

Welcome to our new Succentor: Canon Darren McFarland.

Licensed on 1st April, Darren's post as Succentor (which means under-singer) is to help the work of the Precentor. One thing that attracted him to apply for the post was it being part-time, just 0.6 FTE. But all of that has gone awry, temporarily at least, as Nick Brown's move to Windsor means that the post of Precentor is currently vacant and it's just been announced that Darren will step up to full time, until a new Precentor is appointed.

As Succentor he'll prepare Orders of Service, oversee the choreography of services (particularly important when Civic services are taking place), and he'll also line manage the Vergers. As acting Precentor he'll undertake more tasks while the Dean and Chapter look at how best to apportion tasks to roles.

After being deaconed (1996) and priested (1997) in the Church of Ireland, Darren spent his curacy in Dublin. He then moved to the Scottish Episcopal Church and for a couple of years lived in the same building as a small house church of which he was priest in charge, helping it come to terms with decline and the need to join with another parish. Darren moved to be Rector of Paisley for 9 years, and then to Lincoln after 13 years as Vicar of St Andrew's, Headington in Oxford.

Darren finds the biggest change from parish life to Cathedral life is not living in the midst of a local church community. He particularly misses going to the church primary school every week for collective worship, although he is maintaining an interest in education as he is to be Chair of Governors for Welton, St Mary's.

Here at the Cathedral, he has found a different kind of community, though he was very pleasantly surprised to find, that amidst all of the visitors and events, there is a core of regular worshippers, and he has felt very welcome.

Darren has seen how the Cathedral "estate" encompasses many different groups and organisations; e.g. stonemasons, a programme board, works dept, café, shop, events, choir, volunteers, Chapter ...



The scale of the workforce and the volunteers, the behind-the-scenes activity, has been an eye-opener. He has been amazed at the ways in which the different groups impact on each other.

His 0.6 post is paid for by the Cathedral. His Diocesan 0.4 post at Spalding ended on 30th June, by which time he will have looked after the parish for 9 months as they waited for their new Vicar to arrive. Darren was not looking for another 0.4 post as the prospect of both Simon and he doing full time jobs would be detrimental to a very important aspect of their lives and work here: the chance to entertain. They both feel that hospitality is a crucial part of their life in Lincoln and at the Cathedral. As they are both good cooks and enjoy cooking for themselves, they take many opportunities to invite people to their home and events at the Cathedral.

We wish Darren well in his new post and all that it entails.

Theresa Moses

Pentecost cakes



The Festal Evensong for Pentecost boasted a pretty well 'Full House' with exceptional music and full choir and as we all trooped out into the nave, we found four long tables beautifully set out with seats for 60 people – all quickly filled – and decorated with floral arrangements of red rose buds and glitter strips to represent the Holy Spirit. The Dean reminded us that Pentecost marks the birthday of the church and therefore we should all be eating cake and celebrating - I did wonder if we might have a rendition of 'Happy Birthday' but no, that didn't happen!

The cakes were wonderful and plentiful as birthday cakes should be and I'm pretty sure everyone had at least two slices – I certainly did – and the tea was hot and kept coming, served by many willing helpers.



It was a truly happy occasion, the buzz of conversation was constant and I doubt if anyone could have felt left-out.

The members of the Community Association were thanked by the Dean and by all of us for their hard work.

Almost £300 from ticket sales and donations from the sale of surplus cake was destined for the Nomad Trust (part of the YMCA) the local charity supported by the Community Committee.

Margaret Campion



Welcome to the cathedral's Chief Operating Officer: Mel Tetley

The role of Chief Operating Officer is a crucial one for our cathedral so we are pleased that we are in the capable hands of Mel Tetley who joined us a few months ago. We wish to give her a very warm, if belated, welcome.

Growing up in Surrey, Mel describes herself as a proud South East Londoner, though she chose to go to Manchester University to study Ancient Greek and Classic Civilization and Ancient History.

Her first job after graduating was as a Financial Advisor, moving on to become an Audit and Compliance Manager. Then came a huge career change as she embarked on a trainee Museum Management course at the Royal Pavilion in Brighton. It was in this realm that she found true job satisfaction and she went on to work for the Historic Royal Palaces as the Business Manager for Conservation and Learning. This period was "amazing and exciting" for Mel. She worked, amongst others, on the "Welcome to Kensington" project. Stints followed at Alexandra Palace where she managed and fund-raised for its Charitable Trust, and then as organiser for the tercentenary Capability Brown Festival.

Just before Covid struck she worked for the West Midlands Police. One of her main tasks there was to find ways and start initiatives aimed at uniting differing communities.

Most recently she was CEO of Citizens Advice in Waltham Forest where one of her responsibilities was for a large army of volunteers. Thus, Mel comes with a wealth of experience which we are sure she will utilise to the benefit of our cathedral.

In her role as Chief Operating Officer, she has significant responsibilities which she listed to me. She has strategic responsibility for Fundraising, HR, Volunteering, Estates and Properties and Facilities, Events, Retail, Commercial Activities and Marketing and Communications. She is relishing these tasks, enjoying the huge breadth of her role and being part of such an able and enthusiastic group of people. She gains huge energy from the Senior Leadership Team and its visionary mission and united front. She loves being in our beautiful and holy cathedral.

I asked her what she felt were her immediate challenges. She replied that increasing the cathedral's overall income is very important, thus giving it financial stability.

In general, she hopes to help raise the cathedral's profile and to ensure that the voice of the volunteers is heard. She wishes to make us the employer of choice, to be innovative and to give both staff and volunteers proper recognition.

In her first few months here she has



enjoyed making new contacts and friends and she aims to make herself visible and accessible. She finds inspiration in the services that she attends. At the moment she gets up at 5am to travel here from her home in Derbyshire and so works a long day as she often does not leave until 7pm. When she is home she does not exactly relax, as she aims to run each day and goes to Pilates, Zumba and Strength training classes. At the end of our conversation, I was in awe of her regime and work ethic and pleased that we have such an able and enthusiastic new Chief Operating Officer. All that remains to say is "Welcome Mel, we're glad you've joined us and we wish you well."

Judi Jones

Welcome to the Summer edition of InHouse!

The Cathedral is always a place of "comings and goings", and we bid a warm welcome to the Rev Canon Darren McFarland, our new Succentor, and to Mel Tetley, our Chief Operating Officer and Chapter Clerk. At the same time, we say farewell to our Precentor, the Rev Canon Dr Nick Brown, who is moving to St George's Chapel, Windsor, and to the Bishop of Grimsby, the Right Reverend Dr David Court.

The Cathedral Community celebrated Pentecost with Tea and Cake following Choral Evensong on Sunday 8 June. Stay in touch with everything that is happening at the Cathedral by signing up for the new Cathedral Community and Worshipper Rolls at <https://lincolncathedral.churchsuite.com/-/forms/wyngdeh3>

As always, our thanks are due to all our contributors and the editorial team led by Elaine Johnson, ably assisted by Margaret Campion, Judi Jones and Theresa Moses, for the publication of this magazine. We hope you enjoy reading it.

Wishing all our readers a joyful and relaxing Summer!

Simon Crookall,
Chair, LCCC

Festival of Chaplaincy

The Festival of Chaplaincy, celebrating the diverse contributions of chaplains across Greater Lincolnshire, saw the nave of the cathedral filled with many stalls and a lot of people on Saturday, 22nd March (too late for the Spring edition of *InHouse*).

A festival dinner, which raised £54,000 to be shared between the cathedral, the Lincolnshire Community Healthcare Chaplaincy and the Lincolnshire Rural and Agricultural Chaplaincy, had been held there the evening before, and Evensong the day after was addressed by The Venerable Dr. Giles Legood, Chaplain in Chief of the RAF Chaplains Branch.



I was familiar with some of the areas represented: different branches of the armed forces, the rural community, sea-faring, education, healthcare and hospices, but did you know of 'CAPELA', a chaplaincy which works alongside people in park homes and holiday caravan parks along the Lincolnshire coast? Or the Waterways Chaplaincy which offers practical, emotional and spiritual support to those living, working or travelling on the UK's waterways? There was Sports Chaplaincy, Police Chaplaincy and the Anna Chaplaincy: a charity established relatively recently to support older people. At every stall where I paused, those running it welcomed me warmly and were very happy to chat about their work.

'There for you in the storms of life' summarises beautifully the work of chaplains in all walks of life. Here in Lincolnshire, we are, of course, very aware of the military and a talk by Rev. Canon Paul Wright, Chaplain to the Royal Household, described the origins and function of military chaplaincy going back hundreds of years when, for example, pre-Reformation, chaplains would always say Mass before armies went into battle. It is this long legacy of chaplaincy which has shaped its role in many different sectors today.



Chaplains work with everyone, those with faith and those with none. As our Lincolnshire Rural and Agricultural Chaplain, Rev. Alan Robson, says, they "uniquely go where others can't", yet their work is often hidden. The festival that weekend really shone a light on some very valuable work which supports people throughout our communities when they need it.

Elaine Johnson

Farewell Bishop David

After 11 years in post Bishop David is relinquishing his care as Suffragan Bishop of Grimsby. Asked to reflect on his calling and ministry +David admitted that the call to be a bishop had been unexpected; his work as a parish priest growing churches had led him to think he might be suited to being an archdeacon but that wasn't to be. Instead, he clearly remembers coming home from a social event in Norwich, to hear from his wife, Ann, that he was to phone the Bishop of Lincoln's office immediately. Reading the job description that followed left him excited as it painted a portrait of a call to grow church at a different level.

Looking back, the change from being parish based, part of a well-defined community, was difficult. But he admits it has been amply balanced by the joy of visiting many different churches, seeing what God was doing in communities of many types: rural, urban, deprived, wealthy, healthy, struggling, small, large. As a pastor to the pastors +David enjoyed being with individual clergy, though he was always conscious that he could never spend enough time with them.

Representing the Diocese to parish churches meant he could show them that they were part of a wider and historic church, and so encourage them to recognize within themselves what God was doing in their midst. This has been particularly important throughout his time chairing 'Time to Change Together' as the church across the diocese has adapted to different types of local ministry. He feels proud that while there are still lots of questions there has been a good level of agreement and a desire to make TTCT real and sustainable.

+David had two periods as Acting Bishop of Lincoln; times that were difficult not just at a pastoral level but at a financial level too, with the auditors commenting at one point that it would be difficult to agree that the Diocese "was a going concern". His training before seeking ordination stood him in good stead. Time spent in research and then as a secondary school teacher provided him with a sense of perseverance and helped his communication skills.



His continuing love of education is reflected in his work with the St Lawrence Academy Trust and his constant desire to develop all age churches, where alongside caring for the present congregations the missing youth generation is deliberately encouraged.

He and Ann do not have particular plans for his retirement but he looks forward to a change of pace, to greater opportunities to entertain friends and family, to go on long walks (possibly the Great Glen), to be more serious about theatre and music. Asked what modern musicians he'd like to spend time with he answered he'd like to eavesdrop on Bruce Springsteen, Bono and Martyn Joseph.

Although they had thought of moving back to Norwich +David and Ann have opted to stay in Grimsby, where they feel very much at home. Their local church is St Mark's, and +David hopes that he will be able to offer the parish and the local area some form of help. He will enjoy being back in a local team, with somebody else taking the lead!

The final word must be of Ann; she married a student teacher and lovingly and faithfully has been alongside David in his journey of discernment and ministry. We wish them both well in their next phase of life in the church. Thanks be to God.

Theresa Moses

Farewell to Rev. Canon Nick

'The King has approved the appointment of a canon from Lincoln Cathedral as a residentiary canon of St. George's Chapel in Windsor'

Congratulations to our Precentor on his appointment to St. George's Chapel, Windsor. His new role will involve being part of a community which prays on behalf of the King and, in addition, he will have oversight of properties connected to the chapel, the archives and the library.



Nick has been Precentor at Lincoln Cathedral for five years, which included the challenging time of lockdown and being Interim Dean for nine months. His ministry has been greatly appreciated by us all and we will miss him but we know how much he is looking forward to his new responsibilities. Lincoln's loss is Windsor's gain!

Our prayers and thanks go with Nick and his family as they move south. We wish him every success in the future.

Elaine Johnson

Sunday School

The children in Sunday School are an important part of our community at Lincoln Cathedral, and recently we have been given our own cross and bible.

The sessions are held during the Sung Eucharist on Sundays during the school term. We are a vibrant group and all children are welcome to attend, but we ask that for the smaller children an adult accompany them.

We provide a programme of activities that usually follow the church year using material made available through Trueway Kids. Each child is given their own copy of that week's booklet. It is full of craft ideas, colouring, word games and puzzles following the bible story, so that there are activities they can do on their own or with their parents. Our activities include crafts, stories, prayer and games. A firm favourite is the creation of a decorated biscuit that depicts the story of the week!

A highlight of the year is when the children take part in a tableau of the nativity; putting the children into costume, a brief rehearsal and going back into the nave, ready to make our way into St Hugh's Choir and to the altar.

The Reverend Rowena King, Canon Missioner sourced a cross, which is decorated with figures showing Jesus and the spread of the word of God throughout the world. Each week, once the Sung Eucharist service has started the children come forward to receive the cross and bible; they also receive a blessing for the work they are about to do. The child holding the cross always walks and leads the way, the last in the line is the child holding the bible.

We start each session with our welcome prayer, in which everyone says their name and all the others respond with a welcome. The story is told and we talk about what is happening in the story.



Then the children begin the craft activity or related game. As the session comes to an end, we gather together for our closing prayer and make our way back into the service.

If you would like more information on our Sunday School, please contact Melanie Wetherley.

Linda Jones

Cathedral Chat — 'Rowena's Coffee Club'

If you read the weekly service sheet, you'll see that the congregation at the 10.30 Sunday Eucharist is invited to refreshments in the Chapter House after the service. The sheet also gives note of another opportunity where people may meet and socialise ... the Thursday afternoon Cathedral Chat ... or as the café staff have labelled it "Rowena's Coffee Club"!

Asked about why she set it up and what it was for, Rowena, our Canon Missioner, mentioned that the time in the Chapter House is often too short for anything more than a brief chat, an acknowledgement of friends and family and a welcome to visitors. As the Cathedral congregation is drawn from a much wider area than most parish churches (even in Lincoln) the Thursday slot is meant to provide a longer time, in a more comfortable setting where people can get to know one another. There is no agenda; it isn't a study group or a prayer group, and there's no need to stay for the whole hour, though it's helpful if people come close to the start time; if there's no one there by 4pm then Rowena will call it a day and leave to do other things.

Numbers fluctuate, from one Thursday with no one (when Rowena used the time to practice the Exultet in time for the Easter Vigil) to ten, most weeks between four and six gather to chat.

With the warmer weather meaning that the hour will be competing with outdoor activities the "Chat" will take a break over the summer holidays (finishing on July 10 and starting again in September). In the autumn it could be a spur for people to leave the house and enjoy the company of others.

Who comes? All sorts; there is always one member of the Cathedral staff, and others include volunteers, people who come to various services, friends, and friends of friends and those who have just heard about it. All are welcome. What do we talk about? Anything and everything; books, gardens, family, journeys, history, Lincoln; the usual mix of topics amongst friends and acquaintances.

If you'd like to sample the fare on offer, come to the café on Thursday, 3.30 to 4.30. We'd like to see you there in September if you can't make it during July.

Theresa Moses

News from the Works Department side of the Cathedral is a little different this month:

Behind the scenes: what is happening with the works to the library and north cloister.

As most of you will be aware, the Wren Library has been closed since 2021 following concerns regarding cracks which developed in the plaster ceiling. Investigations uncovered serious structural issues in the roof – eight of the nine roof beams tying the roof together were cracked or completely fractured. This resulted in our in-house Joinery Team undertaking several months of challenging and skilled repairs under the direction of our Consultant Structural Engineer, Gary Willis. This work was completed in 2024.

As with many of our projects on the Cathedral, what starts as a modest scheme of work can often develop into something far more complex – and expensive – than originally planned, and so it has been with the library. The environmental control system, vital for maintaining the correct conditions for our precious collection, was thirty years old and beginning to fail. There had been concerns raised about the Wren Library floor, affected by replacement of the north cloister ceiling in the mid-1980s. Cement and Carlite (modern gypsum) plaster, steel mesh and plastic used for the cloister ceiling had sealed in the C17th floor beams and, consequently, there were issues with damp and beetle infestation. In addition, the existing lighting scheme in both the Wren and Medieval libraries was inadequate and the fire protection system required upgrading.



Prior to the joiners starting repairs in 2023, all 5,026 books in the Wren were wrapped and removed to a specialist storage warehouse in Northamptonshire. This is an expensive process, and not without risk to the books. Therefore, it was decided that while the library was empty, resolving other areas of concern might be explored.

Following lengthy discussions regarding budgets, fundraising and programming, Cathedral Architect, Nick Cox, prepared a programme of work which would address many of the issues. After consideration, it was felt that the rest of the project would be better undertaken by an external contractor due to 70% of the scheme being mechanical and electrical works. This would enable the Works department to carry on with their work on the Cathedral and Estate. Pinnacle Conservation from York were appointed in the spring and started work in May. Challenges include working sensitively around the bats which live in the cloister, and any unknown structural issues which appear when the Medieval Library floor is opened up shortly.

Benefits of the completed project include a space which will provide better long-term care for the books and create a more versatile and pleasant environment for the library volunteers and users.

Beneath, the newly lime-plastered cloister ceiling will function sympathetically with the surrounding materials, and, as a bonus, will look a little more harmonious and less 'multi-story car-park'.

Work is due for completion in the autumn, followed by a six-month period of drying out for the freshly lime-plastered ceiling of the Wren, and testing of the environmental system. The books are due to be returned in the spring, and plans are currently being made to celebrate the much-anticipated re-opening of the library.

Jane Cowan, Head of Conservation

Lincoln Cathedral Peregrines: The Story Continues ...

"Hello, my name is Rachel and I'm a researcher for the BBC. We would like to do a live interview with you on the Today Show on BBC Radio 4 about the Lincoln Cathedral peregrines. We want to have a good news story on the show to balance out all the bad news that there is at the moment"

That was the phone call I got on 18th April, Good Friday, 2025. The peregrine nestcam, set up in the Winter, had been livestreaming to YouTube since early March and, during the day, about 15 people would use it to view the scrape and the four eggs that it contained. The adult female – known to us photographers as Mrs P – did the lions' share of the incubation and Mr P did shorter stints. His main job was to stand guard just outside and to bring in tasty treats for his mate.

The interview itself, at 0740 on the morning of Easter Saturday, went well. The BBC were obviously hoping that I would bring news of the first chick hatching, but nature pays no attention to Radio 4. However, giving out the location of the YouTube livestream increased the 15 viewers to over 7,000, within a few minutes of the interview.

More interviews followed once the first chick hatched in the early hours of 21st/22nd April and soon there were 4 healthy chicks in the scrape. At first, they were mostly hidden under the warm feathers of their parents but, as they grew rapidly, we started to see more and more of them on the peregrine cam.

In May I had an early morning trip to the studios of BBC Radio Lincoln-

shire to be interviewed by Scott Dalton on the breakfast show and I described the chicks flapping their wings as they shed their white down like a snow globe at Christmas or a dramatic pillow fight. Radio interviews these days are – I discovered – often *filmed* so that they can be played back later on social media channels, and such was the case with this one. I was glad that I'd brushed my hair!

By late May into early June what had been tiny, white down-covered chicks had grown all their brown flight feathers and were flapping their wings madly on the edge of the scrape. They were almost as big as their parents and they seemed to be daring each other to make that first leap into the unknown.

The first bird to go left the nest area at dawn on Saturday 30th May. The Lincoln Peregrines Facebook group had by this time grown to over 1,000 members and they all seemed to be keenly awaiting news. I quickly realised that many of the YouTube viewers, for one reason or another, "don't do Facebook" but, as comments on YouTube are restricted in size it was very difficult to keep the 'No Facebook' tribe up to date. Social media is evolving and the advent of private groups on Facebook – like our Lincoln Peregrines group – should overcome many of the objections that people have had in the past. So maybe give Facebook another try. As Admin for the group, I have only ever had to remove one comment (and no, it wasn't about me!).

Grounded fledglings then kept us busy for a few days. The rescue box – complete with leather gauntlets – that we keep in the Vergers' Office came in very handy as we relocated one grounded fledgling back into the scrape, one lower down onto

the Choir School roof and one much higher on top of the main tower.

A few days before this, we had started to notice the extended absence of Mrs P. It was very strange that she would go missing at this vital time in the lives of her offspring. A new, much larger, adult female arrived on the scene and we'd quickly christened her 'WSM' - for wicked stepmother.



No sooner does a fledgling get airborne than it is attacked in the air – quite forcefully – by WSM. Mr P is trying his best to intervene to protect them, but this is a very worrying time. The youngsters should be spending this vital time flying with their parents and learning to hunt on the wing. Instead, they are reduced to hiding on the tower roofs feeding from the occasional food drop from Dad.

We have even had to drop off food for them ourselves to supplement what Dad is able to bring in. No-one knows how this drama will play out. All we can do is monitor the situation and stand ready to rescue any youngster that gets injured. We are hoping for the best, but I worry for their longer-term survival while WSM continues to batter them. You can follow this drama on Facebook as it unfolds.

Bruce Hargrave

(More photos on p. 9)



St Hugh's Swan

Images of St. Hugh often include his swan, as illustrated in this photo from Bolingbroke church. Here in the cathedral, in the ornate Arts and Crafts window above the Richard door at the north-east end, there is also a small motif of a swan. The window in question was made by Henry Holiday in 1902 to commemorate the life of St Hugh, and, certainly, from medieval to modern times, artists have depicted our saint and his pet swan. The swan apparently was a fierce beast, tamed by the saint into becoming a loyal companion and guard. We have an amazing amount of information about this creature who lived over 800 years ago. Yet, how much of it is true?

Well, it seems that, surprisingly, there is a good deal of solid evidence about this bird. There are three contemporary sources (all written in Latin) that talk about St Hugh and his relationship with his swan who lived in the grounds of the Bishop's Palace at Stow near Lincoln. Today the only clue we have that Stow could have been an important ecclesiastical centre is its magnificent church but once, to the west of this building, there stood an impressive palace. The fierce swan had a nest by the pool in its grounds. We know all this because Gerald of Wales (a royal clerk and historian, died c1223) Adam of Eynsham, (Hugh's Chaplain 1155-1233) and Henry of Avranches (the author of "The Metrical Life of St Hugh", died c1262) all included details about the remarkable beast when they wrote about the saint.

Exactly what do they tell us? Firstly, it was a huge magnificent creature who terrified everyone who encountered it. Everyone, that is, except Hugh. Henry of Avranches describes it as "a bird great in proportion" with "a beak that was smooth and saffron yellow" who frightened all the other swans away. "This remarkable bird, so regal, so eye-catching, after first inspecting the bishop would take crumbs from him and grew quite tame to him.... It grew used to being frequently led by his hand....and would make playful and blandishing approaches to him".



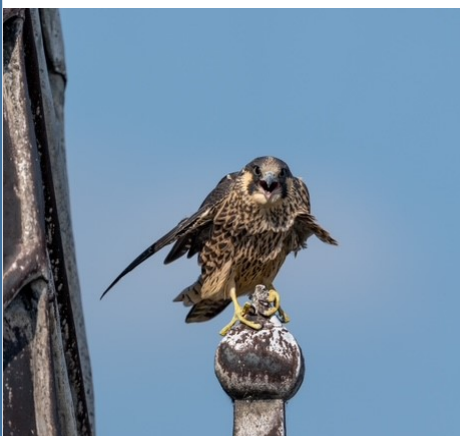
Photo: courtesy of Jim Newton

The poet describes how the bird "would insert its head and neck in his full sleeves" and rest its head on the bishop's chest. "To him alone it was a faithful companion, to him alone it was docile". Hugh's own chaplain, Adam of Eynsham, had a healthy respect for the swan pointing out that it frequently attacked him when he approached Hugh. Gerald of Wales, commented on how the bird seemed to sense when Hugh was returning to Stow showing this by flying over the water, beating it with its wings and giving vent to loud cries. It would then stride through the hall and go to the gate to meet its master. However, Adam recorded that when Hugh visited Stow at Easter 1200 the swan would not greet him. Instead, it seemed to know that his master was dying, showing this by "hanging his head and his general air of wretchedness". Afterwards people realised that it was taking leave of its master for the last time.

Thus, these vivid accounts from three contemporaries of St. Hugh give us a fascinating insight into just one aspect of the saint's life.

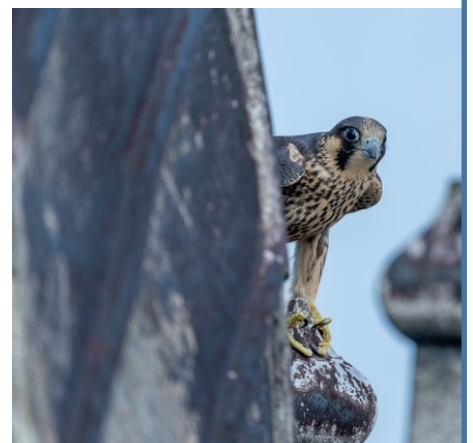
Judi Jones

Juvenile shouting at WSM



Juvenile on SW tower hiding from WSM

Juvenile on main tower hiding from WSM



Festival of History

The Festival of History weekend in May saw exhibits and events from many different eras of the cathedral's 1000 year history.



Lincoln Longwool sheep, a breed dating back to Roman times, grazed on the parvis.

The stonemasons were outside demonstrating their skills using the same tools and techniques as their medieval predecessors.



Inside the cathedral the Tudors had arrived, with displays of typical food including the boar's head and the stuffed swan.

There was music of the time, family activities and even Henry VIII himself ready to feast.

The music was provided by de Mowbray's Musicke, a very entertaining and informative group, who were dressed in glorious Tudor clothes and played a number of musical instruments of the time. These were English bagpipes, Shawms, Crumhorns, Recorders and Renaissance guitar. Peter Barnard of the group has kindly sent us some fascinating information about them in the next column.

Elaine Johnson

The instruments were of several sizes, apart from the guitar, and are not at all familiar to the audiences of today. Their sound can be loud and brash — such as the shawms— or rich and beguiling— like the crumhorns.

English bagpipes appeared as early as 1288 and are shown in the Lincolnshire Luttrell Psalter (c1330).

The shawms had been one of the instruments played on the battlefield by the Saracen war band, and in England were taken up and played by the town waits bands who

provided civic and ceremonial music. A double reed instrument, they developed in later centuries into the orchestral oboe, the cor anglais and the bassoon.

The crumhorn – crooked horn – is first known about from an organ stop that can be dated to the 1580s. They were a popular instrument in the early Tudor period, played in groups (consorts) of different sizes and tonalities, before falling out of fashion as the lute and the 'broken consort' gained prominence. They

also have a double reed which is protected by a 'wind cap'. The Renaissance guitar looks a very modern instrument. It developed from the Medieval stringed instruments, the gittern and citole.

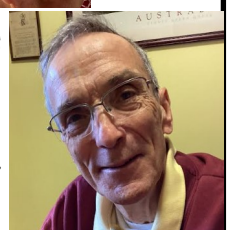
For more information, please see their website: www.demowbray.info



In loving memory

We are very sorry to record the deaths of several valuable and much-loved members of the cathedral community who will be greatly missed:

Doreen Boughton, Cathedral Guide and Guide trainer;
David Pallister, Head Steward; both Doreen and David were recipients of the High Sheriff's award;
Paul Mabbott, Guide and an initiator of the flood-lighting of the Cathedral.
They each contributed so much to the life of the cathedral and we extend our deepest sympathies to their families and friends.



Reminiscence

Towards the end of the last century, I was involved with the U3A (University of the Third Age) and organised a series of mini tours focusing on the 'Hidden Parts' of the cathedral. One of these was a visit to the Canon's Vestry where the then Dean's Verger – John Campbell - welcomed us. He was a great raconteur but my memory focuses on two items: a handsome black and gold enamelled embossing machine used to create the headings for official letters from Dean & Chapter. It was a real piece of Victorian technology which I admired.

Then with a flourish John threw open a small cupboard and brought out an equally handsome chamber pot!



It was large, much larger than the ones I remembered from childhood but perhaps designed for bigger bottoms? It had a trailing design of flowers and after the slightly embarrassed giggles subsided it was explained that in the days before sanitation was installed in Nettle Yard such a utensil was really rather important – services were lengthy and the clergy often rather elderly. Need I say more?

The last time it was actually put out for service was for the Maundy Service in 2000 when the late Queen came to Lincoln to distribute the Maundy Money. The pot was put up into Banks' View where the Royal Trumpeters were installed to herald the arrival and departure of her Majesty. Apparently, they had to be in situ several hours before the lengthy service began and it would simply not be possible to nip down to Nettle Yard for quick relief! History does not relate if it was actually used! Later when the new Museum was open the curator asked for stories and anecdotes, so I sent this little snapshot of an earlier time but further enquiry revealed that, alas, it had been broken and not a fragment had been retained for posterity.

Margaret Campion

The White Altar Linen



In the cathedral we are fortunate in having a very skilled group of Embroiderers whose colourful work on our vestments and altar frontals has often been celebrated in this magazine, but there have been other skilled and nimble-fingered ladies whose mission was to keep the 'Fine White Linen Cloths' in good order and always ready, fresh, white and crisply laundered, for use during any celebration of Holy Communion.

Until the second decade of this century a group of five White Work Needlewomen was organised by Mrs Beryl Clark, who many will still remember, but, alas, only one member of her original group still survives - Margaret Pond. These linen cloths, known as the Five Sacred Linens, had to be of good quality linen which was sourced from a Yorkshire mill. They were hemmed by hand using the drawn thread method, which needs exceedingly nimble fingers and keen eyesight. It also required great patience which, in these times of instant gratification where everything seems to be available at the touch of a button or keyboard – is a rare talent. For every celebration of Communion – and here in the

cathedral that means two celebrations daily in a normal week, more during the great festivals - the linens, are used daily, so the wear and tear of frequent use and washing means they need quite a lot of mending and, of course, eventual replacement. Originally Mrs. Clark also had a rota of ladies who would take these linens home and launder them– and, in case you are thinking of a quick run through the automatic – there are (or were) rules on how to care for Altar Linens!

I found on the internet a booklet published in 1932 by a clergyman (male of course!) with instructions on starching, ironing and folding these linens, and woe betide if one was pressed flat instead of folded with no crease showing, or left soft when it should be starched!

Nowadays, an automatic washing machine has been installed in the cathedral and the vergers are now responsible for this aspect of care. Mending is still a skilled job because only a handful of ladies (no men as far as I know) are able to do the fine drawn-thread work and other mending.

Next time you are in a service of Holy Communion, spare a glance at the altar and give a thought to the skill of these needlewomen whose work goes almost unnoticed amid the splendour of vestments, frontals and banners!

Margaret Pond &
Margaret Campion.



Photos: courtesy of Jim Newton

Volunteer event: thanks from the Dean



On Monday 2nd June a large group of volunteers and staff gathered in the Chapter House to celebrate the significant contribution that volunteers make to the life of the Cathedral. From those who greet visitors to those who ring the bells, guide tours, sit on committees, or offer prayerful support behind the scenes, our volunteers are a key part of the Cathedral community and vital to our mission. From a Christian perspective, much more than being helping hands, they are a living expression of the Spirit of God at work among us. For those who give freely of their time and talents, volunteering is more than service, it is a valuable ministry.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all those who volunteer at the Cathedral in many different ways. Your contribution to our common life reminds us of our calling to be a Spirit-filled community that, following Christ's example, is focused on the service of others.

If you're interested in joining any of our teams of volunteers, you can find details on the Volunteer page of the Cathedral website:

<https://lincolncathedral.com/volunteer/>



Thanks from Verger Jim on his retirement at the beginning of May

Two weeks into retirement and the pile of cards sent by so many of you and the very kind presents I have received still fill me with wonder and gratitude. The send-off by the Precentor on that Sunday morning I did find quite emotional. Thank you to you all for the cards, the presents and such generosity that went with the communal card, full of such kind words. It seems so very little of an acknowledgement on my part but it is heartfelt. I will miss you all horribly. Till we meet again.

Jim

Editor and Editorial Policy The current editor of InHouse is Simon Crookall, supported by Margaret Campion, Elaine Johnson, Judi Jones and Theresa Moses. 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 *10th September, 2025* 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 and is also on the cathedral website under 'Latest News'.