

inHouse

The Journal of the Lincoln Cathedral Community Association

A warm welcome to Canon Missioner: Revd. Rowena King

A very warm welcome to our new Canon Missioner, Canon Rowena King and her family. Rowena, originally from Brisbane, Australia, joined the cathedral staff in March.

She has a degree in Applied Science, Human Movement Studies: Education, from the University of Queensland, after which she travelled for a year. A particular interest in intentional Christian communities led her to include six weeks volunteering with the Iona community. Going back to Australia she worked for several years in outdoor education, eventually returning to Iona to run their outdoor centre on Mull. Life there was interesting and challenging. The centre is completely off grid: light came from candles, the toilet was fully compostable, provisions either came by boat or along a mile-long track in a wheelbarrow. A few years later, she returned for a further three years to run the MacLeod Centre on Iona, a centre with a particular emphasis on both young people, and peace and reconciliation work. It was as part of the Iona community that she met her husband, Malcolm, who was running the Abbey; they were co-wardens.

They returned to Australia together where Rowena became a lay school chaplain and considered her future options. Beginning her theological training, she gained a B. Theol. in Brisbane before the family, which now included their daughter, came back to the UK and she did her M. Theol. at Oxford. Ordained a Deacon in 2015, Rowena was priested a year later. Her curacy in Dursley, Gloucester, was followed as Rector in Bourton-on-the-Water. Always interested in cathedrals, Rowena's curacy placements was at Gloucester Cathedral, where she saw the huge opportunities for ministry there, hence her successful application to Lincoln.

Canon Missioner in Lincoln is new; an outward-facing role, supporting a two-way partnership with the city and county community and Rowena is looking for the opportunities which are opening up here and now. Already she is engaged with the council, university, industry and charities about the Climate Commission and environmental stewardship.



The Morning Chapel has been rearranged, increasing accessibility and enabling prayer in different ways. Bigger projects will be undertaken in due course.

Rowena says that she has been made very welcome and it is a real joy getting to know everyone. Given the numbers of people: staff, worshippers, volunteers and visitors, it's an ongoing process. She knows a lot of faces and is gradually learning their names. The family are also enjoying getting to know Lincolnshire, both city and county. They went to the recent Lincolnshire Show, they have been walking on the Wolds and over to the coast; there is lots more to discover.

Rowena feels that as a cathedral community, we have so much to offer. There is a ministry of welcome; it is a place for everyone, and it is about living that welcome on a daily basis. Rowena feels really privileged to be part of that next chapter here at Lincoln.

Rowena: we, in the cathedral community, are very pleased to have you with us and we hope that you and your family will be very happy here.

Elaine Johnson



Patrick Cormack, Baron Cormack of Enville (1939-2024)

In February this year we lost one of the most familiar faces in the Cathedral congregation. Lord Cormack attended choral evensong or evening prayer almost every day that his parliamentary duties enabled him to be in Lincoln, and he was a faithful member of the congregation for 8am communion on Sunday mornings, also taking part in the Litany at 7.45am, where he was frequently the only person present. He served as Deputy High Steward of the Cathedral. In London, Lord Cormack was a Warden of the Parliamentary Church, St Margaret's, Westminster from 1978 to 1990.

Born in Grimsby, Patrick Cormack graduated from Hull University and becoming a teacher. In 1970 he was elected MP for Cannock in Staffordshire. He served as a Conservative MP for 40 years and held a wide range of appointments, including Chair of the Northern Ireland Affairs Select Committee from 2005 to 2010 and Shadow Deputy Leader of the House under William Hague. He was knighted in 1995 and entered the House of Lords as Baron Cormack of Enville in the County of Staffordshire in 2010.

Patrick Cormack was a knowledgeable and dedicated historian, and was a Trustee of the Churches Preservation Trust from 1972 until his death. His contributions to the City of Lincoln included raising funds to re-house the Cathedral's copy of the *Magna Carta* in the Castle, and spearheading the campaign to save the Usher Gallery. He was a longstanding member of the Court of Lincoln University. Patrick Cormack wrote several books on subjects ranging from the history of Parliament, British castles, English cathedrals, and a book about William Wilberforce. His *Who's Who* entry lists his recreations as "fighting philistines, walking, visiting old churches and avoiding sitting on fences". Lord Cormack will be much missed by all of us at the Cathedral, and our deepest sympathies go to his widow, Mary and sons, Charles and Richard.

Simon Crookall

A word from the Editor

Welcome to the Summer edition of InHouse. Our latest edition is packed full of interesting articles about the history of the Cathedral and the people who work and volunteer here. Although we are currently in "ordinary time" – the season of Trinity - this is still a place that is full of activity: services, concerts and more. We have stories about all aspects of our community, including social events, the education team, the Works department and news from around the diocese and from Synod.

As we welcome our Canon Missioner, the Revd Canon Rowena King, and we look forward to the arrival of our new Dean, the Revd Canon Dr Simon Jones in September, we also say goodbye to some well-known faces: Lord Patrick Cormack and Paul Pumphrey.

We are all fortunate to be a part of this amazing and inspirational place, where we become closer to God, make friends, and contribute to the well-being of the community. I hope that you will find encouragement within these pages to become more involved in our magnificent cathedral.

My thanks, as always, to our devoted team of writers and editors: Elaine Johnson, Margaret Campion and Judi Jones, together with the many others who have contributed.

Simon Crookall

The Lay Canons of the Lincoln Cathedral.

We were very sad to hear of the recent death of Paul Pumphrey, a retired lay canon of the cathedral. Very well liked and highly respected for his knowledge and experience, he was one of the first four lay canons to be installed in November 2000 and our deepest sympathies go to his wife and family.

Paul's demise led me to recollect that the appointment of lay canons to all cathedrals is relatively new. In the later years of the 20th century, it was decided that the management of our great cathedrals needed an overhaul and a commission chaired by Baroness Howe of Idlicote was appointed to look into the matter and thus 'The Cathedral Measures' were introduced. In practice (in lay-person terms) this meant that an equal number of lay persons to residentiary clergy should be appointed to Dean and Chapter to give both a voice to members of the cathedral community and to provide a variety of financial, building, architectural, practical and commercial skills not usually found in the job descriptions of most clergymen and women. The first four lay canons at Lincoln were, therefore, practising members of the Church of England and professional people in their own right.

Lay canons are appointed by the Bishop following recommendations from the Dean and Chapter. The terms of office are for three years with the possibility of a further three years; they attend monthly Chapter meetings and then additional meetings if called upon to advise on specific areas of their own expertise. They have equal voting rights with the residentiary canons and are, of course, unpaid and entirely voluntary workers. It is not a sinecure and they do a great deal of work – all in their own time.

It is clear that the appointment of lay canons has greatly helped the management of these huge and vastly expensive buildings, which were built so many centuries ago with no idea of the problems of upkeep and restoration which would be needed in the future. So, my thanks, at least, to our present lay canons; may they and their successors keep our cathedral running safely for many more centuries.

Margaret Campion with help and advice from Mr. N.F. Hackett, Lay Canon of Welton Rivehall, 2000 to 2006.



Breakfast on Ascension Day

Several people attended the early Ascension Day Eucharist at 7am and, afterwards, enjoyed 'breaking their fast' together around the beautiful, 5000-year-old, black oak 'Table for the Nation'. The menu was simple: fruit juice, croissants, brioche rolls and tea or coffee but all enjoyed sharing the food and fellowship around this historic table after the special service.

Dogs welcome!



As far as I can remember dogs have never been turned away from the Cathedral if they come attached by leads to visitors, but I think this is the first time they have been given the honour of a formal welcome on a notice board!

In earlier times one of the Vergers was known as 'The Bedel of the Close' and had a long staff called a 'stave' rather than the short one, called a 'virge' used by the other vergers, the better to protect the cathedral from mad dogs – and occasionally perhaps from mad Englishmen too!

Several years ago, at a service to install new canons, I noted that there were three dogs among the congregation including one who accompanied his master in the procession, another was carried and the third was a guide dog. Again, during the first of the Mindful Mile walks around the cathedral several dogs accompanied us including a beautiful dog called Atma, who was allowed to accompany her owner when she sings in the choir at St. Mary Magdalene in the Bail!

Since the new 'Dogs Welcome' notice board appeared, I have seen two dogs on separate occasions quietly sitting next to their owners in St. Hugh's choir during the 10.30am Sung Eucharist, never making a single woof or growl – but perhaps such well-behaved dogs are the exception rather than the rule. I wonder if any of our readers has dog-related stories to relate. Comments welcome!

Margaret Campion

Friends in Friendship

On a bright May morning a coach load of Friends of Lincoln Cathedral set off from the cathedral for a day at the Welbeck Estate near Worksop. Pam Bentley was the organiser and it was the first Friends outing since the Covid years. Pam was eager to get these 'days out' started again – and it was quite a triumph of friends reunited and old friendships re-ignited. I certainly saw and chatted to people I had rather lost touch with over the Covid years and it was good to see them again.

The coach set us down in the courtyard and then we were free to visit the museum, the Harley Gallery, the splendid garden centre, well stocked shop and enticing Farm Shop and there was a vast estate to explore if time and energy permitted. Plus, there were two cafes, both serving excellent food and, of course, the sun shone 'on the righteous'.



A lovely day – thank you, Pam. Please keep organising!

Margaret Campion

A hidden staircase

The cathedral continues revealing its secrets.

An enquiry from Professor Magnus Williamson at Newcastle University, last year:

'Do you know where Byrd's organ was?' has led to the re-discovery of a hidden staircase within the north choir wall.

It has always been known that the console of Byrd's organ was situated above and just west of the present pulpit in the first gothic bay; it can be seen in an illustration in Dugdale's *Monasticon Anglicanum* of 1693. But how was it accessed? A door in the north choir aisle wall is in the right area and known to have led to the Dean's private family stall but today it only opens into a cupboard. No stairs there. A half-remembered story from several years ago, suggested a different approach and a very long ladder was procured. Looking down from the top of the wall, a flight of stairs can be seen in the void between the choir stalls and the exterior of the north choir wall. They are carved in Purbeck marble. A top tread of wood can just be seen and it is thought that wooden flooring would have led around the pillar to the sixteenth-century organ. A new organ was built on the choir screen in 1826 and the Dean's family stall was removed. Presumably, the stairs were now superfluous to requirements and blocked off, the entry becoming a useful storage space. In time the stairs were forgotten until the enquiry in 2023 from Professor Williamson. One wonders what other secrets in the cathedral are yet to be revealed.



Photograph courtesy of James Newton

Elaine Johnson

The Chapter House: yesterday and today

Today the Chapter House is under repair and restoration, surrounded by scaffolding, the exterior inaccessible to the public. An old photo from 1897 illustrates the hundred-year cycle of repair and restoration.



There are several notable differences: no hard hats, no high viz clothing, no health and safety notice, no boarding of the windows. A hoist is still used to raise the replacement blocks of stone to the required level but today it meets rigorous safety conditions, has a braking mechanism and is powered by air and not the manual labour of the 1890s.



It is quite possible that the work being done today is replacing stonework repaired by the men in the photo. Michael Graves, Clerk of Works, explained that the really old, original cathedral stonework of Lincolnshire limestone is sound; it is work that was done in previous periods of restoration that occupies his team today. Unfortunately, it was done with different stone or fixed with different materials, such as cement or ferrous metals – quick, easy and cheap but causing irreparable, long-term damage.

When it rains, impermeable cement blocks the drainage from the wet stones, which eventually crack.

Iron additions rust and expand and eventually lift and crack the stone. Today, the stonemasons use the traditional method of fixing the stone with lime putty which is tended over several weeks. Their aim is to repair and renovate for the future so it will be stable for many years to come.

20 tonnes of stone are being used for the Chapter House. Each stone is raised separately to the required level, of which there are seven, all safely served by metal stairs within the scaffolding framework. A replacement pinnacle has been carved, comprising over 30 pieces, each carved separately. It is a giant 3D jigsaw which is first assembled on the ground to be checked and any problems sorted, before each piece will be hoisted up, one at a time, and assembled on the roof.



Lincoln is very fortunate to have its own works department and Michael liaises with other cathedrals in a similar situation. They all have to adhere to the Cathedral Measures legislation, so they have the same infrastructure and way of working. Although many cathedrals are on the Historic England's At-Risk register in part, Lincoln is the only cathedral to be at risk in its entirety, which is an enormous challenge. Added to which is the shortage of specialist craftsmen and women, although we are all delighted to hear about stonemason, Rachael, in the Lincoln team who recently won an award recognising her 'exceptional craftsmanship'.

Congratulations, Rachael, from all at InHouse and the Cathedral Community Association! Thanks to you, Michael and your skilled and experienced colleagues, we know that our nine-hundred-year-old building is in safe hands.

Elaine Johnson

13th century glazing restoration

Located underneath the Bishops Eye rose window in the SW transept, the south facing lancets form a significant part of the cathedral's medieval glazing heritage. The historic glass dates almost exclusively from the first third of the 13th century and the legible iconography within the medallions suggest they once belonged to a series of 'Typological Windows' with Old and New Testament narratives.



It is assumed that the glass was reset in its current position from various locations around the cathedral during the latter half of the 18th century when a general re-ordering of the stained glass collection was carried out. A rather ambiguous reference to this can be found in Charles Winston's 1848 paper *'An Account of the Painted Glass in Lincoln Cathedral'*. Winston recounts the memories of Mr E.J. Wilson, who recalls that the medieval glass was "...removed about sixty years ago from the windows of the aisles of the nave to its present resting-place". This would date the rearrangement to c.1790. The late 18th century date for the rearrangement of glass coincides with a broader restoration campaign carried out from 1761 and not completed until 1817.

Currently the 13th century stained glass of the four lancets is undergoing further essential conservation works necessary due to its severely deteriorated and weathered condition. Glass of this age typically has a low silica content, alongside an elevated potash content, both of which impact the glasses chemical durability and renders it susceptible to corrosion particularly when exposed to adverse environmental conditions and air pollutants. If left unchecked, glass of this composition can and will deteriorate until nothing remains.

To understand the detrimental corrosion phenomena further, it has been necessary to perform comprehensive cataloguing of the extent of deterioration to the glass and lead matrix, alongside investigative chemical analysis of the glass and corrosion products.

This preliminary research enabled a clear and considered approach to the subsequent conservation works, the focus of which being the removal of hygroscopic surface accretions & reduction of corrosion deposits and the stabilization of vulnerable glass & friable vitreous paint.

Alongside the stained glass remedial works, essential conservation of the windows ancillary supporting structural elements, such as the historic wrought iron ferramentas, oak sub-frames and masonry are also undertaken simultaneously by the cathedral's in-house teams of specialists within the Works Department.

Between 2015 and 2018 the first of the four medieval lancets, window SG34, underwent a full conservation cycle, replete with the installation of an internally ventilated Environmental Protective Glazing system. This type of system ensures the long term preservation of the conserved historic stained glass by relocating the medieval glass to the interior of the building whilst protective glass is installed to the exterior. Thus, the damaging effects of rain, condensation, pollution, and wind loading are removed from the historic glass.



before



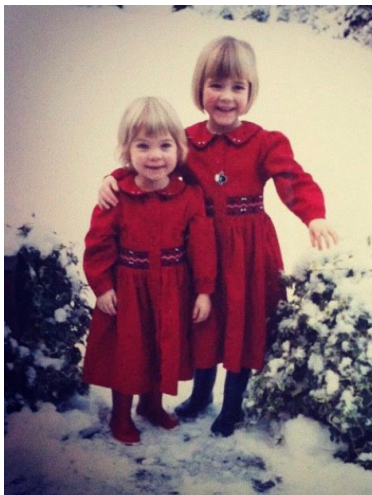
after

The work to this first lancet proved the efficacy of the bespoke conservation methodologies employed, which were to be utilised across all four lancets. Other than some minor procedural alterations and streamlining of techniques, the project was a resounding success and therefore the same measures have been applied in the conservation of window SG33. Although being delayed slightly due to unforeseen circumstances (global pandemics, Brexit and a lack of employed stained glass conservators), the window has not been forgotten and is due to be re-installed over the summer by the cathedral's diminutive Stained Glass Conservation Department of one.

Dan Beal CAMGP, Deputy Head of Glazing

Growing Up in the Cathedral

When I return to Lincoln after being away, I search the horizon for the cathedral, its towers soaring into the blue. It's a habit that started as a child: as we neared home; my parents would ask *'Can you see the cathedral?'* and we would eagerly peer out of the car windows, desperate to catch the first glimpse. I now live in London, but I still play this game as an adult - quietly, in my head. Author Barney Norris wrote a line in his novel *Five Rivers Met on a Wooded Plain* that has come to mean a great deal to me: *'I have stared at the spire every night for a year now, and I think it is the purest picture of the human heart I have seen.'* He is referring to Salisbury Cathedral, but for me, it captures the overwhelming feeling of hope, love and belonging that Lincoln Cathedral ignites when I spot it on the horizon. My memories of Lincoln Cathedral go back to before I actually even started recording them: I was christened in the Norman font. I then became a member of the Sunday School, which I attended with my little sister Lucy in tow, both in our matching wool coats and hats (something I am told the congregation particularly enjoyed, perhaps a little more than we did).



Some of my fondest childhood memories are of making tiny Easter gardens on Good Friday, and racing through the cloisters on Easter Sunday clutching egg boxes, searching for shiny chocolate eggs. I remember standing in Castle Square on Palm Sunday waving huge great palms, and bringing home a little cross which would find a home in one of my story books in its new life as a bookmark.



I remember handing out bunches of daffodils to the ladies in the congregation on Mothering Sunday, and processing up to the altar in the nativity at Christmas; tea towels on heads; angel wings on backs; toy sheep under arms. Then there was Shoebox Sunday, which involved filling shoeboxes with gifts for children in Romania to open at Christmas. To this day, it isn't until I've attended the Christmas Eve carol service – which I first attended in a rucksack on my father's back - that the true magic of Christmas really begins.

In February last year, I was in the privileged position of being able to marry my husband in Lincoln Cathedral. I walked past the font where I was christened, and down the aisle where I had waited for communion every week, to the altar where I stood as an angel in the nativity. It was here, surrounded by memories, that I made my promises before God. In what feels like a full-circle moment, we are bringing our little girl back home to Lincoln to be christened in November this year. Whilst her home is in London, I hope that as she grows and returns to Lincoln, she too will search the horizon for the cathedral, its towers soaring into the blue. But more than that, I hope that when she spots them, she will be overwhelmed by a sense of hope, of love, and of belonging.

Olivia Ford

'... the Cathedral was the best part of their trip.'



The Cathedral is an utterly inspiring place for children and young people to visit. The possibilities for creativity are endless. Here in the Education department, we take great pride in sharing our love and enthusiasm for this glorious place, the spirituality and calm, the skills of incredibly talented people and of course its intriguing and rich history.

We recently made a very short, but informative introductory film for schools visiting the Cathedral. This is designed to promote what we do, to provide a useful familiarisation for the many teachers who don't have time to do a pre-visit, and support some of the SEND children who like to know exactly who they will meet, what they will see and what they might do, before they visit. Do watch the film on www.lincolncathedral.com/schools and let us know what you think!

It's a busy year! We are pleased to report consistently excellent or very good teacher and pupil feedback. Here are just a few of the comments from teachers:

'Several children that regularly have a negative attitude towards education commented their enjoyment.'

'The visit built on our classroom learning about the history and significance of the Cathedral, and certainly contributed to their understanding of the development and changes throughout its history.'

'The visit was exceptional! All staff interacted incredibly with the children and the tour/activities and knowledge of the staff was excellent.'

Interestingly, I'm guessing because of the size of the building, and the various places to visit within it, people often say they didn't notice children were here. Not so during the Church Schools Festival which is 7 or 8 days of 300+ children each day. These are Year 6 pupils who gather from some of the many church schools in the diocese to celebrate at the end of their primary school years and look towards their forthcoming transition to secondary school.

They have the opportunity to join in worship in the Nave after a morning of learning music, tours with our wonderful Learning Team guides, and a whistle-stop visit to the three areas in the visitor centre.

Neither do we stop in school holidays. Every holiday, we host family activities in the Learning Centre which follow either national, local, church or seasonal themes. These continue to grow substantially in popularity. From April 2023 to March this year, we had welcomed around 5,000 family visitors to the Learning Centre.

Some of the loveliest feedback we receive is around how 'calming' and 'restoring' it is to visit with the children as they share arts and crafts, sometimes to take home, other times to add to our huge collage display in the corridor. This half-term for example the collage is following a forest and meadow theme – complementing the Table for the Nation, and our now annual wildflower seed-bombing on the East Green. But this time in the style of David Hockney.

It is really important to us to offer young people every opportunity to experience the many aspects of work we undertake at the Cathedral. This year we have had nine students and four Year 10 pupils engaged in both Education, Works Department and Collections. As a result of their placements, four of the students have become permanent members of the Learning Volunteers Team.



We were very lucky to recently welcome Rowena King, Cannon Missioner. This is a new role for the Cathedral, and will include over-seeing the Education Team, as well as community cohesion and partnership building.

Over the next few months an additional six-hour part-time flexible post will be added to the team. Our Learning Volunteers are invaluable as a multi-skilled and talented team of enthusiastic people who are essential to the smooth running of school visits. We are in a good place going forward to welcome ever more visitors to the Cathedral community.

Sally Bleasdale

'Father' Henry Willis: at home and abroad

During our recent time in Australia, we visited Brisbane and joined a tour of the City Hall where, in the main auditorium, the guide proudly pointed out the 'Father Willis' organ. Of course, I spoke up and said we were from Lincoln, UK, and our cathedral had one of those. Thereupon I was asked questions I couldn't answer!

Thanks to the cathedral website I learnt that the Lincoln organ was completed in 1898 and was the last completed cathedral instrument finished by Henry Willis himself, when it cost £4675. Dedicated on 17 November, 1898, St. Hugh's Day, and supposed to be the first British cathedral organ to be powered by electricity, it was pumped manually by 14 soldiers from the Lincolnshire Regiment because current was not yet available. *The Echo* reported that the nave was crowded for the opening recital by Sir Walter Parratt, from which it emerged triumphantly as 'one of the finest cathedral organs in the country'. The organ has 5000 pipes and 64 stops.



The Brisbane organ was built in 1891-92 for the Brisbane Exhibition Building. According to the Organ Historical Trust of Australia website, it was considered to be the 'last word' as regards perfection of mechanism and Henry Willis is said to have been very proud of it. His only regret was that it was going to the other side of the world and he would not be able to hear and play it in position. The instrument went out to Australia on the steamer 'Avoca' and arrived in September 1892. It is interesting to note that by 'courtesy of the Collector of Customs it was admitted free of duty.' *The Brisbane Courier* reports that it was 'erected by Mr. Simpson who was sent out from London for that purpose according to arrangements with Mr. Willis.'

Insured for £4000, certain alterations were made to the concert hall 'for the safety and efficiency of the organ' and four Brisbane organists shared the opening recital on 20 December, 1892. Moved to the City Hall in 1927, a complete restoration took place in 2010 and it now has 4391 pipes and 80 stops.



By an extraordinary coincidence, whilst Elaine was admiring the Father Willis Organ in Brisbane City Hall at the other side of the world, I was admiring the Father Willis Organ in St. Bees Priory in West Cumbria. This organ is of course smaller than the other two but it is important because, completed in 1899, it was the last major organ to be built under the personal supervision of 'Father' Henry Willis himself and retains the original keyboard. It has 2000 pipes and a total of 40 speaking stops including two 32ft ranks.

The friend who introduced me to this remarkable organ in the beautiful Priory church had been a pupil at St. Bees School (established in 1583) between 2005 and 2012. The school is adjacent to the Priory with its own school chapel but there were regular services in the priory which all pupils had to attend and the Director of Music for the school always played the organ. His name was Mr. Hugh Turpin – apparently, he always dashed in late, scrambled onto the seat and started up with never a hesitation or false note! On one memorable occasion the school chaplain, a young Canadian, preached a sermon using Star Wars as the moral theme and the famous quotation from Star Wars 'May the Force be with you' was translated (on this occasion at least) as 'May the 4th be with you' because the date was Sunday 4th May 2008. As the solemn procession of chaplain, masters & choir processed out towards the Great West Door, Mr. Turpin struck up the theme tune to Star Wars to the huge delight of all the pupils!

Elaine Johnson and Margaret Campion

Pentecost Cake in the Cloisters

Following the Pentecost Evensong on 19th May, over 50 people from the cathedral congregation and community enjoyed tea or coffee and generous slices of cake in glorious warm sunshine in the Cloisters. Delicious cakes of many flavours had been baked and donated by volunteers; the selection also including those suitable for vegan and vegetarian diets. Health and safety was carefully adhered to with ingredients displayed beside each cake and warnings if baked in a kitchen where nuts and other allergens could be present.



Tables and chairs, the former decorated with flowers, were arranged on the grass and friends enjoyed food and fellowship in the sun.

Tickets were priced at £5 a head and the money raised will go to one of the charities supported by the Cathedral Community Association.

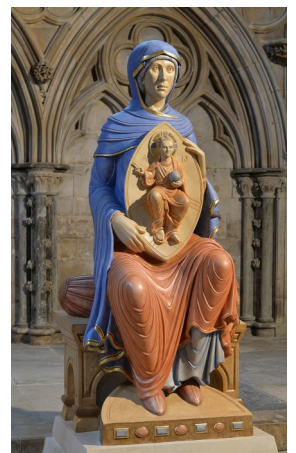
Many thanks must go to the LCCA committee who worked so hard to make the afternoon such a success.

Elaine Johnson



Remembering our 'Royal' themed issue last summer, celebrating the coronation and King Charles' long link with Lincoln Cathedral, Micky Philp has reminded us that the statue of the Virgin in the area at the top of the Angel Choir was carved by one Aidan Hart. Latterly he also designed and constructed the screen which was placed around King Charles at the moment of his anointing during his coronation.

Aidan stayed at Micky's house for almost a fortnight with his apprentice when they were working on the painting of the statue in egg tempura.



News from around the Diocese ...

Disability Adviser Appointed

The Bishop of Lincoln has appointed a disability adviser in the Diocese of Lincoln. Martin Joy, who is currently churchwarden of St Hughs Church in North Hykeham, was honoured to be chosen for the post. He said that "it has come as a bit of a surprise to see how people with a disability can be treated in our churches" after attending a recent national conference that estimated most people with a disability did not feel welcome in their local churches.

The Diocese will work with Martin to ensure Lincolnshire churches become more accessible to those with a disability.

Martin would also like to start a group with other people who wish to see best practice applied to all churches across the Diocese.

If you feel inspired to be part of Martin's advocacy in this area, please email him at:

martin.joycwsthughs@gmail.com



Admission of churchwardens

Churchwardens from across Lincolnshire came together at Lincoln Cathedral to be admitted into their roles at the annual visitation service on Thursday 13 June 2024. Every deanery in the diocese was represented by a churchwarden and the cathedral was filled with friends, family and fellow church members.



During the service the churchwardens were invited to stand and pray as the Bishop asked them to make their solemn promise and declaration to serve in their roles faithfully and diligently. They made an act of commitment to live and work in partnership with their brothers and sisters in Christ for the better service of God and their neighbour, before being sent out to fulfil their promise and look after their church.

Steve Tune



... And from General Synod

This has been a busy year in terms of meetings, less so in terms of actual decisions. The ongoing debate about the Prayers of Love and Faith (PLF) has dominated, if not in terms of debate time, in terms of attention. Unusually we met in November (normally the November meeting is only for the first session in any quinquennium) and the general mood was difficult, with polarised positions over PLF and strong views about safeguarding. In February we had a calmer mood, largely because both 'sides' on the PLF debate felt that the proposals being put forward by the Bishop of Leicester were untenable, and an uneasy alliance led to the debate being cut short by a strongly supported motion to move to next business, in other words, telling the bishops to think again and come back next time with something better. As we approach the July group of sessions in York (starting the day after the General Election!) we are still waiting for the papers for the various debates, though we have the outline agenda.

The proposals around reparations for the historic investments in slavery by the Church also caused a lively debate in February, and very unusually the Chair took the decision to continue the debate until everyone who wanted to speak had been called. The February sessions also contained three separate motions on incivility including one calling for a code of practice for PCC members and one raising the question of bullying of clergy by lay officers. These were a mixture of diocesan and private members' motions and there are several more of these on the agenda in July. As ever, you can read all about what has happened on the CofE website by searching under 'General Synod' and you can follow the business sessions live while we are in York. *The Church Times* also offers full coverage the week after, or you can buttonhole me at coffee and ask for more!

Muriel Robinson

Preaching Board: "A Testament to Faith Across Time"

You may have noticed a framed prayer board in the choir stalls. You may have also noticed that it moves from stall to stall depending on who is preaching. The choir's wooden stalls echo with centuries of whispered prayers and solemn hymns. The preaching board's weathered surface bears not only the passage of time but the steadfastness of faith. Serving as a silent watchman of spiritual devotion passed down through generations of devoted custodians. Many have hazarded a guess at its date of perhaps 17th Century, perhaps created as a result of the *statum de concionatoribus* by Bishop Robert Sanderson in 1662, explaining the rota of people to undertake sermons for the year.

In its place it has weathered the many storms of history and witnessed moments of both triumph and tribulation, joy and sorrow. From the distant past to present day it represents a time when God's spoken word has been held over the hearts and minds of congregants, beacons of hope amidst the uncertainty of all our lives. As the faithful gather beneath its gaze, they have and are still being transported to a world of the divine. Yet, despite the passage of centuries, this preaching board remains a vital fixture within our choir today. Moved by the Vergers to the next preacher's stall each time a different person prepares a sermon, its message is as relevant today as it was in days past.

In an age of passing distractions and short-lived trends, it stands as a steadfast reminder of the enduring power of God's word to go beyond the limitations of time and space. Moreover, the preaching board serves as a link between past and present—a bridge connecting the wishes of generations long gone with the hopes and dreams of those yet to come. In its silent statement, we find a reminder of our shared heritage, a legacy of faith and inspiration to guide us in our own spiritual journey.



As congregants today gather beneath its shadow, they too are drawn into the timeless sermons based on recovery, of finding solace and in the eternal promises of their faith. The story of the 17th-century preaching board is not merely a tale of days gone by, but is a living testament to the enduring power of faith across time. As we gaze upon its weathered surface, may we be reminded of our shared humanity, our common search for meaning and purpose in a world fraught with uncertainty. May we take solace in the knowledge that, though the years may pass and the seasons change, the word of God endures forevermore.

Jo Blanchard

Editor and Editorial Policy The current editor of InHouse is Simon Crookall, supported by Margaret Campion, Elaine Johnson and Judi Jones. 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 15th September, 2024 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. The link to InHouse is published in the chapter letter when it is produced and is also on the cathedral website under 'Latest News'.