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Manchester
Cathedral



News

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September 2015



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



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Good for the City

By The Dean



The Kingdom of God is often referred to as a hidden gem waiting to be found or revealed; and the Church is regarded as a sign of the Kingdom of God in the world. The Church (globally or locally) is called to manifest the values of God's Kingdom in the world and, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to help transform the world towards the values of the gospel of Christ. For those of us who are non-dualist thinkers and theologians, who recognise God in all things, I am pleased with the many ways in which we contribute to the transformation of our city and world.

For the past year I have been a member of the Manchester Leaders Forum which has been working up the Strategy for our city until 2025. This draft strategy will be available for public consultation soon.

Dig the City, which was branded by us for our Flower Festival, is now the city's premier Summer Urban Garden Festival!

Through our charity Volition we are enabling many folk who are long-term unemployed to get back into work through volunteering at the Cathedral. This important project is done in collaboration with central government through the Cabinet Office, several business partners and other cathedrals, as well as Job Centre Plus and our very own Welcomers and Guides.

I am currently in conversation with the Lord Mayor to explore the provision of easy access to help those suffering from mental health issues. I hope to establish a facility at the Cathedral for this.

Canon Adrian Rhodes looks after our bees on the Cathedral roof. There is a serious crisis with the lack of honey bees around the world and we are helping address this problem in our small way!

And it was great to hear a young doctor at Salford Royal Hospital say to me recently that he has often come to concerts at the Cathedral which he enjoys tremendously!

And I haven't even mentioned the hundreds of visitors and the many that come in to light a candle for loved ones in need or who have died.

In so many ways, each of us as individual followers of Jesus, and together as a cathedral community, are being signs of God's kingdom in our city as we help to transform the city with the love, joy and peace of the gospel. Wherever you are, please continue doing your little bit of good to others. 'Every little bit of good transforms the world for God,' said Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

God bless you.
Rogers

A Curate's First Twelve Months

My curacy did not have the most auspicious of beginnings! Canon Philip Barratt, my proposed training incumbent (supervisor), was taken seriously ill soon after my placement was identified. His recovery was a source of huge relief to me, as was the discovery (when we eventually met) that we would get on well!

I was introduced to the cathedral congregation at the 2014 AGM but that didn't put me off! During the service at which I was ordained deacon I remember listening to the choir, gazing at the surroundings and feeling awestruck at the prospect of serving in such an amazing place.

I couldn't possibly have imagined all that my first year would entail. As I have been asked to deacon at principal services as much as possible, I've experienced near paralysing nerves on occasions, such as the Christmas Midnight Communion, and the BBC live broadcast on Easter morning, but also much gratitude for the generosity of the congregations who have borne my mistakes with considerable grace. I've appreciated too the quite remarkable guidance, patience and understanding of the vergers!



Whilst the Easter Day service will live long in the memory (not least because of the insights gained from discovering how many unchurched people watch church services on TV) there have been many other highlights, including the Sing-a-long Christmas carol service, the Lenten Conversations, taking school assemblies at Chetham's School of Music, my visit to the Muslim Youth Foundation and the launch of Cathedral Kids (website and monthly Sunday School).

Presiding at my first Eucharist, held in the Cathedral the day after my ordination as priest, was an incredible privilege. It was deeply moving to have close family, friends and legal colleagues in attendance at the place which has come to feel like home, thanks to all the wonderful people who work, serve and worship here.

There is something special about the Cathedral building, particularly at the end of a long day when all the worshippers or concert-goers have departed, the doors have been locked, dusk light cascades through the windows and silence descends. It is a time when I think of the centuries over which prayer has been offered here and how God's presence has been encountered.

It remains a source of profound joy that I am called to serve in this place. I look forward to continuing, with you, to share the gospel in our great city of Manchester, both within our Cathedral walls and outside them.

Reverend Jane Walker

Booth Centre People: Swimming for their Lives

Having been a part-time chaplain of the Booth Centre for nine months, I thought it was time I to set down my first impressions. I began by simply trying to learn more about what goes on at the Centre and to meet some of the people who come there, and the wonderful staff and volunteers. My normal routine is to visit the Centre every Thursday morning at breakfast time, and to talk (and listen) to whoever is willing to put up with having a vicar at their breakfast table!

The many stories that I've been told have given me a sobering picture of what it means to be homeless in Manchester. I have heard some good news here and there, and we've had the odd laugh. But more often than not, there have been deep sighs. Being homeless takes guts and stamina, and not everyone survives.

I have learned that being homeless is like being a long-distance swimmer, struggling to keep swimming for the shore, even when the tide drives you back out to sea. There is a certain hurt look in people's eyes when they tell me their experiences, a look that says



that this struggle feels endless. Some people I see only once and I wonder later whether they got safely ashore somewhere else, or whether they have drowned. Those who are still afloat show incredible resourcefulness and resilience. All know that 'the system' is more geared to seeing them drown than be saved.

Keeping with this metaphor, the Booth Centre and other similar places in Greater Manchester, are more than just lifeboats. As well as hauling soaked and shivering swimmers aboard, they also help to bring them ashore and find ways of coping with life on dry land.

The Booth Centre is not just a place offering rescue and first aid. Apart from providing regular meals, showers and help to access whatever benefits are available, it also a community to belong to and be a part of. It's hard to learn computing, singing or sewing when you are half drowned, but the world looks different when you're dry, warm and better nourished.

There is no doubt more to be said and done, e.g. on how to help those who are excluded from access to any benefits or housing. But for now, please keep the Booth Centre in your prayers and consider joining the November sleepout.

David Holgate



Friends Activities

In May the Friends of Manchester Cathedral enjoyed a week-end away in Glastonbury, Bath and Wells. We attended the Eucharist at Wells Cathedral, toured the Bishop's Palace and took a guided tour of Glastonbury Abbey in beautiful sunshine. We spent a few hours in Bath, enjoying lunch together in the Pump Room before we returned home.

In July, our Annual General Meeting this year was a Cheese and Wine supper with entertainment on the piano by Canon Philip. After attending Evensong, we carried on with our meeting. The following were elected to serve as officers and council members for the coming year:-

Chairman - the Dean
Hon. Secretary - Pauline Dimond
Hon. Treasurer - Basil Fox
Independent Examiner - John Atherden
Council members - Jack Peacock, Valerie and Geoffrey Timms, Barbara Evans, Judith Walsh, Joyce Hood, Helen and Geoffrey Bamping.

In August we held an Afternoon Tea event which was greatly enjoyed by members and visitors. Once again Canon Philip kindly entertained us with his delightful music on the piano and we hope to have recruited several new members.

Our next social occasion will be lunch in October at the Mitre Hotel. If you would like to join the Friends of Manchester Cathedral, please contact us at friends@manchestercathedral.org.

Pauline Dimond (Hon. Secretary)

Autumn 2015



Coffee Concerts

Saturday 19 September 2015 at 11am

Rebecca Robertson (Trumpet Soloist)

Accompanied by pianist Jane Robertson. Rebecca will be performing music composed by Chopin and others.

Saturday 17 October 2015 at 11am

8 Cellos (Cello Octet)

8 Cellos come together for a love of the Cello and will be performing a diverse programme of music.

Saturday 21 November 2015 at 11am

Angela Hicks (Soprano)

Accompanied by pianist Madelaine Jones, Angela will perform music by Samuel Barber and others.



Members of the Cathedral staff have formed a team and are participating in the Manchester Sleepout on Friday 6 November. We are hoping to raise funds for the Booth Centre so please give what you can! This is the third year that the Cathedral team has participated, last year we raised over £2,200, it would be great to beat this target and with your help we will! You can sponsor the Cathedral Team via our JustGiving page:

www.justgiving.com/ManchesterCathedral1



'The Return of the Prodigal Son'

The Parable of the Prodigal Son, in Luke 15:11-32, is one of the most well-known stories in the Bible. While the traditional title focuses on the younger, wayward son, it is actually a story of a father's generous love for both of his sons, the wasteful younger one, and his older brother who stays at home being dutiful but resentful. This painting depicts the moment when the father welcomes the younger son home.

Ghislaine Howard did this life-size painting as part of her contribution to the PassionArt Trail in 2014. We are now delighted to have it on display in the Regiment Chapel of Manchester Cathedral from 14 August until 20 September. To explore the meaning of the painting, there will be a free Creative Arts Evening, on Friday 18 September starting with refreshments at 7pm. Join Ghislaine and her husband Michael for an evening of music, poetry and discussion of the painting.

Of the painting, Ghislaine Howard says,

'The idea of painting the Return of the Prodigal Son was an enormous challenge—how to recreate a subject already given such magisterial form by Rembrandt and others. It is a subject that is perhaps at the very centre of everything I do; it goes straight to the heart of what it is to be human—our weaknesses and our strengths. It embodies the silence of the moment of forgiveness, reconciliation and redemption—in a word, compassion.'

'I have chosen the moment when the son sinks to his knees, received by his father with an unquestioning and urgent embrace. I hope the painting captures something of the words of the poet Rilke, who described love as 'two solitudes [that] protect and border and greet each other.' The emotional impact of the figures is expressed by the movement of their bodies as they come together in a single embrace; their feelings are carried within their bodies, but given outward expression for us to share.'

'I am drawn to paint human experience and find inspiration where I can. I how much to working with 'Acting on Impulse,' a group whose aim is to give homeless and marginalised people a voice through film and theatre, and to my practice of producing daily paintings from the news media. These have helped me to discover the telling gesture: meetings, departures, the embrace of human love or support and the silent eloquence and expressive power of the human body.'

A Poem

by Rachel Mann

A Lesson in Evolution

The specialist wants to try seaweed,
feed it strand by strand into the cavern
below, leave it to settle in the pools,
do its work among the creatures
they left behind.

Who knew the body was so much sea?
That beneath the crust of skin,
there are trenches where beasts
angle for prey, spark light from nothing
but themselves.

All life was water once, they say.
Perhaps I'll travel home,
relearn the trick of gills, fin and scale.
Retreat from the mud.
Thirty leagues out, silver eyed, free at last.

(First published as part of *The Hippocrates Prize Winners Pamphlet 2015*)

Our Education Officer Looks Back

The summer holidays are here and it's time for teachers across the land to lay down their dry wipe marker pens and don their sunhats (albeit somewhat optimistically!) in order to take a well-earned break. I used to be one of them, having worked for years in schools in various guises. But this summer is a little different for me, as I prepare to relinquish my temporary post as Education Officer at Manchester Cathedral, a role that I have been keeping warm for Pam Elliott who returns from maternity leave in September. In between family tours and holiday workshops at the Cathedral (yes, unlike teaching, the work of an Education Officer never ends!), my summer is set to be a time to reflect on all that I have seen and done in my brief, but action packed, stint at the Cathedral.

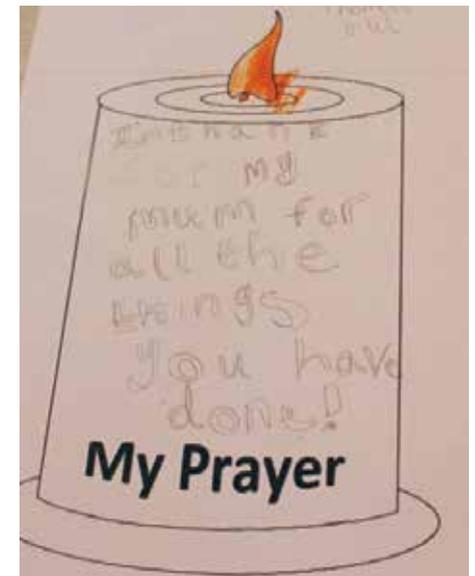
There is a tradition in the Education Department at Manchester Cathedral of experiential learning, a modus operandi I love and couldn't wait to get stuck into. I soon found my own ways to make learning fun and relevant to pupils and students, often in the most hands-on and interactive ways imaginable. Take a look in the Education Office on any given day and you will see mini bishops' vestments, a cardboard donkey for Jesus to ride into Jerusalem on, a dragon puppet, Saint George's sword and shield and even a flashing, pink tiara for a princess in distress.

It has proven to be a winning formula (this year we have welcomed around 2200 visitors to the Cathedral in the summer term alone) and when the opportunity came to take my workshops on the road to St Mary the Virgin Church in Leigh, I made sure that the local children there enjoyed the same approach. In one dynamic day, pupils went on a tour of the building and learned about its history and the features of the Christian faith. They learned about liturgical colours and symbols by dressing in mini vestments and forming a human calendar. They explored gothic architecture and made model arches and medieval spirit levels. Finally they took part in meditation, made prayer bracelets and wrote their own prayers or reflections. The day was hard work for me and Kevin Crinks, the Vicar, but well worth it. We'd managed to engage children with their own church and reaffirmed their place within it. The seeds had been sown and they left knowing that St Mary's was a place they could feel free to explore and grow their own spirituality.

I will miss my role at the Cathedral. Partly because there is so much educational potential within the building that I have yet to tap into and partly because I'm aware of the fact that children are slipping away from Christianity at an alarming rate and I want to be there to do something about it! But mostly I will miss the little things that have enriched my day to day life as Education Officer: sitting on the floor surrounded by children as I tell them the story of Creation, showing them how to read the Bible and finding the ingredients for Bible Cake among its verses, singing their school hymns in the Quire and having my day brightened by the delivery of an envelope packed with thank you letters from pupils. The Cathedral staff are amazing, and I have especially valued the skilled and dedicated team of education volunteers without whom I would not have survived! I think it is fair to say there is a certain magic about the Cathedral that I know I won't find anywhere else.

Petra Wilcockson

In an increasingly secularised society, there is clearly a crisis in the way we approach children's spiritual needs. The vast majority of secondary school pupils aged 11 upwards who visit the Cathedral are quick to declare themselves atheist, as if spirituality is innately shameful. And this is detrimental not to themselves but also to society as a whole. The facts are out there: children who adhere to some form of religion are generally happier, form better relationships and cope better with the demands of life. We have a responsibility to look at the bigger picture regarding children's spirituality, to find ways to make it 'okay' for children to believe. Traditional worship isn't working for young people and we need to identify the means to engage them with their churches once more.



Capture the Cathedral: The People's Choice

The Capture the Cathedral exhibition has proved a great success with our visitors this year. Whilst it has been on display, members of the public have been voting for their favourite photograph, with over 1200 votes cast in person or via the Manchester Cathedral Facebook page.

We are pleased to announce that the winner of the Capture the Cathedral People's Choice 2015 is 'Architecture' by Kathryn Skeldon. Our congratulations to Kathryn and our thanks to everyone who submitted an entry into this year's Competition and to those who took the time to vote for their favourite picture.

On receiving news that her image had been voted the People's Choice, Kathryn said:

"I visited Manchester Cathedral in February before I even knew about the competition, and I fell in love with it; the architecture is exquisite. The photos that I took in February were for my own enjoyment, but then I saw about the competition and entered my image, raw and unedited. This was the first photography competition I have entered. I have been back since in June, and was able to see my photo on display which was wonderful and I also had more time to enjoy the beautiful building and get a load more pictures. I felt happy that my photo had captured a moment that I had enjoyed whilst inside the Cathedral, and that others were able to share that moment with me through my photo.

"It has been a pleasure to come and photograph the cathedral and I will definitely be bringing my camera when I come again!"

Kathryn's winning picture is featured above and on this month's cover.

Decorate an Organ Pipe Competition

We are excited to announce that 37 schools will be participating in a competition to decorate the pipes retrieved from our old organ, inspired by the theme of 'musical Manchester'! The project is led by the Education Officer working together with the Director of Fundraising and Development, and the prize is sponsored by the Greater Manchester Lieutenancy. The Lord Lieutenant will be joining the Dean on the judging panel.

We hope to have the decorated pipes on display in the Cathedral when the competition ends, and look forward to welcoming pupils and teachers from each of the participating schools to the Cathedral, for a celebration and prize-giving event in the New Year.

Introducing our new Verger

We would like to introduce our new Verger, Mike Jenkinson, who joined the Vergers' team on Monday 10 August. Here are a few words from Mike:



"I've lived in and around Urmston, Flixton and Davyhulme all my life. I'm married to Fi, who is entering her 3rd year of ordination training, and we have 2 children - Faith (11) and Jacob (9). Fi and I became Christians in 2002 after beginning to attend St Michael's Flixton. In my spare time I enjoy lots of creative hobbies, including making stained glass art and home brewing. What excites me about working at the Cathedral is being a visible sign of faith in the middle of a vibrant and diverse city. I look forward to meeting you all."

A Saint for the Month
17th September

Hildegard, Abbess of Bingham, Visionary (ca.1098-1179)



According to tradition, Hildegard was the tenth child of a minor noble family and was enclosed as a nun when she was about 14. When she was 38, the nuns elected her as their 'magistra' or superior. Later, she achieved independence for herself and her nuns by founding her own community and being appointed Abbess. The rest of her story centres on her inner life.

Hildegard saw her first visions when she was 3 but didn't understand what they were until she was 5. She was reluctant to share them until she was 42 and had a vision instructing her to have them recorded. In 1147-48, her writings came to the attention of Pope Eugenius whose approval established her reputation. Her visions of the 'voice of the Inner Light' are a detailed and illustrated spiritual theology of creation, redemption and the history of salvation. The originals were sadly lost in WWII.

In recent years, however, Hildegard has become famous as a medieval female composer of considerable ability. Some 70 of her works survive with the words she wrote for them. She also wrote a number of scientific and medical works, and these have led to yet more interest in this remarkable and under-celebrated Christian woman. In 2012,

she was effectively, though not officially, canonised by Pope Benedict XVI and pronounced a Doctor of the Church.

By virtue of her birth, her status as an Abbess and by her sheer ability as a thinker and teacher, Hildegard overcame all the disadvantages of her time in being a woman and had tremendous influence and authority in and beyond Germany during her life. She travelled widely on preaching tours calling for church reform and denouncing corruption among the clergy.

As her reputation as a teacher spread she corresponded not only with German emperors but also with a number of Popes.

It's not surprising that Hildegard has been a key figure in the rise of modern secular and Christian feminism, or that in 1998 Germany issued a 10 DM coin commemorating the 900th anniversary of her birth. In addition, her music has now entered the classical repertoire. Hildegard has become a religious and cultural icon not only for her own time but also for ours.

By Albert Radcliffe

The Diary September

Wednesday 2 September
12.45 pm *Turning of the Leaves*

Thursday 3 September
6.30 pm *Football Weekly Live - part of Manchester Football Writing Festival*

Saturday 5 September
10.30 am *Christian Meditation 'taster' session*

Sunday 6 September
5.30 pm *Festal Evensong with installation of new Canons*

Tuesday 8 September
12.30 pm *Julian Prayer Group*

Thursday 10 September
1.10 pm *Chetham's School of Music Lunchtime Concert*

Friday 11 September
7.00 pm *Todd Terje (Live) concert*

Saturday 12 September — Heritage Open Day
11.00 am *Talk: Myth and Legend in Medieval Manchester (FREE)*
12.00 noon *Display: By Royal Charter (FREE)*
12.30 pm & 1.30 pm *Drama: Joshua Brookes and the Missing Grooms (FREE)*

Tuesday 15 September
6.30 pm *'Pilgrim' at the Cathedral*

Wednesday 16 September
12.45 pm *Turning of the Leaves*

Friday 18 September
7.00 pm *Creative Arts Evening with Ghislaine and Michael Howard (FREE)*

Saturday 19 September
11.00 am *Coffee Concert: Rebecca Robertson*

Sunday 20 September
2.30 pm *ALM Commissioning Service*

Tuesday 22 September
6.30 pm *'Pilgrim' at the Cathedral*

Thursday 24 September
7.00 pm *Taize Service*

Friday 25 September
5.30 pm *Evensong for Crompton House Founders' Day*

Tuesday 29 September
12.30 pm *Julian Prayer Group*
6.30 pm *'Pilgrim' at the Cathedral*

Wednesday 30 September
12.45 pm *Turning of the Leaves*

EXHIBITIONS

All our exhibitions are FREE admission

The Return of the Prodigal Son by Ghislaine Howard
14 August - 20 September

Wilfred Owen WW1 - The Soldier's Story
25 September - 29 November

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: During school holidays evening services are said. All said services are at 4.30 pm. Variations to the schedule for special dates and services will be listed here whenever possible.

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Looking ahead October

Friday 2 October
7.30 pm *Vivaldi & Bach Concertos*
by *Candlelight*

Saturday 3 October
10.30 am *Christian Meditation*
session

Sunday 4 October
5.30 pm *Sung Eucharist & Reception*
for *St Denys*

Monday 5 October
7.00 pm *Peoples Assembly*
Against Austerity

Tuesday 6 October
7.00 pm *Peoples Assembly*
Against Austerity; Vigil by *Bishop*
David Walker
7.00 pm *Book Launch: Livi Michael*
(in *Visitor Centre*)

Wednesday 7 October
7.00 pm *LOW Concert*

Thursday 8 October
12.00 noon *Mothers' Union*
Thursday Prayer
1.10 pm *Chetham's*
Lunchtime Concert
7.00 pm *Book launch and Theological*
Lecture with Andrew Shanks

Saturday 10 October
12.00 noon *World Mental Health Day*
Service & conference

Wednesday 14 October
12.45 pm *Turning of the Leaves*

Friday 16 October
7.00 pm *Manchester Literature*
Festival: Manchester Sermon
with *Elif Shafak*

Saturday 17 October
11.00 am *Coffee Concert*
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

Monday 19 October
1.45 pm *Manchester Literature*
Festival: Cathedral Poetry
Competition Prizegiving

7.00 pm *Manchester Literature*
Festival Event with Melvyn Bragg

Tuesday 20 October
12.30 pm *Julian Prayer Group*
7.30 pm *Chetham's Sinfonia and*
Ensembles Concert

Friday 23 October
5.00 pm *Joint Manchester*
Literature Festival & Manchester
Camerata Event

Saturday 24 October
2.30 pm *Doncaster Wheatheaf*
Singers Concert

Monday 26—Wednesday
28 October
4.00 pm *Museum of Science*
and Industry Science Festival

Tuesday 27 October
7.00 pm *'A Journey Round*
John' Book launch and lecture
(in *Visitor Centre*)

Wednesday 28 October
12.45 pm *Turning of the Leaves*

Friday 30 October
7.00 pm *COLUMNS Concert*

Contacts

Manchester Cathedral
Victoria Street
M3 1SX

0161 833 2220

Cathedral Visitor &
Conference Centre
Cateaton Street
M3 1SQ

0161 817 4817

Chetham's Library
Long Millgate
M3 1SB

0161 834 7961

Chetham's
School of Music
Long Millgate
M3 1SB

0161 834 9644

Clergy

Dean of Manchester
The Very Revd Rogers Govender
dean@manchestercathedral.org

Canon Precentor & Sub-Dean
The Revd Canon Philip Barratt
precentor@manchestercathedral.org

Canon for Theology & Mission
The Revd Canon Dr David Holgate
canon.holgate@manchestercathedral.org

Archdeacon of Manchester
The Venerable Mark Ashcroft
archdeaconmanchester@manchester.anglican.org

Cathedral Curate
The Revd Jane Walker
curate@manchestercathedral.org

Chapter Lay Canons
Barrie Cheshire, Philip Blinkhorn,
Addy Lazz-Onyenobi & Jenny Curtis

Cathedral Chaplains
The Revd Canon Adrian Rhodes
The Revd Peter Bellamy-Knights

Cathedral Reader Emeritus
Raylia Chadwick
writenow@rayliachadwick.co.uk

Congregation

Churchwardens & Stewards
wardens@manchestercathedral.org

Archives
archives@manchestercathedral.org

Cathedral High Steward & Chair of
Manchester Cathedral Development Trust
Warren Smith JP
deputy@gmlo.org / 0161 834 0490

Flowers: *Helen Bamping*
Cathedral Friends: *Pauline Dimond*
Ringing Master: *Malcom Murphy*
Secretary to Bell-Ringers: *Catherine Rhodes*

Staff

Cathedral Administrator
stuart.shepherd@manchestercathedral.org

Dean's PA
alison.rowland@manchestercathedral.org

Cathedral Office Assistant
natasha.price@manchestercathedral.org

Office & Conferencing Assistant
jade.newbury@manchestercathedral.org

Finance Assistant
joanne.hodkin@manchestercathedral.org

Logistics Officer
peter.mellor@manchestercathedral.org

Senior Verger
derrick.may@manchestercathedral.org

Vergers
martin.taylor@manchestercathedral.org
Michael.jenkinson@manchestercathedral.org

Organist & Master of the Choristers
christopher.stokes@manchestercathedral.org

Sub Organist
geoffrey.woollatt@manchestercathedral.org

Worship & Music Administrator
kerry.garner@manchestercathedral.org

Education Officer (Pam Elliott)
education.officer@manchestercathedral.org

Cathedral Communications
& Marketing Officer
joanne.hooper@manchestercathedral.org

Director of Fundraising & Development
anthony.o'connor@manchestercathedral.org

Visitor Services Manager
dymrna.gould@manchestercathedral.org

Secretary to the Development Project
grace.timperley@manchestercathedral.org

Volunteer Programme Co-ordinators
helen.jones@manchestercathedral.org
andrea.swales@manchestercathedral.org

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The 2015 **Manchester**
Sleepout
Friday 6th November
Manchester Cathedral



For one night only we're sleeping out to highlight some of the hardships that homeless people have to face every single night. We're inviting you to join us and raise vital funds for the Booth Centre, a charity that provides activities, advice and support to homeless people in Manchester. Are you up to the challenge?

#McrSleepout

The Booth Centre
Edward Holt House
Pimblett Street
Manchester M3 1FU

0161 835 2499
info@boothcentre.org.uk
@BoothCentre
/boothcentre

To find out more and register,
visit boothcentre.org.uk