

# InHouse

The Journal of the Lincoln Cathedral Community Association

## Welcome back!

**'Amazing!'** That was the first word that Simon used when I asked him about his institution and installation as the 85<sup>th</sup> Dean of Lincoln on September 14<sup>th</sup>, and I think all those of us who were there would agree. From the intimate solemnity of the institution in the Chapter House, when the legal necessities were carried out so that Simon could take his rightful place in the entry procession, through the wonderful installation itself to the reception afterwards, the whole afternoon will live in our memories. For those of us in the nave, the live streaming of the parts of the service in St Hugh's Choir and the Chapter House enabled us to feel involved throughout the hour and three-quarters of the main service. As we talked, Simon reflected on the overwhelming nature of the day. As he walked in and saw so many people, and as he realised how many parts of his life were represented by those who had come - many miles in some cases - he was deeply moved.

*'I'm hugely grateful to the many people, staff and volunteers, who made the installation such an amazing occasion. The sense of support that surrounded me as I entered the cathedral and processed the length of the nave was a great encouragement, and helped calm a few nerves. I could not have hoped for a more positive start to my ministry. And, of course, it goes without saying that there was no connection between my sermon on the burning bush and what happened the following morning!'*

The music too was a highlight - to have the Merton College choir singing alongside our own Cathedral Choir, with the brass and timpani as well as the Father Willis organ, inspired us all, and Simon commented too on the enthusiasm of the congregational singing.

In his sermon during the Installation, our new Dean reflected on precedents and the preference of cathedrals to avoid setting these. He cannot have expected that just a few hours later he would be setting a precedent of his own by celebrating his first Sunday Eucharist as Dean outside on St Margaret's Green!

Muriel Robinson



Margaret Campion takes up the story to explain:

The reason for this innovation? An emergency in the cathedral at exactly 10.20 am just as we were settling down for the first Eucharist of the new commission.

An announcement from the Precentor led to an orderly procession and we moved as speedily as our assorted levels of fitness would allow and were ushered to the collecting point through the Judgement Porch to the green beyond. It was fairly clear that we could not return because we were immediately surrounded by fire engines and various official cars, all with sirens, so with great aplomb Dean Simon began his reign by stating that we would continue from our open air position. The choir appeared, sang the Introit and away we went singing lustily, although perhaps not entirely in tune, 'Lord of beauty, Lord of Splendour'. The September sun shone and the stones of our lovely cathedral were turned to gold. Edward I and Queen Eleanor looked down from their niches on the south east tower and were amazed!

The service continued uninterrupted with lessons, prayers and sermon and the Eucharist proceeded with a single administration, the final prayers, announcements and hymn and we all drifted away with the feeling that something really special had happened and would be remembered fondly for many years.

Oh, and the cathedral was given the 'All Clear' in time for the Battle of Britain Service at 3 o'clock!

## Congratulations, Judi!

At the Bishop Grosseteste University graduation ceremony in July, long-standing member of the cathedral community, Judi Jones, was awarded an honorary Fellowship in recognition of 'outstanding contributions to the University.'

Judi is an historian and an academic with a passionate interest in Lincoln, the county, its history, and its cathedral; exploring, researching, and chronicling some of the momentous events in local history such as the impact of the Reformation on the cathedral community. In later years, she travelled across the country for the Sandford Trust evaluating educational projects large and small.

Judi gained her BA (Hons) degree at Nottingham University in Medieval and Modern History, followed by a Distinction in her PGCE.

Passionate about her subject, she taught History for many years in Lincoln, relishing the task of inspiring young people of all abilities to enjoy studying the past. She also studied part time for a Master's degree in Local and Regional History and became an Assistant Head.

Judi went on to lecture at the universities of Nottingham and Bishop Grosseteste.



She wrote and delivered various courses, such as the Local History Study which involved leading her students on many field visits.

She has provided the historical content for a series of "Journeys of Faith" pilgrimage guidebooks and her latest work, "Tombstones and Monuments in Lincoln Cathedral" is about to be published. An experienced guide, she helps to train the guides at the cathedral and gives occasional lectures on a range of historical subjects, including Katherine Swynford and the Lincolnshire Uprising.

*(Taken from Citation, Bishop Grosseteste University)*

Following successful surgery after this ceremony, we are pleased to report that Judi is making a good recovery.

## Congratulations, Jo!

At the recent Annual Guild Service of Lincoln and Southwell Guild of Vergers, Verger Jo Blanchard was presented with her certificate and hood after completing, with distinction, the Diploma for the Guild of Vergers. This is a culmination of four years hard work. Congratulations, Jo!



## A word from the Editor

Welcome to our Autumn edition of InHouse. This issue celebrates the arrival of our new Dean, the Very Reverend Dr Simon Jones, and also shines light on other aspects of the Cathedral's daily life. We hear from our new Canon Missioner, the Reverend Rowena King, about her work in building the Cathedral community.

The Lincoln Cathedral Community Association supports, through donations from the congregation, local, national and international charities, and you can read about *Safe Families*, one of the charities we have supported, in these pages.

Tickets are now on sale for our annual *Harvest Supper* on Friday 18 October – an evening of entertainment, good food and convivial conversation. Please join us.

The LCCA is thrilled to join our welcome to that of the whole Cathedral community to Dean Simon and his partner, Darren. We wish them a long and happy time with us, and look forward to Simon's vision and guidance for our beloved Cathedral.

Thanks to all who have contributed to this edition, including a generous donation from a member of the congregation which has enabled it to be printed in colour.



Simon Crookall

## “So, what does a Canon Missioner actually do?”

This is a question I have been asked a lot in my first 6 months here in role, quite understandably, as the role is a new one in the life of this Cathedral. I too ask myself that question on a regular basis as I seek to discern the specific needs and opportunities of the Cathedral communities and our city and wider community life!

There are, however, four broad areas which guide my reflections, and are the key priorities for the role: Pastoral Care, Discipleship and Nurture, Education, and Outreach.

The Missioner oversees the pastoral care of the Cathedral communities, ably supported by the Rev'd Ann Mazur who coordinates our rota of duty chaplains. This means that each day during visiting hours there is a chaplain on the floor of the Cathedral available for anyone, (staff, volunteer, congregation or visitor) to speak with. They are available to listen, to pray, or to simply be a welcoming face. As well as the midday Eucharist, they lead a number of shorter invitations to pause and pray at 12 noon and 3pm.

Alongside the daily ministry of the duty chaplains, the Cathedral Pastoral Care Committee works to support longer term pastoral care and the prayer requests of our communities. This team take the lead on home visits and pastoral counselling requests, as well as intercessory prayer for our prayer lists, and praying for all those visitors who have left requests on our prayer boards. This happens daily at each member's home and each Wednesday at the Cathedral (2:00-2:30 in the Longland Chapel) - anyone is welcome to join this Wednesday prayer time. People with pastoral care needs or prayer requests can contact me on [rowena.king@lincolncathedral.com](mailto:rowena.king@lincolncathedral.com) or catch up with me at one of the services.

The Cathedral prayer boards and the invitations to pray are also a part of my role, and you may have noticed the rearrangement of the Morning Chapel to make it more welcoming and accessible for prayer.

The Missioner also oversees the provision of discipleship and nurture in the Cathedral. Current provisions include: our monthly Tea at 4 group – a Lectio Divina (sacred reading) of the Sunday's readings; a monthly book group led by John Davies (both of which are open to new people to try out); our Sunday School, ably led by our wonderful team of volunteers, and our Lenten Confirmation preparation classes for choristers and anyone else exploring Confirmation, alongside various one-off events. I am currently exploring what else might be appreciated in this area, so if you have any ideas or requests, do come and chat.



The Missioner manages the Cathedral Education Centre and its staff and volunteers, who do amazing work in welcoming school groups to the Cathedral for visits. We are also looking at how we welcome families to the Cathedral, particularly during holiday times, and how we might extend that offering, so if being part of our holiday welcome team is something you'd enjoy, do let me know. The Cathedral also has active links with Lincoln Christ's Hospital School (I sit as both a Foundation member and Governor) and De Aston School, Market Rasen.

Part of the Cathedral's vision, and the Missioner's role, is to be a part of our local community and city; to look outwards in forming partnerships and connections with local civic, charity, business, education and faith groups, and to be a visible, welcoming presence to all who live in Lincoln, extending God's love and welcome to all.

I have recently enjoyed being invited to open Lincoln Pride, where I received a very warm welcome; and to experience my first Steampunk festival, where I enjoyed many and varied conversations! I have also been involved with the City Council and a number of other organisations in relaunching the City's environmental action plan and social engagement – so a real diversity of connections already!

The one factor linking all the different aspects of my role is that of relationship, which is, of course, also at the heart of our faith: to seek the image of Christ in all those whom we meet and to bring the love of Christ to others as best we can each day. I feel an immense sense of privilege at being given this opportunity in so many different ways through the role of Missioner.

Rowena King

## The Needlework Exhibition, 25 June

This was a truly impressive and dazzling display of the skills of the ladies in the Cathedral Needlework Guild and it was beautifully set out on the Long Oak Table in the South Transept under the watchful eye of Bishop Edward King whose sister, I seem to remember being told, was herself a talented embroiderer.

There were examples of all the different skills used, from the fine hemming for the 'linen cloths' used for the celebration of communion to the wool work tapestries for the hassocks. The stars of the show were, of course, the glamorous golden embroideries used on the altar frontals, chasubles, hoods and stoles for the clergy. These were really beautiful and exquisitely stitched by the more advanced embroiderers with good eyesight and aided by (I was told) additional magnifying glasses and extra strong lighting.

I was fascinated by the conservation work on the altar frontals, two of which were on display, and we could watch the conservation team painstakingly at work on them. The most eye-catching piece for me was the lovely blue silk altar frontal from the Seafarers' Chapel which was undergoing intensive surgery. The gold work swirls and lines had started to 'pop out' - meaning the original stitching had started to break so that nothing was actually holding the gold thread in place, so using exactly matching Gutermanns thread each little loose thread of gold had to be stitched back into place. So far it had taken over a year to complete this part of the conservation and now the task is to conserve the actual blue silk onto which the design had been worked. Here the silk was actually pulling apart revealing the weft and warp of the silk itself so now, using conservation couching thread, the fabric was being gently woven back into place, the resulting 'patch' was completely unnoticeable - except to the trained eye! It was fascinating to watch and to realise that although it had taken a year to complete the gold work conservation, it would take at least a few more months to complete the silk fabric restoration.

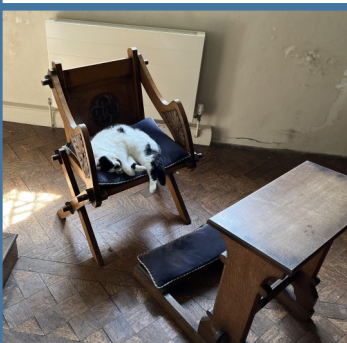


Photo courtesy of Dan Beal, Works dept

Another fascinating exhibit was watching a lily being created with only the faintest prick marks and a picture to guide the embroiderer as she stitched the outline and then created the 'padded' feel to the centre and the whole surrounded by gold thread. The next stage will be to carefully cut around the backing fabric and then appliqué it onto the orphrey (the vertical bands on a cope) but there is one final step - the (to my eye completely invisible) appliqué which fixes the design to the stole must be covered with a couching stitch which will look like a faint shadow and helps to make the design stand out, rather like the mounting board within a picture frame.

Margaret Campion, with help and guidance by members of the Needlework Guild.

Make a note in your diaries for the next exhibition by the Cathedral Needlework Guild on Tuesday 29th October, 10.00am—3.00pm. There they will be happy to tell you how they create these beautiful, intricate pieces and will have another selection of their work on display, including a stock of stoles for sale.



### Meet Elizabeth at the Deanery

Simon and Darren's cat, Elizabeth, has quickly made herself at home in her new abode. She particularly appreciates the comfort of her own private chapel!

## The LCCA Summer Outing, 2024: Tattershall Castle and Church



Lincolnshire is a county of surprises ancient and modern and this year's Community Association trip revealed two from the 15th century. In indifferent weather a smallish group met at Tattershall's church for coffee and cake before gathering with a costumed guide at the castle. Thankfully the rain held off because reception and the castle itself are separated by large grounds with water and an open space for the performance or games of different eras (which were being set up for the evening). Our guide was well versed and entertaining, but the history of this estate is complex as are the layers, too, of the 100ft tower or Great Keep which is really all that remains entire of this extraordinary residence Starting life in stone in 1231, Tattershall Castle was rebuilt with one million locally-fired bricks by largely Flemish and French craftsmen commissioned by the Lord Treasurer, Ralph Cromwell, not of a military stronghold but a home designed for grandeur and comfort in the 1430's. (On first sight it is very reminiscent of French chateaux of the same era and contrasts with another building, started in 1469 by the Burgh family as a lath and plaster manor house with an additional 200 brick skirt, across the county in Gainsborough – the Old Hall). As with many buildings of this age there are examples of graffiti inside and out and one to mention is calling for protection from the Blessed Virgin Mary.

1910 saw the beginning of a renovation by Lord Curzon of Kedleston who diligently sought and found items which had been removed, such as the fireplaces destined for America which are back in situ. Evidence and partial remains of the stables, gatehouse, bridges and moat etc. allow investigation on ground level whilst those able and content to scale the unusual spiral stone staircase inside to its top will spot Lincoln Cathedral and the Boston Stump on a fine day. On the intervening floors, from cellars to battlements are rooms of many uses and degrees of importance. Sadly there is little furniture and few objects in the many rooms to add to the reality of life though a video explanation is available.

The afternoon was spent in the church, built in 1469 which has maintained its Bedeshouses to the current day. There was also a college attached and the perpendicular style ensures it is remarkably light and airy and full of Lord Cromwell's devices and brasses. The windows of plain glass have given it the nickname "The Glasshouse" but it was not always so. Much of the original stained glass was removed over time to Burghley House and to St. Martin's Church in Stamford but the dramatic East window has now been restored with stained glass.



This large building now houses a community space with refreshments, plants sales, jams, cakes books and general bric-a-brac, making the whole trip one of interest to all with many options to investigate. The only drawback to the day was the lack of lunch provisions close to church and castle. Both sites would benefit from a second visit.

## The Golden Gospel Bible

Every Sunday morning when I watch the Gospeller of the day carrying the Golden Gospel aloft in procession to the lectern, I wonder about it...

A fragmented memory tucked away in my mind somehow connected it to the Knights Templar so after a few fruitless enquiries I went straight to the most obvious source of information – the Vergers - and yes, of course they had all the information since they actually look after it.



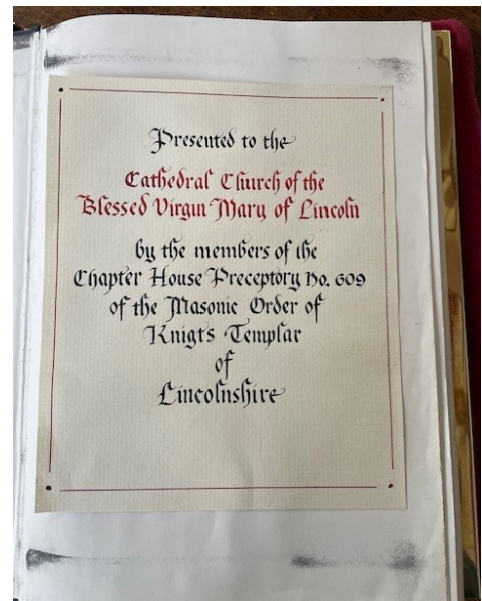
It was indeed presented by The Members of the Chapter House Preceptory of the Masonic Order of the Knights Templar. The cover is made of precious metal, gold and silver, very ornate with Christ seated holding a book and the four symbols of the Gospel Writers in the four corners. The front and the back are both alike.

There is no date given for the presentation but the best guess from the vergers is somewhere between 2010 and 2012.

Inside it is just an ordinary bible which slots into the cover, like a dust jacket, but it has a splendid red velvet padded envelope cover made at the time by Dilys Laurence in our own Needlework Guild.

If anyone can provide more precise dates for the presentation I am sure the archivist will be glad to add them to her records.

As always, we are grateful to the vergers for their help and their splendid photos.



Margaret Campion

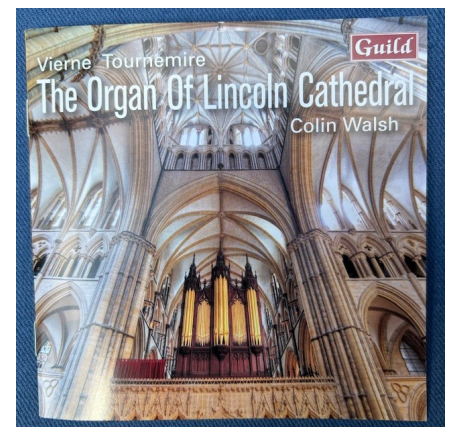
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## Verger Jim, the sound engineer

Perhaps one of my less well-known passions is sound recording. Ever since I've worked here, I have recorded most of the organ recitals at Lincoln and some further afield. My extensive collection of work is now archived with Priory Records, some of which is now available as digital downloads with others available in physical format.

My latest project was with our dear friend Colin Walsh. A dark and stormy January night greeted us as we sat down to record some wonderful French organ music, interrupted sometimes by the howling wind. Two days later and it is all done – it's easy with Colin! Once the actual recording is done the hard work for me begins, sitting down with a friend and editing the takes. I have done a bit of editing in the past but nothing of this scale.

Fortunately Guild Records were happy with everyone's work and the CD is now on sale in the Cathedral shop. This product really is 'Made in Lincoln.'



Jim Newton

# Cathedral garden and grounds—harmony between nature and spirituality

The Lincoln Cathedral garden and areas around the perimeter are a sanctuary that harmonizes nature and spirituality, situated adjacent to Lincoln's imposing towers. The garden serves as a peaceful retreat, inviting visitors to step away from the activity of life and immerse themselves in a small space filled with beauty and contemplation.



Upon entering the café garden, one is greeted by pathways that wind through greenery and vibrant floral displays. The careful selection of plants plays a significant role in creating an atmosphere of serenity. Roses, symbolizing love and devotion, bloom in a variety of colours, while lavender fills the air with its soothing fragrance. The garden also features seasonal flowers, ensuring that each visit offers a fresh tapestry of colours and scents.

Trees around the cathedral stand tall and proud, some centuries old, providing a sense of history and continuity.



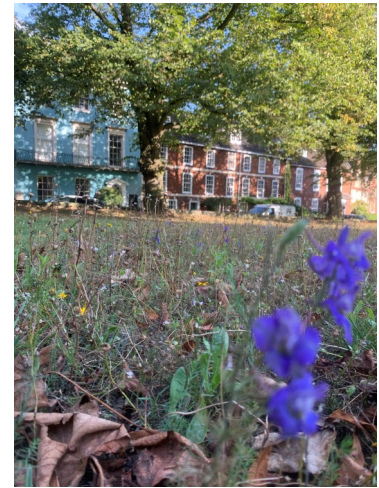
Their branches create a natural canopy, offering shade and a sense of shelter for those seeking refuge from the sun. Underneath their boughs, visitors might find benches or quiet nooks designed for reflection, prayer, or simply enjoying the moment. The sound of rustling leaves and chirping birds enhances this tranquil ambiance.

In some cathedral gardens, water features such as fountains, play a central role. The gentle trickle of water at Lincoln's fountain has a calming effect, inviting visitors to pause and reflect. The small garden is not only a place for individual reflection but also a community space. It often serves as a backdrop for various events, such as outdoor services, concerts, or art exhibitions. During festive seasons, the garden may be adorned with lights or seasonal decorations, enhancing its beauty and inviting even more visitors to experience its charm.

Throughout the year, the cathedral garden undergoes a transformation with the changing seasons. Spring brings a burst of colour as flowers bloom, while summer provides greenery and vibrant foliage. Autumn showcases a breath-taking array of warm colours, as leaves change and fall, while winter offers a stark beauty, sometimes blanketed in snow.

For some, the cathedral garden is a sacred space. It embodies a fusion of faith and nature, where the beauty of creation inspires spiritual reflection. Visitors often find themselves drawn to the garden for its ability to provide a sense of peace and connection. Whether sitting quietly on a bench, strolling along the pathways, or participating in community events, the garden nurtures the soul and encourages a deeper understanding of oneself and the world.

The garden and the areas surrounding the cathedral are tended by the Domus team, in particular Andrew Hallam and his dedicated volunteers



Jane and Betty who give up much of their time to tend and cultivate the plant displays we all enjoy over the year. They manage to keep the unruly plants tidy and under control! 2023 and 2024 saw an Andrew experiment with wild indigenous Lincolnshire plants on the East Green in an abstract shape of the cathedral, and in the cloisters. Countless photographs by visitors, wedding



parties and local residents later I think we can claim a small success! Plans are afoot to enlarge the area further this year!

The cathedral garden and grounds invite individuals to pause, reflect, and connect, making it a cherished sanctuary for all who visit. Its beauty and sense of community makes it a part of the overall Cathedral experience, enriching the lives of those who seek solace within its peaceful embrace.

Nick Sainsbury-Bow, Head of Facilities

## The Mindful Mile - Falcons

The June Mindful Mile was particularly interesting because we were led by Bruce Hargreaves, one of the ornithologists who record and regularly check on the falcons who have chosen to make their nest on the central tower of our Cathedral. We were a larger group than usual and in spite of our numbers and the incessant traffic around the precincts; the falcons chose to give us a splendid display of all their best tricks!

We were told that we were very lucky indeed as it would be normal for birdwatchers to spend several hours on duty and still not see such a display as was available today... To start, whilst Bruce was making the introductions, a young falcon descended to the low wall at 24a of the Number Houses and remained perched there until dozens of cameras had clicked – and remained there as we were guided to the south side of the cathedral where we halted just opposite the south east corner of the central tower. Here we watched in amazement as three falcons – Bruce guessed two fledglings and a parent bird – flew around and over the tower, passing and by-passing each other and then one flying above the pair. Apparently, this was a classic display of parent birds teaching their young hunting skills. As they passed food to and fro they were learning how to use their talons and when the parent flew above it was to drop food to teach the youngsters how to catch a bird in flight. He explained that sometimes the youngsters suffer from ‘butter-talons’ and would accidentally drop the food, landing on the ground below, much to the surprise of sauntering pedestrians who would suddenly find dead birds dropping at their feet!

At this vantage point we also able to see the protruding edge of the nest box which was made and placed by Norman Bonner, the Master Carpenter in 1989.

We continued our ramble and stopped beside the temporary door to the current restoration of the Chapter House which bore the legend “Falcon Constructions” – very apt today! At this point where the road noise was more muted, we bombarded our leader with questions about falcon behaviour in general and learnt, among other facts, that one female was recorded as living about 20 years and had raised 35 chicks!



She died and was buried in the garden of the Dean’s Green but we were not shown exactly where – perhaps to prevent it becoming a Falcon Shrine?

As we moved back to the starting point it was noted that the young falcon had moved from the wall and up to the very top of the chimney pot of No 24a and we watched in fascination as it stretched out its wings and flapped them vigorously, apparently a routine exercise to strengthen the muscles.

With so much to see our Mindful Mile became a Falcon Third (of a mile) as we headed into the cathedral for our coffee after only one circuit!

Margaret Campion and Prue Chadderton.



I was interested to read in the recent edition of Inhouse, about how we are welcoming dogs in the Cathedral. It reminded me of a meeting of the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary which took place at the delightful church at Waddingworth in the summer of 2007. This church is in the middle of a field, next to a farmyard where the various farm dogs roam free. They wandered in and out of the church during the service, and sat quietly whilst Revd Brian Dodds preached to the servers. At the end of the homily, Brian was just about to say “Amen”, when one of the dogs, right on cue gave one short, sharp bark. Brian exclaimed “Well, what more can one say?”

Carol Hill, Assistant Sub-Sacrist





Earlier this year the LCCA gave a substantial donation to the Lincolnshire branch of the charity, **Safe Families**, and I recently met up with Lincolnshire co-ordinator, Maureen Sydney, to find out more.

Originally founded in the US in 2003 by Dr Dave Anderson, the charity now operates right across the USA, drastically reducing the number of children in state care. In 2012, Sir Peter Vardy brought the programme to the UK, where he built a pool of volunteers to undertake a pilot in the North East, initially working with Middlesbrough and four other local authorities in the region. A Lincolnshire branch opened in 2017.

A Christian organisation, *Safe Families* offers families in crisis a team of approved and trained volunteers to support them. Each offer is unique, dependent on the needs of the family and takes a whole-family approach to change. The charity gives each volunteer three months training which includes their DBS registration. The work done by *Safe Families* with children, families and care leavers is done primarily, but not exclusively, with and through local churches. Churches can offer financial support, be committed prayer partners or become volunteers. Volunteers may act as either Family Friends, working directly with families, or Resource Friends, who can provide or transport useful items, such as a cot or children's clothing, or who have practical skills, such as cooking or gardening. There are also Host Families who offer short periods of respite care to give families a regular break.

In Lincolnshire the charity has a contract with the council which is managed by a senior social worker, 'the gatekeeper'. When approached by a social worker on behalf of a family, the gatekeeper contacts *Safe Families* and one of their team of volunteers will get in touch with them.

The volunteers provide both emotional and practical support. In one example of a single mum with two young children, five volunteers were used: one couple helped and supported the mum in looking after the children, another couple helped with practical home care, such as decorating and gardening, and a third did shopping and was a listening ear. Support such as this, when immediately needed, kept the family together until Mum was able to manage on her own and it prevented the children from being taken into care.

Partly funded by the government - £1900 per family – the actual cost per family is around £2500 and the £600 shortfall is made up from donations.

In the UK, since 2012, more than 23,500 children have benefited from the support offered. In Lincolnshire more than 900 children have benefited since the branch opened in 2017 and 80 local children have benefited from just one Lincoln church alone.

Developing further, *Safe Families* is shortly going to merge with *Home for Good*, a charity which works with families who would like to foster or adopt. Sadly, there are always going to be children who, for one reason or another, are no longer able to live within their own family but the work done by *Safe Families* can reduce the flow of children into care, sustain families in the community and ultimately enable them to thrive, happy and secure.

Elaine Johnson

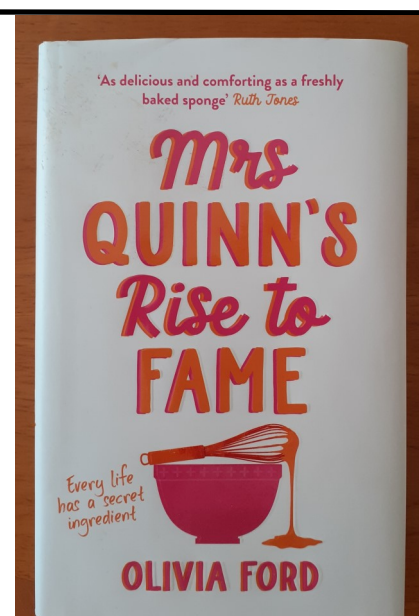
## 'Mrs. Quinn's Rise to Fame'

Congratulations, Olivia!

In the last edition of InHouse we had a contribution from Olivia Ford: 'Growing up in the Cathedral' which elicited many favourable comments and happy memories from several members of the Community, but what Olivia did not say in her article is that she has just had her first novel published – hence the title of this piece. I do not think there has been another alumna of the Cathedral Sunday School with a published novel to their credit – so many, many congratulations Olivia!

I personally greatly enjoyed it – the story line was fun and the 'story-within-the story' had a clever twist towards the end – no more, Spoiler Alert! It will prove a popular Christmas present for a deserving granny – but do read it yourself before wrapping it up and passing it on.

Margaret Campion



Love and peace  
to the whole world.

We have all been affected by the beauty of the peace doves and the sheer number of the thousands of prayers they carry. As Canon Rowena said recently:

“All of us involved have felt the privilege and awe of holding and folding people’s prayers and hopes for peace; particularly so amidst times of national and global unrest. One person’s prayer may feel small, but as we took piles of prayers and turned them into sacks full of doves it was hard not to feel the tangible presence of a deep movement towards peace. Peace-making is an action, it requires effort, and is something that we build together, for each other. It is built when we find ways for everyone’s voices to be heard and valued.”



## The Kings Men in Lincoln Cathedral



On a humid August evening St. Hugh’s Choir was filled to capacity for an evening of music with The Kings Men from Cambridge University. This world-famous group was started in 1968 by scholars from Kings College Cambridge and the original group consisted of just six men. Today the group is larger but usually tours with six or seven members – there were seven for our Lincoln concert. On this evening, one of the seven was also an organ scholar and two works were a combination of both the organ and singing, which I thought was especially moving. There was a good mix of the sacred and the secular, with madrigals, negro spirituals and folk music including ‘The Wild Rover’ and ‘The Last Rose of Summer’. The Beatles made an appearance in the second half with ‘Eleanor Rigby’ and ‘Here, There and Everywhere’; Bert Bacharach was there with ‘Raindrops Keep Falling’ and The Beach Boys songs ‘I Get Around’ and ‘God Only Knows’

drew much applause. They ended the concert with (appropriately) ‘Goodnight Irene’ and we were granted an encore which was ‘Lullabye’.

There was rapturous applause from the floor and I think our seven Kings Men must have been delighted with their reception.

Margaret Campion

## Matthew Flinders returns home to Lincolnshire

Excavations at Euston station in 2019 revealed the grave of Lincolnshire explorer, Matthew Flinders, lost when the station was expanded over the church's burial ground in the mid-nineteenth century. To archaeologists' excitement, a lead coffin plate confirmed the identity of his remains when the coffin was unearthed.

Born in Donington, near Boston, both Flinders' descendants and the local community requested that he should be reinterred in his home village. It took time to arrange but on July 13th 2024 Matthew Flinders returned to his place of birth. Dawn Flood was there and describes the day:



*Matthew Flinders' grave inside the church of St. Mary and the Holy Rood, Donington.*

We were welcomed to the village - adorned with flags - by an army of volunteer stewards who were assisting with parking and manning barriers to contain the crowd which had gathered near the church to welcome him home.

The Bishop of Lincoln arrived soon after we did and disappeared into the church with many other invited guests. There was quite a contingency from Australia.

The naval cadets were lined up outside the church providing a guard of honour while several more naval officers were waiting at the church porch to fire the 18 gun salute.

The Bishop (now robed) appeared with other members of the church and set off in procession down the high street to the market square. The hearse did a slow drive through the village, accompanied by the Royal Navy while the church bells rang a muffled peal before the Bishop led the hearse and procession back to the church. The coffin was carried into church by four naval pall bearers pausing at the entrance for the gun salute.

The service can be viewed on YouTube which we did when we got home. There were several interesting contributions from people who had links or just an interest in the explorer. The coffin was buried inside the church near a window dedicated to Matthew Flinders in the early 1950s.

The ledger stone (covering the grave) was carved by one of the stone masons at the cathedral. Several of his ancestors are buried in the churchyard.



*The stained glass window in the Seaman's Chapel depicting Joseph Banks, (Horncastle) George Bass (Aswarby) and Matthew Flinders (Donington).*

*© J. Hannan-Briggs CCL*

The group which was responsible for his reinterment in the village had obviously worked very hard to achieve its aim and they were overwhelmed with the interest that it has received.

Many years ago we always had a service in the service chapels at the Cathedral every year on Flinders' birthday.

Dawn Flood

## 'Father' Henry Willis

After our article about 'Father Willis' organs at home and abroad in the summer edition of InHouse, Gordon Allison has sent further interesting information about Henry Willis, his craft and the significant link with St. Bees, Cumbria.

Willis was born in London to a family with musical connections and apprenticed to John Gray in 1835. By 1845 he had his own shop and carried out significant rebuilds at Gloucester Cathedral and Tewksbury Abbey. He built a huge instrument for the Great Exhibition of 1851 and announced, with characteristic freedom from constraints of modesty, that it was presumed by its builder to be the first successful large organ yet constructed in England. It certainly allowed the performer a deeply impressive ease of control.

In 1871 he won the contract for an organ with 111 stops in the Albert Hall. It was an organ spectacular in size and complexity and built as a showpiece of Willis's technical skills. A façade of 32-foot pipes towered above the auditorium, the entire glittering array of which could be seen by the audience, the first time this had been done.

In 1872 he built the organ in St Pauls Cathedral and In 1877 the organ in Salisbury Cathedral.

In the 1860s, interest in the use of electricity to operate parts of the organ had developed and in 1886 Willis rebuilt his Exhibition organ at Canterbury Cathedral with electropneumatic action. It functioned until 1939.



The organ at Lincoln Cathedral was his last major work in 1898.

It was not an innovative instrument but rather consolidated Willis's previous successes. Mechanically, the Willis organ was efficient and reliable but cautious in its design; indeed, some of his former brilliance had gone. Incidentally, it was the building of this organ above the Pulpitum which exposed the previously unknown Gospel Pulpit.

The opening of the organ at Lincoln was attended with great interest by F J Livesey, the organist at St Bees, Cumberland. Willis had just been commissioned to build a 3 manual organ at St Bees and the Lincoln organ was relevant as, on a considerably reduced scale, the St Bees organ is a replica of it.

Henry Willis died in 1901 by which time his firm had become the most famous in England.

## Volunteer evening

Volunteers from many areas of the cathedral enjoyed a drink together and an opportunity to meet the new Dean after attending Evensong on 19th September. Dean Simon welcomed everyone and said that the friendliness and support of the volunteers during his interim tenure last year had been one of the factors which had encouraged him to apply for the permanent role.

Volunteer officer, Deborah Holmes, told me that there are over 400 volunteers across all areas and more are always welcome. Vacancies at present include Worship: stewards, servers and Sunday School; Visitor Experience: events, information desk and welcoming team; Tour Guides: roof, tower, graffiti, outdoor and symbolism. No previous knowledge or experience is required as all induction and training are provided including overall health and safety awareness and safeguarding. A new programme for prospective volunteers is being introduced, enabling them to shadow the role of their choice to feel comfortable and gain confidence. Please contact Deborah: [Deborah.holmes@lincolncathedral.com](mailto:Deborah.holmes@lincolncathedral.com) for further information.



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