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Manchester Cathedral

News

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March 2016



Prayer / Worship / Music / Arts / Education / Heritage / Welcoming

Photo by Iain Dickinson



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Happy Easter!

By The Dean



Later this month we shall enter once again into the pathos of Holy Week and the great celebration of Easter. We shall also have another excellent performance of St John Passion on Sunday 13 March. My Lenten reflections this year have been based on an insightful little book by Richard Rohr entitled *Wondrous Encounters*. Fr Rohr begins his book by reminding the reader of two important moments in our lives: *'One is when you know that your one and only life is absolutely valuable and alive. The other is when you know your life, as presently lived, is entirely pointless and empty. You need both of them to keep you going in the right direction.'* Lent is about both.

He says that the first such moment gives you energy and joy by connecting you with your ultimate Source and Ground (God) and the second gives you limits and boundaries and a proper humility, so you keep seeking....

This has been a valuable experience and journey for me this Lent. I have been energised and humbled at the same time. Our liturgy is designed to do just this for us when we worship the Lord at the Holy Eucharist: We see our 'smallness and vulnerability' at the beginning of the service when we acknowledge our sins and weaknesses; and we see God's 'bigness' as we then proceed onto the words of the Gloria sung so wonderfully by our choir! And so our liturgy puts our lives (mine and yours) into perspective!

Happy Easter!

Rogers Govender

God does Reconciliation, not Compromise

By The Venerable Mark Ashcroft

One of the saddest experiences that clergy encounter is when two parts of a family are for some reason torn apart and divided. It is by no means uncommon to be with a family that is preparing for a funeral service, only to discover that if Auntie Ida turns up or takes part in the funeral then Uncle Jim will boycott it. Getting such a family back together again is really difficult and takes courage and sacrifice and humility.

Such rifts in families can also be seen on a national scale in places like Syria and South Sudan, where deep rifts seem impossible to heal. No one wants to back down and the cost is borne by the poor and vulnerable.

In both these scenarios, we hear the call for compromise; each side has to give way so we can find some middle ground where both feel comfortable.

This month we take time to think about the cross of Christ and the powerful way in which through the cross, something deeper than compromise takes place: reconciliation happens. It is a timely message of good news for our world. In classic Christian theology, the rift that the Cross heals between God and humanity is caused by our human rebellion and sin. It is not a conflict where both sides are to blame, where there is fault on both sides. Rather we know what we ought to do or not do, and then find ourselves doing the opposite.

We might think that God would offer a compromise: some give and take on both sides. But the remarkable thing about the cross is that it is God who makes all the moves. God comes to us in Christ, God makes the sacrifice on the cross that absorbs the pain, heals the rift and pays the price of sin. It is God who takes the path of humility, courage and sacrifice to make reconciliation viable and possible. God doesn't do compromise; God does reconciliation, a deeper healing where the root causes of the rift are finally dealt with.

The gospel message of reconciliation through the Cross is powerful. For many of us it means following the steps of Christ in humility, courage and sacrifice, to be reconciled to those with whom we have 'fallen out'. Let us not settle for compromise, but reach out for reconciliation.



Quietus Revisited

The vessel, death and the human body

By Lesley Sutton

Throughout Lent Manchester Cathedral is hosting 'Quietus Revisited: The vessel, death and the human body' by international ceramicist Julian Stair. Life-size sculptures offer an alternative and tactile way of engaging with the universal rituals surrounding death and bereavement. Made from earthy clay, with the intimacy of his gentle touch, the artist has found a material way to allow his darkest memories to be transformed into objects of beauty, having experienced personally the debilitating heartache of losing a child and, latterly, a sibling.

Through his creative generosity we, too, are invited to allow our painful losses to surface in the safety of this silent and sacred space; to reflect on our own stories of grief, to perhaps consider our own inevitable passing and to ask one of the hardest questions in life: what happens to us when we die?

Quietus Revisited is a part of **PassionArt: BE STILL**, a visual pilgrimage celebrating the festival of Lent in six of Manchester's iconic spaces. PassionArt is a creative call to the city to 'Be Still' and to create pauses for quiet and meaningful reflection in our busy, noisy lives.

For more information please go to www.passionart.guide or collect a trail catalogue from the Cathedral.



'You shall love the stranger as yourself'

Theological Society Lecture
15 March 2016, 7pm

By the Revd Fleur Houston

Almost every day, it seems, news about refugees hits the headlines. News of hundreds more deaths in the Mediterranean or the Aegean Sea. News from the squalid[?] camps in Calais or Dunkirk. News of people-smugglers and traffickers, news of walls and barbed wire fences going up along Europe's boundaries, not to protect but to exclude. And there is news too of the heroic efforts of volunteers in Italy, Greece or in the camps to do what they can to bring humanity and compassion to bear.

That refugees need protection is obvious but what happens when humanitarian values and personal interests collide? What happens when there is a tension between universal human rights and the claims of sovereignty? A state is justified in protecting its own citizens, but when a rise in restrictive measures is driven primarily by electoral politics, ordinary morality may be suspended in pursuit of political ends and the door is wide open to cruelty and inhumanity. Can an affirmation of the moral claims of people

in need be reconciled with instances where societies treat refugees and asylum-seekers, as if they do not matter?

The Bible has some light to shed. Here, we find people fleeing from their homes, driven by famine or war, or political circumstances. The overarching themes of Exodus and Exile resonate with the plight of many refugees today. The Torah sets out clear prescriptions for how the people of God are to behave towards the stranger. This person is to be treated fairly and with humanity; he may even be a source of blessing. And the perspective that the stranger is to be treated fairly, and when in need given succour, is fundamental to the life of Jesus and the teaching of the church.



Winter Series 2016



Coffee Concerts

Saturday 23 January 2016 at 11am
Harry Smith (saxophone)
Harry Smith will perform Handel's Sonata in D and transcriptions from the violin repertoire in a unique approach to musical masterpieces.

Saturday 13 February 2016, 11am
Daniel Farrimond (Tenor)
British Lyric Tenor, Daniel Farrimond, will be singing a selection of French and Italian songs and arias.

Saturday 12 March 2016, 11am
Rachel Johnson (flute) and Jemima Palfreyman (piano)
Rachel Johnson will perform a programme of French music including César Franck's Sonata in A major.



Manchester Cathedral

Volunteer Programme

By Andrea Swales

As you may know, the Volunteer Programme relies heavily on the network of employers that we work with to offer our volunteers all kinds of opportunities, from mock interviews and training sessions to real jobs. One such employer is Elior, a national contract catering company that delivers on-site hospitality in a range of sectors including business and industry, hospitals and care homes.

Elior became a partner of Volition last autumn and were keen to help our volunteers as much as possible. They kindly offered to run a 'cooking on a

budget' class at the Cathedral, to help educate volunteers on how they can shop economically and still produce healthy, home-cooked dishes. The sessions were a complete success. The chefs prepared a three-course dinner for eight volunteers: spicy sweet potato soup, Brazilian chicken stew and pancakes with an orange sauce for dessert, and all for around £2.50 per head; proof that you can eat healthily without spending a fortune!

One lucky volunteer even won a hand-blender, a prize provided by Elior. The Elior team were fantastic and really enjoyed delivering the session. We are hoping to run the session regularly with their support.



A Poem

by Rachel Mann

Kenosis

*'Let this avail, just, dreadful, mighty God
This not all be in vain' St Simeon Stylites, Tennyson*

Who would not
stretch an arm up
above their head
pushing tiptoe high -
precarious as a dancing girl -
reaching for the belly of a cloud?

Who would not
rip their tongue,
tear open their lips to try
hawk song? Locust talk?

I have tried only to understand
the voice which insists we must
go up to go further in.

Up here all things fall away.
The flower blooms, the flower dies.

The desert dreams.



Art Brings Communities Together

By Alison Rowland

On Friday 12 February 2016 the Challenging Hate Forum (CHF) was delighted to host its fourth annual public event in aid of Hate Crime Awareness Week. Following previous themed community events, the CHF invited members of the public to join them for 'Art Brings Communities Together' at Manchester Cathedral.

The Dean of Manchester, The Very Reverend Rogers Govender, welcomed a crowd of around 70 people to the Cathedral before introducing local artist Alison Kershaw, who led a fun-filled, fact-finding workshop to create a fanzine-style magazine about the launch of Manchester's Hate Crime Strategy for 2016-19 and showcasing the work that



participating groups do to raise awareness of hate crime and how to report it.

Amongst the faith and community organisations taking part were Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, MEND (Muslim Engagement and Development), The Crown Prosecution Service, Faith Network for Manchester, Greater Manchester Police, the Quakers, the Jewish Representative Council, the Booth Centre, Manchester City Council, Cross Street Chapel, Broughton Park Dialogue Group, Chrysalis, Nigerian Women's Group, Christian Aid and the Albert Kennedy Trust.

Mayor and Police and Crime Commissioner Tony Lloyd spoke passionately about the route to ending hate crime in Greater Manchester and Councillor Nigel Murphy of Manchester City Council shared his vision of the newly-launched Manchester Strategy for Hate Crime 2016-19 with the local community.

Participating groups brought along an eclectic mix of artwork which was displayed in a special pop-up gallery. Participants were asked to bring along pieces that meant something to their faith or community group depicting peace, joy, or celebrating diversity. Some fascinating exhibits included a 'Ketubah' (Jewish wedding certificate) courtesy of the Manchester Jewish Museum, a 'Talking Drum' loaned by the Nigerian Women's Group and a rainbow banner celebrating the LGBT community.

The Open Voice choir sang beautifully and Greater Manchester Police volunteers served refreshments to the public throughout the afternoon. The event concluded with everyone sharing some delicious Indian street

food from Mowgli (Corn Exchange) and kosher food from Brackman's Bakery before taking away the magazines they had created during the afternoon.

Friday's gathering provided an excellent opportunity for people from different faiths and cultures to mingle in a safe and relaxed atmosphere and to enjoy fun, food and fellowship in the glorious surroundings of Manchester Cathedral. Funding for the event was provided by Manchester City Council.

What is Hate Crime?

Hate crime is any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's characteristic or perceived characteristic including:

- Disability
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sexual orientation
- Trans and gender reassignment
- Alternative sub-culture

How to report hate crime:

- Call the Police. If it's an emergency always call 999.
- Fill in the form on the True Vision hate crime reporting site for England and Wales <http://www.report-it.org.uk>
- Visit a reporting centre. These are independent non-police centres that allow you to report events in total confidence. If you don't want to talk to anyone, you can pick up a self-reporting pack. For details, select the 'Hate Crime reporting centre' tab on the GMP website.
- Call Crimestoppers with information relating to a hate crime. For example, following a police appeal for witnesses after an incident. They will not ask for your name and your call is not traced or recorded. Contact them on **0800 555 111** or visit the Crimestoppers website www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Laying weapons down as sculpture

By Alison Rowland

Continuing the artistic theme, on Tuesday 8 March 2016 The Dean of Manchester will host the official unveiling of a special sculpture by artist Karen Lyons related to gun violence and how this can be transferred into something positive for our communities, as part of the 'Guns to Goods' campaign.

The sculpture is a portrait bust of Manchester peace activist Erinma Bell MBE DL, made to a scale 1.5 life-size. It is cast in iron retrieved from guns and weighs 50kg.

The unveiling will take place at 6.30pm in the Cathedral's Regiment Chapel with Mayor and Police and Crime Commissioner Tony Lloyd performing the ceremony. The artist will then share her thoughts and inspiration for the piece with the audience.

Professor Paul Haywood will address the crowd on the 'Guns to Goods' campaign and its plans for the future, with Greater Manchester Police providing an update on UK gun crime, successes and the current situation in Salford.

Erinma Bell will then be pleased to share her thoughts about her current and future work.

Manchester Cathedral has an existing close association with the work of Erinma Bell, who is an active member of the Challenging Hate Forum and the Modern Slavery Multi-faith Forum. The Cathedral has long supported initiatives towards peace, and it celebrates the positive contributions made by diverse communities to the social and cultural richness of the city of Manchester.

Admission is free and refreshments will be provided. Do please join us for what promises to be an inspiring and informative event. All welcome.



Christian Meditation at the Cathedral

By Raylia Chadwick

It is Saturday morning in late autumn, and eight of us are sitting around the fire in the quiet beauty of the Cathedral Library. We have gathered to meditate together as a group. Our meditation takes the form of silent prayer. Such prayer is not easy, for the mind loves to be busy, but it is simple and practical. Our prayer is centred upon the person, and mystery, of Christ. In spite of all the distractions of this modern world, discovering silence within is perfectly possible for everyone and gives meaning and purpose to everything we do in ordinary, everyday life.

Our group is part of the World Wide Community of Christian Meditation (WCCM, www.christianmeditation.org.uk) and we follow their pattern of meditation established by John Main OSB, a Benedictine monk, who founded WCCM in 1991. This pattern consists of a short reading, a few minutes reflective music, twenty minutes silent meditation, using a prayer word or brief phrase (sometimes called a mantra), concluding

with a second, brief reading. There is time for questions and observations. The prayer word suggested by WCCM is the *Aramaic Marana-tha* (maa-raa-naa-thaa) meaning, 'Our Lord, come' (1 Cor 16.22), but some of us like to choose something else that resonates personally with us. It is not a technique, or an Eastern import; nor does it replace other forms of prayer, such as petition or thanksgiving. It is simply, silent prayer—part of the great Christian contemplative tradition, going back to the early Christian desert fathers and mothers.

We could give you a list of its fruits (yes, there are fruits although we don't look for them), but, as they say, the proof is in the pudding. Jack J, a first time meditator, said, 'It's an eye opener.' Others in the group who have been meditating over a longer period say that they find more peace, and joy in their lives whatever the outer circumstances. And as this inner balance grows, the mind of Christ is formed in us.

All are welcome to come on the first Saturday of each month in the Cathedral Library, 10.30am to 12 noon.

Campaign Corner: Be a Part of It City Centre Consultation, Heritage Researcher & CAFA Conference!

By Anthony O'Connor

There will be plenty to report from the Development Project this year, as a number of exciting capital projects come to fruition.

As some readers will know, in summer last year the Development Project had a team of 'market researchers' out in the city centre, recruited from Volition and our dedicated volunteer Welcomers and Guides. We surveyed general knowledge and experiences of the Cathedral – and what people might like to see in the future.

We weren't sure what to expect from the survey undertaken in such a crowded marketplace as Manchester city centre, and were delighted when the team collected responses from over 1800 people! The data is already feeding into aspirations for the re-development of the west end and has given the Cathedral some clear indicators for further engagement with target audiences; for example, in economically deprived areas of the city.

One of the outcomes of the survey will be to address a lack of awareness (about 50%) of the Cathedral's daily opening and charge-free admission, but those who had visited before were very positive about their experiences.

Asked what they would most like to see at the Cathedral, the greatest majority of people said 'music', with detailed answers showing a fairly even split between classical and popular art

exhibitions were the next most popular answers. This may not be a surprising result – we consider music to be at the heart of Cathedral life and the culture of Manchester – but it is great to have the affirmation of these independent voices.

'Thank-you' to the research team for your hard work!

We are very pleased to be welcoming recent doctoral graduate, Andy Hardman to carry out research into the Cathedral's pre-industrial history, as we work to develop our heritage interpretation for visitors. This is an AHRC 10th Anniversary Cultural Engagement Fund project, jointly co-ordinated by the University of Manchester and Manchester Cathedral together with Chetham's Library. Andy will be working alongside the Cathedral Visitor Services Manager and Development Project team throughout February – April 2016.

On 11 and 12 May the Cathedral and CAFA will be jointly hosting a conference for English cathedrals on 'Working with the HLF'. This will be an exciting opportunity to share best practice with cathedral colleagues and HLF project officers on partnership working and developing heritage in 21st-century cathedrals.

Saint of the Month John Keble (1792-1866) Priest, Poet and Hymn Writer



John Keble was born in Fairford, Gloucestershire, where his father was Vicar. After studying at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, he was elected at only 19 to a Fellowship at Oriel. In 1816, he was ordained priest and the following year became a tutor. He resigned the post in 1823 to become his father's curate, during which time he wrote *The Christian Year*, the devotional poems which he published anonymously in 1827. They were an instant success and by his death had run to 158 editions.

Not surprisingly, in 1831, when he was known to be the author he was appointed to the Chair of Poetry at Oxford.

Two years later, on 14th July he preached his famous Assize Sermon on 'National Apostasy,' alerting the congregation to what he reckoned were the dangers posed to the Christian faith by liberal theology and attitudes to the Bible. It was one of those sermons that changed history as its direct consequence was the rise of the Oxford Movement and Anglo-Catholicism. However, in 1845 Keble chose not follow his friend John Henry Newman in becoming a Roman Catholic. Instead, with others like Edward

Pusey, he remained a loyal Anglican and was instrumental in keeping the High Church movement within the Cof E.

Keble's hymns sung to this day include, *New every morning is the love; Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see our God, Hail gladdening light, of his pure glory poured*, and many others.

Keble was in a long line of Anglicans who turned their prayers of meditation into poetry and hymns, John Donne and George Herbert being two of the better known. It's a practice that continues to this day.

But times change and fashions in poetry with them, especially religious poetry. Keble's verse reflected the Victorian desire for religious certainty in an age of doubt and for beliefs that comforted the troubled soul and so have not lasted well in an age that prefers poetry with an 'edge' and which faces the doubts and challenges of its time.

But Keble was a prayerful and pastorally minded priest whose poetry spoke to the needs of his time and the church can never have too many poet priests like that.

By Albert Radcliffe

The Diary March

Wednesday 2 March
12.45 pm *Turning of the Leaves*

Saturday 5 March
10.30 am *Christian Meditation session*
10.30 am *Pilgrim Confirmation Preparation Group*

Tuesday 8 March
12.30 pm *Julian Prayer Group*
6.30 pm *Exhibition Launch: Sculpture of Erinma Bell by Karen Lyons*

Thursday 10 March
12.00 noon *Mothers' Union Thursday Prayer*
1.10 pm *Chetham's School of Music Lunchtime Concert*

Friday 11 March
3.00 pm *University of Manchester Baroque Orchestra Lunchtime Concert (No 4.30pm Evening Prayer)*
5.30 pm *Evensong sung by Chetham's School of Music*

Saturday 12 March
10.30 am *Pilgrim Confirmation Preparation Group*
11.00 am *Coffee Concert: Rachel Johnson (flute) and Jemima Palfreyman (piano)*

Sunday 13 March
4.30 pm *Evening Prayer (No 5.30 pm Evensong)*
7.30 pm *Bach's St John Passion*

Tuesday 15 March
7.00 pm *Theological Society event: Fleur Houston. 'Teach In' and book launch: You Shall Love the Stranger as Yourself*

Wednesday 16 March
12.45 pm *Turning of the Leaves*

Saturday 19 March
10.30 am *Pilgrim Confirmation Preparation Group*

Monday 21 March
10.30 am *Sung Eucharist with Blessing of the Oils and Renewal of Vows*

Tuesday 22 March
11.30 am *Bishop of Beverley's Chrism Mass followed by the distribution of oils*

Thursday 24 March (Maundy Thursday)
7.30 pm *Sung Eucharist and stripping of the altars & watch*

Friday 25 March (Good Friday)
12.00 noon *Way of the Cross (No 1.10 pm Holy Communion)*
7.30 pm *Music & Readings for Good Friday*

Sunday 27 March (Easter Day)
10.30 am *Easter Day Eucharist*
5.30 pm *Festal Evensong and Procession. Incense will be used*

Tuesday 29 March
12.30 pm *Julian Prayer Group*

Wednesday 30 March
12.45 pm *Turning of the Leaves*

EXHIBITIONS

All our exhibitions are FREE admission

Quietus Revisited: The vessel, death and the human body by Julian Stair
10 February-2 April

Robert Watson Exhibition
4 March-13 March

Sculpture of Erinma Bell by Karen Lyons
8 March-30 May

Service Times

Midweek Services

| | | |
|----------------|--------|-------------|
| Morning Prayer | 9.00am | Mon-Fri |
| Holy Communion | 1.10pm | Mon-Fri |
| Evensong | 5.30pm | Tues-Thurs* |
| Evening Prayer | 4.30pm | Mon & Fri |

Saturday Services

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Morning Prayer & Holy Communion | 9.00am |
| Evensong | 5.30pm* |

Sunday Services

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Matins | 8.45am |
| Holy Communion (1662) | 9.00am |
| Sung Eucharist | 10.30am |
| Evensong | 5.30pm* |

*Please note: From Monday 28 March to Thursday 31 March, the choir will be on their Easter break. The evening services will be said at 4.30 pm. Variations to the schedule for special dates and services will be listed here whenever possible.

Looking ahead *April*

Friday 1 April

5.30 pm *Evensong sung by the European Cathedral Singers (No 4.30 pm Evening Prayer)*

Saturday 2 April

10.30 am *Christian Meditation session*
10.30 am *Pilgrim Confirmation Preparation Group*
5.30 pm *Evensong sung by RSCM Northern Cathedral Singers*

Sunday 3 April

10.30 am *Sung Eucharist by the European Cathedral Singers*
5.30 pm *Evensong sung by the European Cathedral Singers*

Monday 4 April

5.30 pm *Sung Eucharist for the Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Incense will be used.*

Friday 8 April

Times tbc Vintage Fair

Saturday 9 April

Times tbc Vintage Fair
10.30 am *Pilgrim Confirmation Preparation Group*

Tuesday 12 April

10.30 am *Sing the Cathedral*

Wednesday 13 April

12.45 pm *Turning of the Leaves*

Thursday 14 April

12.00 noon *Mothers' Union Thursday Prayer*
1.10 pm *Chetham's School of Music Lunchtime Concert*

Saturday 16 April

1.30pm *Talk: Lost and Imagined Manchester by Jonathan Schofield*

Sunday 17 April

10.30 am *Confirmation Service*

Tuesday 19 April

12.30 pm *Julian Prayer Group*
7.00 pm *SJM Concerts presents: An Evening With Mark Lanegan Plus Special Guest: Duke Garwood*

Saturday 23 April (St George's Day)

10.30 am *'Ring for England' Quarter Peal bellringing*
2.15 pm *Be A Chorister For A Day*
4.30 pm *Evening Prayer (No 5.30 pm Evensong)*
5.00 pm *Be A Chorister For A Day—Act of Worship*

Wednesday 27 April

12.45 pm *Turning of the Leaves*

Saturday 30 April

12.00 noon *Virgin Wines Wine Fair*

The Cathedral Office will close at 4.30pm on Thursday 24 March and re-open at 8.30am on Monday 4 April 2016.

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St John Passion

J S Bach

Manchester Cathedral Choir
Northern Chamber Orchestra Ensemble
directed by Christopher Stokes

Sunday 13 March 2016

7.30 pm

Doors open at 6.30 pm

Tickets priced at £13 - £20

Available from Eventbrite

www.st-john-passion.eventbrite.co.uk

Or contact

Worship and Music Administrator

0161 833 2220 ext. 238

Manchester
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