

A Verger's view of the Christmas Market

The smell of hot sand and wax. The blue haze filling the building. The sound of shuffling feet as hundreds of people walk around. It must be the Christmas Market.

Through the course of the weekend, many thousands of people pass through the cathedral. Most, it has to be said, come in to get out of the cold and to have a sit down or just because the cathedral is here and everyone else is coming in. But, once inside, they can sit in the (relative) warmth and let the busyness of the day drain away. Most would claim quite openly not to be church-goers or believers, but all feel the wonder of the place and the lighting of a candle fulfils a need in them.

Candles – how they dominate the Christmas Market! We have extra sand trays, but it is still a full-time job to try and keep them clear of the burnt-out stubs. If we don't, the whole surface of the sand can ignite which looks dramatic but isn't to be recommended. We can get through 3 or 4 barrows of sand and box after box of candles. We, and the volunteers who so nobly help us, go home with aching backs and burnt fingers.



As we deal with all the extra visitors, the daily round of services continues. Morning Prayer isn't affected as it is too early. The 12.30 Holy Communion may have a few extra members of the congregation and is not as peaceful as it usually is. Prayers at 3 o'clock become a short, well-attended carol service and at 5.30, Evensong is replaced by the service of carols and candles, when the nave can be full. As the lights are dimmed for this service the Cathedral falls silent for the first time all day.

And who doesn't feel a shiver of anticipation as the Chorister sings 'Once in Royal David's city'? This might well be the only experience of church that many of this congregation have over Christmas, so it is important to get it right and there is an uplifting feeling as people sing the familiar words in candlelight and then pour out of the Great West Door.

So, what makes a successful Christmas Market? Money in the boxes, obviously. Good attendance at the services. No lost children. No one setting fire to themselves or having any other kind of accident. But maybe the best thing is when somebody visits in the summer and says, 'We came to the Christmas Market and just had to come back again to see the Cathedral properly'.

A Verger.

Farewell to Will Harrison, Chapter Clerk



Will has been associated with the cathedral and the diocese for more than 25 years, from beginning as a choral scholar in 1996 to becoming Chapter Clerk in 2017. He has been a valued member of the Community Association committee and prepared this newsletter for publication for 10

years, for which we are very grateful.

Moving on to manage a private estate in Suffolk came as no surprise when we learnt of Will's background in farming and a Master's degree in Estate Management, which he added to his degree in Christian Studies and a Master's in Investigative Journalism.

His many happy memories of Lincoln include waving to the late Queen on Maundy Thursday, singing in the choir

for the King when he was Prince Charles and being filmed in the choir for 'Napoleon'. But he says that the best memory has to be an evening choral mass when it is dark outside because there is just so much atmosphere in the cathedral.

In his spare time Will has been growing Christmas trees for 7 years and currently has around 7000 on land near Spalding. The tree outside the cathedral shop is one of his. He is also a keen motor cyclist and regularly volunteers with the Lincolnshire Emergency Blood Bikes Service delivering urgent medical items during out-of-hours shifts.

Will has been in Lincoln for a long time and says he will very much miss the cathedral and so many people but he is looking forward to a new and exciting challenge.

Thank you, Will, for all you have done for the cathedral, the diocese, the LCCA and InHouse. We wish you and your family every success and happiness in your new venture.

Musical Notes at Christmas

Christmas is usually the busiest time of year for our Music Department and I caught up with our Master of the Choristers, Aric Prentice, in late November, a few days after the magnificent performance of Messiah. He agreed that the choir would indeed be challenged over the coming weeks as, in addition to singing at their usual seven services every week, they had numerous extra services in front of them including the Advent Carol Service, the opening of the Christmas Market and the five services and concerts over that weekend, Carols by Candlelight, the Ceremony of Carols, two major services on December 23 and 24 as well as Midnight Mass and those on Christmas Day. In addition, there would be five performances of "The Snowman" which required five different soloists. This is such a popular event that the online tickets were sold out in 40 minutes!

All of this takes a great deal to organise and puts huge demands on the voices of the choir. They certainly need the two weeks break after Christmas for their vocal cords to recover.

A complicated diagram in the Song School's office shows the complex system needed to ferry the children to and from the cathedral from their 17 different schools. At the moment the choir consists of 19 girl choristers and 16 boys with three basses in the back row, four tenors and three altos. The recruitment of new youngsters is a challenge and Aric has encouraged the existing children to bring a friend to Even-song on the 8th and 9th December in the hope of attracting more talent. He pointed out that there is a huge gap in the choristers' learning as they lost nearly 18 months due to the pandemic and that the children are faced with music that is often unfamiliar to them.

Nevertheless, there is still much for the choristers to enjoy. A highlight for many of them is Messiah and they are also looking forward to the St John Passion. At Christmas the adults will be having a party whilst the youngsters will be given pizzas as a treat.

There are also exciting plans for the future. 4th July 2023 marks the 400-year anniversary of William Byrd's death and a 5-day festival of his music is planned, including a series of lectures.



A second Jazz Festival is also on the cards and it is interesting to note that we are the only English cathedral to hold one. Meanwhile, during the relatively relaxing weeks of this new year, we hope that the members of the choir enjoy their break and that their vocal cords are given plenty of time to recover. As a member of the congregation, I am very grateful to them and wish to thank the whole music department for the wonderful joy they give us.

Judi Jones

Christmas in the Cathedral shop

Christmas preparation for us begins very early in the year with the first trade shows in January and February where the new lines for the coming year are shown. We try and look for gifts which are a little bit different or appeal to a sense of tradition. This year that included some new crystal hanging decorations and old-fashioned games.



Once we have placed our orders, our thoughts turn to our bespoke lines such as the Lincoln Cathedral Christmas baubles and Christmas card, both of which must be approved by the Dean and Chapter. This year the card featured the choir and there were two designs for the Christmas bauble: one gold with an image of the cathedral and chapter house in the snow, the other pearlescent blue and featuring the restaurant. The baubles are hand-painted so ordering early is essential to ensure delivery in good time. Around May and June, we discuss our needs for the year with our local suppliers, including Donna Evans for her beautiful glassware and No.12 Chocolaterie from Kirton Lindsey for their sweets and chocolates, and we look over the new lines they are planning.

We will also be deciding our theme for decorating the shop, liaising with our Christmas decoration supplier for styles and arranging delivery and installation.

We generally begin receiving Christmas stock around July. Most of this is stored for later in the year, however, our bespoke lines tend to be much sought after and therefore go on sale as soon as we receive them. Many visitors over the summer buy the calendars, baubles and branded Lincoln Cathedral items either as souvenirs or as presents so it is important that we have them out early.

Once we are through the summer holidays and into September, we generally begin to display our Christmas lines, a few initially, then building up our Christmas displays as the month proceeds. There will be new flavours of jams and marmalades and we introduce chutneys and mustards for the season.

After the October half term holiday is when we really start to get into the Christmas swing ready for our Preview evening in November. Regular, local customers appreciate the 15% discount offered that evening as well as the complementary gift-wrapping, although that can be available all year round if the staff are not busy. Local suppliers bring in samples of their ranges for tasting and this year saw the launch of the Dean's Eye gin from the Lincoln Distillery: a blend which has been specially made up for the cathedral. Non-alcoholic drinks included tea and coffee from the Lincoln Tea and Coffee Company and a delicious range from the Original Cake company.

Carols from the choir and the floodlit cathedral against the Winter sky create a wonderful, seasonal atmosphere; Christmas for us has well and truly begun.

David Cooper



Bells and Bell ringing

Bells and bell ringing are another important part of Christmas preparation in the cathedral, but, sadly, you will never hear the merry notes of 'Jingle Bells' ring out from the cathedral West tower. Why? Because there would be gaps in the tune whilst each bell turns over. You will see the hand bell ringers during the Christmas Market ringing carols but that is because the hand bell clapper just 'taps' the sides of the bell, it does not 'turn over' as the big bells do.

All bell ringing, whether hand bells or church bells, is a team effort: the first bell begins, the second follows and so on. These are called 'methods' and are a mathematical progression. The bells are rung in certain progressions so changes don't repeat themselves. A full peal is 5040 changes and takes about three hours, although the 12 bells in the cathedral take a bit longer.

Les Townsend was 'Master of the Companie of Ringers' at the cathedral from 1991 – 2014 but he has been ringing since 1948. He was ringing for the coronation of our late queen in 1953 and very much hopes to ring again for King Charles' coronation next year. He started ringing on the bells of Long Buckby church in Northamptonshire, where he grew up, and regularly rang at six churches in the surrounding villages. In 1953 he rang on Coronation Day at all six churches dashing between each on his motorbike!

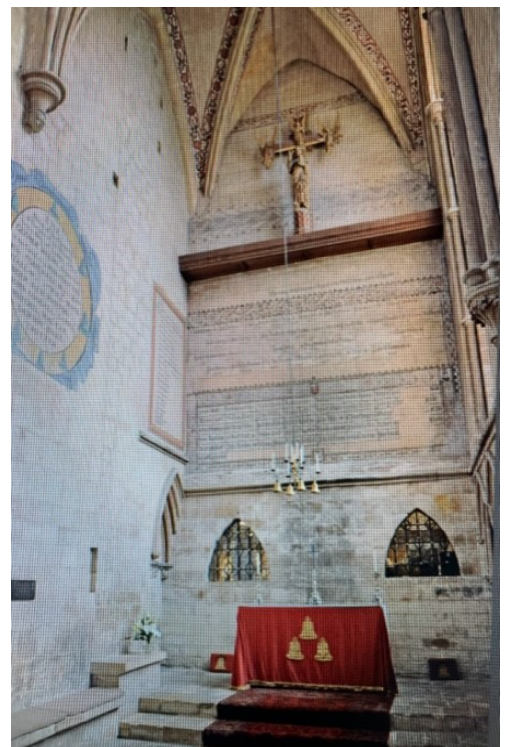
Ringling is a very friendly hobby; you are part of a band and everyone helps the new ringer to understand the bells and to gain in confidence. It helps if you have a reasonably good head for heights and are fit enough to climb spiral staircases and – in some cases – creep through low doors or wobble along narrow paths far up above the congregation. The latter does not apply to our bells but 'visiting' is a great part of being a ringer, providing the opportunity to ring at all kinds of out-of-the-way churches with some hair-raising stories of clambering around towers and turrets! Sadly (but perhaps wisely) the dreaded H&S regulations have curtailed some of the bell ringers more adventurous activities!

One rather sad regulation which affects the ringing in all churches is the restrictions imposed on 'muffling' the ring. A muffle is a leather pad strapped onto one side of the clapper ball making the bell sound quiet on one stroke and its normal volume on the other. This is used traditionally at New Year when the custom was to muffle the bells as midnight approached, then rest for long enough for the Master and an assistant to shin up to the bells, remove the muffles and be down in time for the joyful, full peel at midnight. H&S now only permits muffling or muffle removal when the bells are not raised for ringing, making it very time-consuming.

Partial muffling was permitted to announce the death of HM Queen Elizabeth, muffle removal for the Proclamation of King Charles, then muffle again for the funeral of the Queen.

The Ringers' Chapel in the cathedral has restricted opening but when it is open, do go inside. It is a beautiful chapel and a key feature is the names of all the Masters of Ringers inscribed on the east wall, from the 17th century up to 2014; a long line of men who rang the bells down the ages to the glory of God.

Margaret Campion



From the Lay Vice Chair

Christmas is here and InHouse has articles reflecting the many aspects of Christmas as it affects our teams of dedicated staff and volunteers - from the Vergers to the Music Department and the Cathedral Shop. We hope that all our visitors to the Cathedral during the Christmas season will glimpse some of the wonder and awe of the Nativity of Christ through our magnificent building and the beauty of our worship and liturgy.

In this edition you can read about the Cathedral's education team, the bell-ringers, and the activities of the Community Association. We bid a fond farewell to Chapter Clerk, Will Harrison, and explore some of the lesser-known facts about the Cathedral.

Thanks, as ever, to the editorial team for another packed edition of InHouse, and thank you to all our readers for your support of Lincoln Cathedral.

Wishing you a happy and blessed Christmas and New Year.

Simon Crookall

Emergency Services Chapel

The central chapel in the south transept has been known since 1837 as the Guilds' chapel. It is dedicated to St John the Evangelist and was specifically for those who worshipped in the cathedral. It was founded by Henry Lexington (later Bishop of Lincoln 1254-1258), when he was Dean of Lincoln in 1245-1254. The chapel retains its original medieval screen and contains a number of burials including possibly Bishop Dalderby who may have been reburied here after his tomb in the south transept was desecrated.

In October 2022 the chapel was renamed the Emergency Services chapel representing the Fire, Police, Ambulance and NHS in recognition for all the hard work and support given by them to the community during the covid pandemic. A service of rededication by the Bishop of Grantham was held in the south transept with representatives from all four services attending, together with the cathedral needleworkers.

The inspiration of Tanya Lord, police chaplain, former chief constable, Bill Skelly, and in consultation with the other emergency services, a chapel has been created that is ready to serve the whole community.

Four shields representing the emergency services, made by Toni Watts, illuminator and formerly artist in residence, are on the east wall of the chapel.

The embroidered altar frontal in the newly dedicated Emergency Services chapel was made by the cathedral needlework guild. The needlework guild is a team of seven volunteers who work in the building formerly known as 'The Rest' on the corner of Eastgate and Priorygate. They meet weekly on Tuesday mornings.

It has taken several of the embroiderers two years to make and is on ivory damask fabric. Jane Drummond designed the frontal and embroidered the centrally placed gold cross in a basket weave stitch using imitation Japanese's gold thread (Jap.)

The horizontal band across the top, known as a super frontal, contains four emblems representing the Police, Fire, Ambulance and NHS services. The oil pot and gold coins (bezants) represent the Good Samaritan and the stars are symbolic of compassion and knowledge.

During the preparation of the piece the team were visited and interviewed by TV presenter Nick Knowles and included in his Heritage Rescue TV series.

Julia Welch



LCCA AGM

The Lincoln Cathedral Community Association Annual General Meeting, held on Monday 14th November 2022 in the Chapter House, was preceded by coffee, after which the Chancellor opened the meeting with a prayer.

After the apologies and acceptance of the 2021 AGM minutes, the Dean summarised key highlights of the previous 12 months. These included the opening of the new Cathedral Centre, the Flower Festival, the musical production of the Hunchback of Notre Dame and the Moon exhibit. Live streaming of services, including the outstanding music provided by the choir, had been enhanced by the installation of fixed audio and video facilities in both the Nave and the St Hugh's Choir. Community partnerships had continued with a significant donation to the Nomad Trust, contributions to the Community Larder and local foodbanks and the provision of a warm rail.

A Governance review had been conducted, the new Strategic Direction 2022-2027 was in the process of being finalised and the Dean took the attendees through the key points.

Reports from the officers of the Executive Committee followed, led by Simon Crookall as Lay Vice Chair. He thanked David Ford, Prue Chadderton and Margaret Campion whose term of office on the Executive committee had ended and whose contribution to the smooth running of the LCCA was very much appreciated. Three new Executive Committee members were elected unanimously: Judi Jones, Linda Jones and Theresa Moses; Shirley Finneran was co-opted as Deanery Synod representative.

The Dean commended the committee members for a resurgence of energy within the LCCA by bringing the worshipping community support to the life of the cathedral. She thanked Simon Crookall for his enthusiasm, David Ford for his 6 years as Treasurer and Andrea Paterson as Secretary before closing the meeting with the Grace.

Andrea Paterson

Harvest Supper



Well, it was the time of year for celebrating all that is safely gathered in, and we had much to be grateful for at the LCCA Harvest Supper, the second since we came out of lockdown, and held in the Chapter House towards the end of October.

The supper was well attended, and once we had all settled in our seats, we were entertained by the Rye Sisters, whose music was an entertaining mix of traditional folk and blue grass music. Simon said grace and the meal began. The food for the evening was provided by Kieron from the Cathedral Cafe, and was cottage pie with fresh vegetables, creamy mashed potatoes and gravy. Our second course was apple crumble with custard; all very tasty.



It was great to be able to spend time with the members and guests of the LCCA, a chance to mix and chat, and for me, being a newcomer, being able to get to know more people. During the evening there were a couple of quiz sheets to get our 'little grey cells' working. The Sisters sang to us between courses and then, towards the end, accompanied us as we sang some old favourite songs. The tables were beautifully decorated and looked very festive with a harvest colour scheme. We were invited to take the table flowers home for a small donation to a charity that is supporting the Ukraine at this very difficult time; our hearts go out to them in their time of conflict.

Donations of tins and packets were gratefully received from all who came and were passed on to our local food bank. Many thanks to all who contributed.



We all enjoyed the entertainment from the Rye Sisters and I asked them how they had decided to become performers. They said that they first met when working at the same school but eventually went their different ways although they kept in touch as they developed their repertoire. After some years they decided to seek places to perform as they both live on the outskirts of Lincoln.

All too soon the evening drew to a close, and as people were leaving, they said how much they had enjoyed the event.

Many thanks to all who organised the Harvest Supper.

Linda Jones

Congratulations, Melanie Weatherley MBE!



Congratulations to Melanie, who was awarded MBE in the New Year's Honours list of 2020, for her services to social care across Lincolnshire.

Covid lockdown sadly put paid to a visit to Buckingham Palace but Melanie was wearing her outfit for the palace when she finally received the award from the Lord Lieutenant at a much-delayed ceremony in the Chapter House, witnessed by her family and many friends.

Here in the cathedral, Melanie has, of course, been working with the younger members of our congregation for some years now. She began when her own daughter was in the Sunday School and she noticed that the young lady taking it, Meredith, had very little support. Her offer of help was welcomed, then, as time went on and Meredith moved on, Melanie stepped in and began running the sessions.

The Sunday School is open to all young people, regular congregants and visitors alike. Previously, choristers not taking part in the service would come too and join in the fun. There are welcoming prayers, stories to be heard and craft items to be made, which usually fit in with the Gospel reading for that week, so the Sunday School follows the church year.

The numbers fluctuate weekly, and at present there is an enthusiastic bunch of younger children, but older children are welcome too, so grandparents are also invited to bring grandchildren along. Melanie said that one of the best things about her involvement with the Sunday School was watching youngsters having fun and developing their faith.

The plan for the next weeks is to prepare for the Advent season, leading into Christmas. A time of excitement for all children, whatever their age.

If you would like to join the Sunday School, or know someone who would like to, please speak to Melanie on a Sunday morning.

Linda Jones

Lincoln Cathedral lighting scheme

The new Lincoln Cathedral lighting scheme was commissioned to replace the previous system installed in the 1970's for the Queen's Silver Jubilee. Using the best technology available at the time, it threw a solid orange glow onto the higher levels of the building and up into the sky around the cathedral. The new scheme of 2020, installed as part of the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) Connected project, uses LED lighting designed to specifically highlight all aspects and details of the cathedral fabric. The new ground level floodlights illuminate the lower levels of the building, while clerestories and towers are now furnished with lighting rigs to provide independent lighting on a remote programmer to the higher levels of the cathedral. Additionally, new software means that the lighting can now be sequenced to various timings and an infinite colour palette.

Not only does the cathedral look amazing, but the new technology also significantly reduces the energy cost compared to the aged system. Most importantly it has provided an opportunity for the cathedral to communicate with the city on liturgical dates, keynote remembrance dates for charities and general celebrations. Over the Advent period the cathedral is lit purple for the duration, St Barnabas day is yellow and blue, Remembrance day is red and so on. The cathedral supports charity requests for significant anniversary dates by illuminating the cathedral in dedicated colours or sequences and reaching out to the community through social media channels and articles to inform them of the meaning.

We hope the new illumination of the cathedral, so prominent and dignified, provides continued reassurance and inspiration for the county's community.

Michael Sheppard

'Lincoln Cathedral: Insights and Explanations'

Thousands of pilgrims, tourists, scholars, worshippers, staff, volunteers, browsers, seekers of peace and tranquillity and the just curious enter Lincoln Cathedral during the year, and most want to discover more about this amazing building which has such a huge "Wow factor" whenever they arrive.

September saw the launch of Lynne Broughton's book, *'Lincoln Cathedral: Insights and Explanations'* and those of us who bought a copy found they had a treasure in their hands! Many people have found Lynne's earlier book, *'Interpreting Lincoln Cathedral'* (1996) exceedingly useful, and I am entranced by the development of that slim volume into a work which is even more fascinating and informative. Her 26 years of further research has given us a much greater interest and depth of enjoyment than certainly I anticipated.

In her preamble Lynne makes clear that any interpretation of such a building requires the resources of more than one scholarly discipline, and acknowledges her own Christian faith, research into theology, history, art history, literature and music. She also affirms the help and support received from past and present Cathedral staff, the Dean and current Chapter members, historians Nicholas and Carol Bennet, librarian Julie Taylor and curator Fern Dawson. Particular tribute is paid to our verger/photographer, Jim Newton; his wonderful images add so much to the text. Yet another reminder that a very multi-talented bunch of people have continued to contribute to the story of our cathedral over the centuries.

The book is very user-friendly, both a fascinating read or an instant source of information on a particular area. Starting the journey of exploration at Exchequer Gate, visitors are encouraged to note the roof bosses: the ones on the north side showing the way into the precinct and those on the south, the way out again. Once inside the precinct and faced with the West Front of the cathedral, many dramatic stories from history, Old and New Testaments, up to present day events are revealed in stone and explained in detail.

Lynne then takes the reader on a walk all around the exterior of the building, drawing attention to the many individual carvings such as the Swineherd of Stow, St. Hugh, the crown celebrating the late Queen's Diamond Jubilee, numerous animal faces depicting lust, anger, greed, and many good and virtuous folk and musicians, some of whom are representative of former staff employed at the cathedral.

Once entered through one of the side west doors, (the great middle doors traditionally only being used for processions and ceremonial occasions) the author points out the breadth, height and harmony of the design and the feeling of forward movement. Somehow, she conveys a feeling of pilgrimage rather than just tourism. Despite the absence of the vivid colouring present in mediaeval times, justifiable recognition is given to the light from the sides and above.

She uses George Herbert's poem *'The Windows'* to perfectly illustrate the influence of Bible Stories in stained glass.

Many readers will give a wry smile when reading the section about St. Hugh's Choir, described as an area screened off to form an almost separate church. Lynne comments that mediaeval pilgrims seem to have behaved in a manner not unlike some modern visitors; so anxious were they to see all the sights that they were more boisterous than clergy and the more devout would have wished! Screens allowed peace and some privacy but wonderful sounds could still be heard and enjoyed beyond the Choir boundaries.

The details of all the carvings, in wood and stone, sacred and secular, playful and theological, together with their meanings and purpose are wonderfully explained to the reader and beautifully illustrated in the sketches, paintings and photos used to reveal so much about this sacred space.

"No words can do justice to the consummate beauty of the Angel Choir" is the phrase from Lynne's book that leads into the two chapters devoted to the Angel Choir.



This includes the Sanctuary, High Altar, the angels in the spandrels, the Easter Sepulchre, St. Hugh's Shrine, Gilbertine Pots, the iconic statue of Mary, many chapels and, of course, the Lincoln Imp and a lot more besides! So much detailed interpretation of this area is given that it really has to be read in full to be appreciated. I particularly liked Lynne's comment:

"The carvings in the Angel Choir are a reminder that the cathedral was built to be full of colour and movement, but above all, music".

She reminds us that in so many ways, the Angel Choir reinforces the notion that the cathedral is built to link our earthly lives with those of the angels and archangels and the whole Company of Heaven. Look at it with fresh eyes when you next go in!

Any building with a history going back more than 900 years has much to be recalled and pondered, so it is not surprising then that a chapter near the end of Lynne's book is entitled 'Remembrance'. Over the generations hundreds of individuals who have made great and small contributions to the world, Lincoln and our cathedral are commemorated with elaborate memorials, whole chapels or simple plaques, some of which have survived since the twelfth century. Inevitably those who entered the building, intent on destruction, theft and desecration have left a different kind of memorial but readers are reminded that they too have their place in the overall story.

There is much benefit to be had by taking another walk, with book in hand, looking at and reading about such



items as the Tree of Jesse, the statue of Edward King, the Russell Chantry, memorials to Katherine Swynford, Eleanor of Castille and so on.

Lincoln Cathedral has experienced many changes in building styles, religious belief and practices, but much has been left intact. This book, a work of enlightenment and inspiration, is an added joy to its many treasures. I certainly thank Lynne Broughton for writing it and for all the research, scholarship and Christian faith she shares with her readers. Buy, borrow or beg a copy and discover it for yourself!

Without doubt a wonderful read on a winter afternoon, in a warm spot, with a cup of tea to hand!

Doreen Boughton

What A Performance!

Last September, Lincoln Choral Society, some choral scholars, Mark Wilde and Ed Wellman, began work on a piece of music by modern composer, Jonathan Dove. I have sung his 'Seek Him That Maketh the Seven Stars' as an anthem but 'There was a Child' is very different indeed. I can honestly say I have never worked on a piece which held so many difficulties. As a member of LCS with Verdi's Requiem, Britten's Requiem, Bach Passions and cantatas, and many other pieces under my belt, this was a real challenge.

It is a setting of many varied pieces of poetry, and we had to negotiate changes of beats in a bar, a new beat almost every bar, many key changes, off beat entries, and much more. We were brilliantly prepared by our extremely experienced conductor, Mark Wilde, and his super accompanist Ed Wellman, ex-chorister of this cathedral. We also had wonderful support from several choral scholars; good to have young voices and faces among us and a pleasure to have them along.

We battled on, week by week, taking all problems by the scruff of their collective neck, phrase by offbeat phrase, crotchet by crotchet. Ed took some rehearsals on his own and battled with the fiendishly problematic accompaniment.

Finally, we were boarding a bus for Scunthorpe for a joint rehearsal with our sister choir from Scunthorpe, then performance. Seated in the blissfully warm concert hall, we faced an auditorium and the ranks of the Lindsey Chamber Orchestra and were behind two junior choirs: one from William Farr, home of three of our choristers, and the Scunthorpe Co-operative Junior choir.

The rehearsal was deeply heartening as the outstanding orchestra brought to life an orchestral accompaniment which suddenly made deep and heart-warming sense of the music we had struggled with. The veils of darkness pulled back to reveal a sunlit music-scape which more than made artistic sense of the music and words at last.

Adrian Partington, our conductor, drew a fine performance from all. He was full of humour and had the children so correct.

So, "Bravo All" and thanks to Mark and Ed, wonderful orchestra and conductor, it was an evening of joy. The composer was there and was delighted with the whole show. After the applause with a standing ovation had died down, Jonathon Dove thanked everyone for 'such a special performance.'

Micky Philp

Schools' Education Programme

It is a real joy and a privilege to be part of the learning team at Lincoln Cathedral. Since we opened the learning centre a year ago, we have welcomed over 7,000 pupils through the door. Together with myself and my colleague Emma Bloys, we have a wonderful dedicated small team of Learning Volunteers who bring so much in terms of their skills, experience and enthusiasm. We simply couldn't manage without them.

The £16m National Lottery Heritage Fund received by Lincoln Cathedral was a real gamechanger for education, particularly for school visits. The new learning centre consists of separate school toilets, coats & bags storage and a warm, bright flexible classroom that has endless uses for school groups and family holiday events, as well as a secure and convenient lunchroom.

The school's education programme is intentionally very hands-on, immersive and experiential. We all learn through experiencing, and children have endless curiosity which we like to encourage and expand no matter what age or ability. Through drama, themed arts & crafts, debate and role-play, pupils have the opportunity to learn and reflect on the wonders of Lincoln Cathedral. The 'wow' factor of the building is immediate, but then there's so much more to discover. Our tours are themed to the learning outcomes of the group and children are encouraged to ask questions – and they do ask the best, most challenging questions!

No visit is complete without a Cathedral tour. All pupils learn from our welcome introductions that this is a living, working Christian place of worship. Sometimes surprisingly, this is something people are not aware of. It is our job to teach this important message, whether groups are here to study RE, history, art, science or any other reason. Our school brochure includes 15 different workshops with a wide range of flexible activities suitable for Early Years up to Year 11's.

We were very fortunate to receive a Sandford Award in 2020 for the schools' programme and new learning centre facilities. This is a prestigious national award for quality and excellence in heritage education and our



feedback from pupils and teachers tells us that we are providing a service that is valued and appreciated. See a recent example below.

The **Discovery Centre** was designed as a 'hands-on' exhibition for families as part of the visitor offer. It is intended to explain in an engaging and immersive way, why the Cathedral is so magnificent – for the glory of God. It has three main themes: Faith, Arts & Architecture, and Power of the Word. I also designed it with school visits in mind, and as with all the work we do with schools, it is carefully linked to the Locally Agreed RE Syllabus and the national curriculum. The Discovery Centre is a wonderful additional resource for school groups. It has proven to be as popular with adults as with children. We also use the wonderful Exhibition Gallery and newly interpreted Treasury whenever appropriate.

In the world of education, nothing stands still, and we are always looking at new ways to inspire and teach more about Lincoln Cathedral. It was a delight to work with local schools producing an exhibition inspired by the Romanesque Frieze this year, thanks to funding from the John Dauber Trust. This gave pupils an opportunity to learn about vital heritage skills and, for us, an opportunity to work together with the stonemasonry team. Some of these children and their parents had never visited the Cathedral before.

If you haven't had a chance to see all the new facilities yet, do please get in touch: sally.bleasdale@lincolncathedral.com It will be a pleasure to show you around this very special place.

Please comment further below:

AMAZING.
Such an engaging day, where the children learn so much while having a great time.

2. Please comment on your pupils' enjoyment and understanding during the visit
"Best Trip ever."
"Can we come back everyday?"

3. How has the visit contributed to your teaching of the topic/s?
Seeing a place of worship.
Compare and contrast the church.
linked to cultural capital.

4. Would you return to the Cathedral with your school? If so, what subject would you like to cover next time?
Yes. Would like every year group to visit.
Symbols session looked great.

5. What is special about a visit to the Cathedral that you wouldn't get elsewhere?
Working and learning in a place of worship.

Volunteer Evening



The cathedral has an amazing 600-plus names on its list of volunteers, although, post Covid, not all are currently active. Without these dedicated people who give their time and their talents to it, the cathedral could not function and they were all invited to the Volunteer Evening at the end of October. The evening is an opportunity to say thank you to the volunteers, to formally acknowledge their contribution and reaffirm how valued and valuable they are. It is also an opportunity to bring volunteers together and meet others whom they would otherwise never see. During the evening they can meet the staff and the staff can meet them. The staff serve the refreshments as a small gesture towards the volunteers to show how much they are appreciated and as a reminder that the staff are there to support them. The Dean confirmed this in a short speech of thanks.

The evening began with Evensong led by the Precentor and dedicated to the volunteers. Volunteers were specifically mentioned during the service and thanked. However, there was no obligation to attend Evensong; volunteers are invited to both the service and the party and it's up to them whether they attend one or both. This year there was a good turn out and several people commented on the lovely service.

Wine, soft drinks, hot drinks and canapés were provided from the café, with all diets catered for. At the end of the evening volunteer 'goodie bags' were distributed containing a few chocolates to take home.

The Dean gave a warm welcome to volunteers at the reception and had compiled a list of all the different volunteering teams represented, demonstrating the breadth of skills on offer. Timewise, volunteers can do as much or as little as they want and people of all abilities are very welcome. Anyone can come, the cathedral aiming to be as fully inclusive for its volunteers as for its visitors. Some teams are very big, for example, stewards and guides; some are very small, such as the polishers and gardeners. Some teams have a lot of interaction with visitors, as the guides do, others less so, such as the needleworkers; other volunteers work with staff to offer admin support in the back room. Kate is always very happy to chat to people about volunteering opportunities and there are currently vacancies in most areas.

The annual Volunteer Evening is a very important event for both the volunteers and the cathedral staff, evidenced by the support for the event from volunteers and senior leaders, including the Dean, the Chancellor, the Precentor and the Chapter Clerk. The date for September next year is already pencilled in. Maybe you will be there?

Elaine Johnson and Kate Taylor

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 28th February 2023 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. The link to InHouse is published in the chapter letter when it is produced and also on the cathedral website under 'Latest News'.

We are very grateful for permission from Jim Newton to use many of his beautiful photographs of the cathedral in this edition of InHouse. Thank you, Jim. The editorial team.

From Pub to Pulpit; Turning Folk songs into Hymns

Born 150 years ago, the composer Ralph Vaughan Williams travelled throughout Britain during his life, collecting and preserving the words and music of over 800 traditional folk songs. Some of these he recycled into well-known hymns, and it was principally these hymns which were being remembered and celebrated in our cathedral in a wonderful and varied evening of music on 8th October.

The evening started with the combined voices of our cathedral choir and the Cathedral Chorale performing works by Vaughan Williams and works with a connection to him. Their impressive voices soaring through the nave captivated the rapt audience. The stage was then taken by the two folk groups who had started their tour of Vaughan Williams' music a week earlier in Exeter Cathedral. It was the first of a year's tour which will end next year at the Three Choirs Festival. 'Coracle' was first to perform, consisting of a clarinet player, an accordionist and a very versatile musician playing, amongst others, the viola da gamba and a Swedish stringed instrument called a nyckelharpa. She also possessed a beautiful voice.

'Coracle' was followed by 'Broomdasher', an engaging five-strong acapella group who ably performed several traditional songs.

The last part of the evening was arguably the best, fulfilling the name of the concert "From Pub to Pulpit". Firstly, 'Broomdasher' sang a traditional song, then 'Coracle' played a lively variation of it and finally, accompanied by the strains of the organ and conducted by Aric Prentice, the choirs and audience together sang the hymns which these melodies had inspired. A marvellous and unusual experience which everyone enjoyed.

Judi Jones, Margaret Campion

A nyckelharpa



The Royal Salute Concert. 24 November 2022.

This hugely enjoyable concert performed by the Band of the Royal Air Force College was a triumph! Over 500 people were present, and the cathedral was filled with inspirational music – I spoke to many people and all agreed it was one of the best performances of recent years.

BBC Radio Presenter Melvyn Prior was compere for the evening and between every piece he introduced either a bandsman or one of the organisers, all of whom had a special connection with the music performed – for example, one solo piece 'Vida la Vida' (Long Live Life) was played on the marimba by a bandsman from Northern Ireland whose mother had made a special journey to hear her son playing. Another solo euphonium performance was played by a corporal who had been a teacher for a number of years, before deciding that he loved the euphonium more than teaching and joined up to play professionally before it was too late!

The second half of the programme contained favourites such as 'The Dambusters March', 'Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines' and, of course, 'The Royal Air Force March Past'.

The performance was also enhanced by a changing kaleidoscope of ice-cream-coloured lights playing on the screen behind the platform – the colours softly merged to provide a delightful backdrop to this rousing evening. The standing ovation at the end was a tribute to the success of the performance.

Margaret Campion



The LCCA is very grateful to Andrew World of Andrew World Joinery — all aspects of joinery undertaken— for sponsoring a year's editions of InHouse so free, printed copies can still be provided. Andrew can be contacted on 0784 157 2622.