction it is possible to cycle down to the Witham water rail route and continue to cycle to – I am told – as far as Boston – but that is definitely not an option for me!



