

cathedral news

February 2020

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Cathedral

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www.manchestercathedral.org



Abundant love and grace

As 2020 takes off and begins to launch us into the busyness of another year, let me wish you every blessing for the New Year!

We have had a rather sad ending to 2019 as we laid to rest a number of our beloved members and friends. We give thanks for the lives and service of Barbara Evans, Alan McGuire, John Acaster, Martyn Coppin, Margaret Knowles and Michael Oglesby. In January we laid to rest at Manchester Crematorium a good friend of the Cathedral, Joanna Vale. I was also saddened to hear of the death in January of Fred Booth who manages the Printworks near the Cathedral. Earlier in 2019 we laid Dr Tony Enoch to rest. We pray for each of their families and friends. May the hope we have in Christ fill their hearts and minds at this sad time.

I was pleased to co-lead the pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Jordan in November last year. The tensions and struggles in the West Bank were very evident. Let us continue to pray for peace between our Palestinian and Israeli friends.

We now look towards Lent and Easter as we continue our journey with the Lord. May God in Jesus continue to nourish and sustain you spiritually and fill you with abundant love and grace.

Every Blessing,
Rogers Govender

One day more

The Revd Steven Hilton, Cathedral Curate

At the end of this month, just because the Earth does not orbit the sun in precisely 365 days, we will all be offered the gift of one extra day: Saturday 29 February – a Leap Day. What will you do with yours?

As I write, I am freshly returned from a wonderful and refreshing holiday in South Africa where, all too perfectly, we lost track of the days. Sunny day turned into sunny day, our iPhone calendars were not required, and work email was a strict no-no. Time is something we can take for granted and yet, as I turned 40 last year, I am now a little more aware of the decades before and yet perhaps the same number or fewer ahead. You see, the days do really matter. What we do with our time really matters and, of course, our actions tend to reflect a little of our own priorities.

So, again I ask you, what will you do with this gift of one day more?

Last month, in this column, Canon David Holgate encouraged the vexed Christmas reader to switch off a little each day taking time to be 'timeful'. And perhaps this might be a good thing to do on this month's Leap Day.

But could the Cathedral Curate tempt you down a different route? On this Leap Day, I encourage you to do something really special for no other reason than you can. If you are a gourmand, then go to your favourite restaurant or cook your favourite meal. If you like sport, then look up what's on and see if you can go. If there is a special friend that you don't see enough of, then arrange to meet up. And if you don't get enough time for your family, put your phone down and enjoy spending the day together.

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This extra day is a gift. Yes, it's a gift offered by human calendar writers but a gift nonetheless. Do something special. And why not start the day with a prayer of thanks. Thankfulness keeps us grounded and humble and, for the most part, we have much to give thanks for.

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How many stones did it take to build the Cathedral?



Our Guides at the Cathedral

How many stones did it take to build the Cathedral? What is the history of the radiator in the Jesus Chapel? Why is there a koala in the medieval ceiling?

These are just some of the more puzzling questions the Cathedral's team of guides are asked during their day conducting tours. The Cathedral has around fifteen dedicated Guides, and a larger team of Welcomers. Together the Guides and Welcomers help to make visitors feel more comfortable and at ease when entering this imposing structure.

Our Guides come from a wide variety of backgrounds including librarianship, teaching, social services and the corporate world. What unites them all is a vast and extensive knowledge of the fabric and history that created this ancient building and very often the surrounding area too. Each one has a passion for their subject and just as importantly the ability to engage with the public. The majority of visitors come from Europe, especially Spain but they also pop up from less familiar places such as Uzbekistan and Mongolia.

In case you are wondering, here are the answers to above questions. The number of stones remains a mystery, the radiator is decommissioned and whilst there are kangaroos in the Cathedral, the koala, on closer investigation, turned out to be a pig!

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If you know someone who would like to know more about the history and fabric of the building contact diary@manchestercathedral.org. Tours cost just £6 per person and are available for groups of two or more.
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What is the history of the radiator in the Jesus Chapel?

Why is there a koala in the medieval ceiling?



News of the Cathedral Archives

Canon David Holgate, Sub-Dean

In preparation for our 600th Anniversary Celebrations in 2021 (an anniversary we share with Cheetham's Library), our honorary archivists, Mike Breaks and Pam Butler, have been looking through our archives to select especially important documents and records to display during 2021.

In addition to their usual duties of storing documents and answering queries from the public, they have recently assisted Mrs Marion McClintock with research into information about our stained glass windows and previous Cathedral Architects for a chapter in the forthcoming History of Manchester Cathedral (2021). They and I continue to work together to review our archival procedures to ensure that we continue to take good care of our priceless registers and documents.

As Mike is also a volunteer archivist for the Trafford Local Studies Centre in Sale, last October he arranged for me and him to view their archives and consult their archival staff. In turn, we invited them to view our archives and also to meet the newly appointed Librarian and part-time Archivist of Cheetham's Library, Fergus Wilde and Jane Muskett in mid-January.

After a historical tour of the Cathedral, a visit to the Muniment Room and a working lunch, Fergus and Jane kindly gave us a tour of the Library in the afternoon. The picture shows Meghan MacGabhann, a Local Studies Specialist and Sonia Llewellyn, a Local Studies Advisor at the Trafford Local Studies Centre, with Mike Breaks and Fergus Wilde. Jane was in the Library and I was taking the picture. Although, Fergus is not able to be the Honorary Archivist for the Cathedral, as Canon Michael Powell was, we agreed that the Cathedral and Library will continue to offer one another mutual support whenever possible.

Since that visit, the Cathedral has acquired a new dehumidifier for the Muniment Room and two up to date reference books on archival principles and practices and document preservation.

If anyone is interested in learning more about our archives, please contact Mike Breaks at archives@manchestercathedral.org. Please note that the Muniment Room, located above the north entrance, is a secure storage area and is not open to the public. However, Mike and Pam aim to respond to archives-related queries via email as promptly as possible.

Saint of the Month

10 February

Scholastica c. 480-543,
Sister of Benedict and
Abbess of Plombariola

Albert Radcliffe, Canon Emeritus



We live at a time when many Christian women feel that they are still insufficiently recognised in all areas of church life. It's appropriate therefore that this month we are marking the life and ministry of St Scholastica, traditionally the twin sister of St Benedict and the first Benedictine nun.

She was born in Umbria, to wealthy parents, who dedicated her to God at an early age, but most of her life is known only through later Benedictine tradition preserved in the Dialogues of St Gregory the Great. She is said to have founded a hermitage, a convent about 5 miles from Monte Cassino.

The story most associated with her name is that, as she was not allowed to visit her brother, once a year he would visit her for worship and spiritual discussion. In 543, when Benedict was due to leave she asked him to stay to discuss further. Benedict however had to return to his cell, whereupon Scholastica began to pray and a sudden and enormous storm made it impossible for him to leave. When Benedict asked what she had done, she answered, 'I asked you and you would not listen, so I asked my God and he did listen.' Benedict stayed.

Then, three days later, back in his cell he said that he saw Scholastica's soul ascending to heaven as a white dove. He then had her body brought to his monastery and buried in the tomb he had prepared for himself. This is why in Christian art Scholastica is often shown as a nun with a white dove flying from her mouth. She is now the patron saint of Benedictine nunneries, as well as education and convulsive children. She is also invoked against storms and rain. When Benedict died he was buried next to his sister.

Because St Scholastica can be reckoned as the first nun in the western church, modern nuns trace their inspiration and origins to her. It's a pity that we know so little about her, but her life points to the truth for all of us that our spiritual legacy is worth more than the details of our biography.

Poetry Competition 2020

Andrew Rudd, Poet in Residence

We are delighted to launch the Manchester Cathedral Poetry Competition for 2020, and invite submissions.

Although this is a Cathedral competition, it is not for 'Christian verse.' What we are looking for, first of all, is good poems: any form, any style. Poems that pay attention, that notice things, that wrestle to put your perceptions into words. Whether you are a member of a faith tradition, or just someone who questions what life is all about, we would love to see what you have written – especially poems that resonate with readers - of any faith or none. You can read all the winning entries and runners-up from last year in the 2019 booklet – available for £4.00 post-free from the web-site.

This year we are delighted to welcome Rachel Mann as our judge. Rachel is a former Poet in Residence at the Cathedral, and has recently published her first full-length poetry collection, A Kingdom of Love. She is well-known as an author and speaker.

As judge, Rachel will read all of the poems submitted and the results will be announced around National Poetry Day. Why not enter a poem or two, and encourage your friends to do the same?



Full details of how to enter are on the web-site:
www.manchestercathedral.org/poetry

Entries open on 1 March 2020 and close on 30 June 2020.

First Prize £500
and the title Manchester
Cathedral Poet of the
Year, 2020.

Second Prize £250

Third Prize (£150)

Profits from the competition support the work of the Booth Centre, a charity working to tackle homelessness in Greater Manchester.



First Prize £500
& the title
Manchester Cathedral
Poet of the Year, 2020.



Frayed edges, knots, holes, loose ends and tension are just some of the elements that were present in the stories and are literally present in the woven artworks that represent part or all of each woman's journey.

Once the stories had been gathered, and different ideas and ways of expressing them through weaving had been discussed, Nicola set about designing and creating five woven artworks. Colour became very important. One of the works called 'Getting Clean' for example, tells the story of one woman's journey to overcome her addiction. Heroin is often referred to as 'Brown' and cocaine as 'White' while methadone is a very distinctive green colour. It was therefore very important that these colours were incorporated into this work.

All of the hangings are suspended on copper frames and can be viewed from different angles. In places you can look through the holes or see through the thin fragile cloth.

The language of textiles is used to express difficult and challenging narratives and yet the metaphors used can also be applied to our own individual struggles. They are abstract and, although they refer to very specific encounters, there is a strong sense of journeying from the base of the warp to the top that visitors can appreciate without additional knowledge.

Accompanying the exhibition is a 'community weave' that allows visitors to have a go at weaving for themselves, three photo books giving the stories in more detail and a supporting film where Nicola talks about the project in person. The exhibition will be shown in nine other cathedrals during 2020.

Tear and Repair: Healing through Weaving

Manchester Cathedral, 15 Feb-13 March 2020

Nicola Moody, Fine Art Textile Artist

'Tear and Repair' started in April 2019 when Textile Artist Nicola Moody received funding from Arts Council England. The project began with a period of research and preparation and lead to Nicola running a series of Textile Art workshops within Azalea. Azalea is a Luton based 'Christian charity open to everyone; we are committed to help all involved in commercial sexual exploitation.' (More details can be found at www.azalea.org.uk.)

During the workshops, participants were offered one-to-one guidance about different textile techniques, this allowed the women to gain an understanding of textiles.

It was mainly at this time that the participants were invited to share part or all of their personal narrative. The question was posed: What do you want other people to know? Having worked with textiles it was clear to see how many of the techniques could be used to act as metaphors for different experiences and emotions.



Biblical Interpretation for Everyone

Manchester Cathedral Lent Course, 2020

David Holgate, Sub-Dean and Canon for Theology and Mission

In March Lent 2020, I will be offering a practical course on how to interpret the Bible, based on the new, revised edition of the SCM Studyguide to Biblical Hermeneutics (SCM, 2019), co-written by me and Dr Rachel Starr of the Queen's Foundation, Birmingham.

Over the five Monday evenings of March, we will learn more about how to interpret the Bible today, drawing on some of the content and 'Try it out' sections of the book. Rachel, a Methodist and leading feminist theologian, will take part in the first evening.

The book offers an integrated but non-directive approach to interpreting the Bible, and the course will lightly cover the five major chapters:

2 March:
Our past experience and present expectations

9 March:
Tools for exegesis (close study)

16 March:
Taking our reality into account

23 March:
Committed readings

30 March:
Enabling dialogue with the Bible

Each session will take place in the **Cathedral Library, from 6.30 – 8.00pm**. A sandwich supper will be provided and there will be the opportunity to buy your own copy of the book at a special Lent Course rate. There is no cost for the course, but participants will find it helpful to have their own copy of the book, for use during the course and afterwards.

Places are limited. If you would like to attend, please email me at: canon.holgate@manchestercathedral.org



Cathedral Community News

Manchester Cathedral Congregation Festive Lunch

Basil Fox

Our pre-Christmas festive lunch was held at Debenham's Restaurant in Manchester, on 4 December 2019, and we were pleased to find our tables set ready for us, bedecked with Christmas crackers, glasses and cutlery.

Along with the Christmas decorations in the restaurant and a friendly reception, a joyful seasonal ambience was created for our eleven guests from the cathedral congregation.

After the grace we made our choices from the menu which included delicious roast turkey with all the trimmings and various other tempting selections, including a vegetarian

meal, which were all efficiently served to us. Seasonal desserts were on the menu with tea and coffee to conclude a truly enjoyable Christmas gathering of fellowship. Everyone said they enjoyed the lunch and we look forward to our next meeting for such an occasion.

Meanwhile all are welcome to join us for our regular monthly community lunch after the 10.30 Sunday service.

Gin Tasting Festivals at the Cathedral

Jason Lowe

On selected Friday evenings and Saturdays, the Cathedral hosts gin-tasting festivals organised by The Gin Society. The Society also provides amazing live music, fabulous food and even the opportunity to amuse by playing giant Jenga! Also available to try is a range of more than 15 premium rums, from the delectably dark to the specially spiced and the fantastically flavoured. Or you can add some sparkle to the experience, with one of their delicious Prosecco Royales!

TICKETS are only £12.50 per person (plus booking fee) which gives you entry to the building, plus a huge range of extras, including a voucher for your first festival G&T; a complimentary Copa Glass to take home and a Gin Festival book. The chance to taste more than one hundred different gins is offered in a lively party atmosphere, with advice from friendly and experienced staff, talks by the in-house gin-expert and some free samples.

Classic street food and snacks are available to purchase separately and there is a Festival Gin Shop.

A voucher system is operated for the purchase of all drinks at such events; vouchers are available in multiples of £5 from a voucher station in the Cathedral Nave. Cash and card payments are accepted.

The next Festival is on 21-22 February, with sessions on Friday evening from 18.30 to 23.00; Saturday afternoon from 12.00 to 16.00 and Saturday evening from 18.30 to 23.00.



The Diary February

Saturday 1 February
10am-4pm
Craft and Flea Fair

Sunday 2 February
7pm Olivier
Messiaen La Nativité
du Seigneur

Thursday 6 February
1:10pm Chetham's
Lunchtime Concert
2pm CHF Hate Crime
Awareness Event

Tuesday 11 February
12:30pm Julian Prayer
Group Meeting

Saturday 15 February
10am-4pm Lou Lou's
Vintage Fair
7pm 'Love Actually'
Diocesan Youth
Service

Monday 17 February
12:30pm Organ Recital

Tuesday 18 February
10:15am Terrific
Tuesday

Friday 21 February
6:30pm The Gin
Society Festival

Saturday 22 February
12noon-4pm The Gin
Society Festival
6:30pm The Gin
Society Festival

Tuesday 25 February
7:30pm Franz
Schubert Winterreise

**Wednesday
26 February**
5:30pm Ash
Wednesday Eucharist

Saturday 29 February
11am Coffee Concert

Service Times

Midweek Services

Morning Prayer	9.00am	Mon-Fri (Wed: BCP)
Holy Communion	1.10pm	Mon-Fri
Evensong	5.30pm	Mon-Thurs*
Evening Prayer	4.30pm	Fri

Saturday Services

Morning Prayer & Holy Communion	9.00am
Evening Prayer	4.30pm*

Sunday Services

Matins	8.45am
Holy Communion (BCP)	9.00am
Sung Eucharist (Choral)	10.30am
Evensong	5.30pm*

* Please note: during the below school holidays evening services are said. All said services are at 4.30pm

The Cathedral Choir will be on holiday from Sunday 16 until Sunday 23 February

Looking ahead

March

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Tuesday 3 March

12:30pm Julian
Prayer Group

Thursday 5 March

11:30am Ferguson
Lecture

Saturday 7 March

7:30pm Moonlight
Sonata by Candlelight

Tuesday 10 March

5:30pm BBC recording
of Choral Evensong

Wednesday 11 March

3:30pm Live BBC
broadcast of Choral
Evensong

Thursday 12 March

1:10pm Chetham's
Lunchtime Concert

Saturday 14 March

10am-4pm Worth
the Weight Fair

Saturday 21 March

11am Coffee Concert,
Pergolesi Stabat Mater
1pm Be A Chorister
For A Day

Tuesday 24 March

12:30 pm Julian
Prayer Group
2pm Interfaith
Safeguarding
Dialogue

Friday 27 March

6:30pm Gin &
Rum Festival

Saturday 28 March

11am-3pm
Gin & Rum Festival
6:30pm

Gin & Rum Festival

Sunday 29 March

7pm Taizé Service



Community Profile

Kathryn Critchley, Job Title

What is your favourite film?

I have many, but at Christmas it has to be a classic version of 'A Christmas Carol'.

What music do you like?

A really wide range, but especially the music of Vaughn Williams.

What was the last book you read?

The Beekeeper of Aleppo by Christy Lefteri.

Where was the last place you visited/holidayed?

The highlands of Scotland.

Do you have any hobbies?

I enjoy meeting up with friends and visiting historical sites and researching family history. I'm a life member of the National Trust for Scotland.

Do you have any pets?

No.

Tell us something interesting or funny about yourself.

I once ran a marathon.

Clergy

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The Revd Peter Bellamy-Knights

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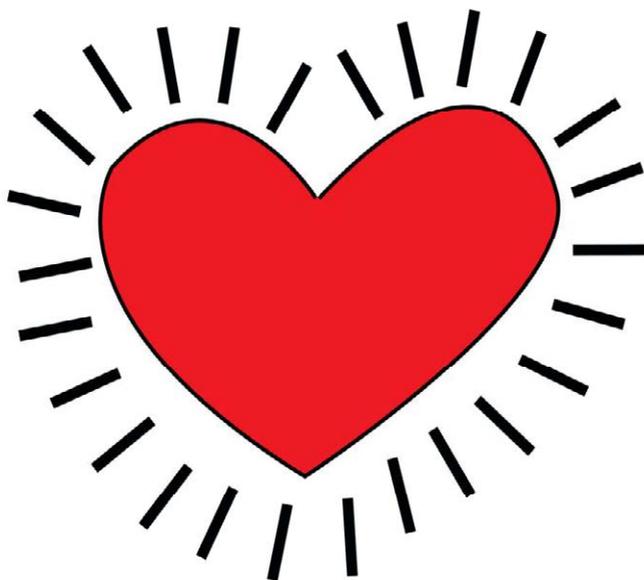
Cathedral News Editor
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Exhibitions

Admission to all our exhibitions is free.

"Tear and Repair" The woven stories of five remarkable women, by Textile Artist Nicola Moody
15 February - 13 March

LOVE, ACTUALLY



Saturday 15 February 2020

Manchester Cathedral

7:00pm

A service for 11-18 year olds
Unpacking God's love story and
breaking bread together in the
Eucharist.

More information at:
www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/love-actually-tickets-90300173249

Manchester Cathedral
Victoria Street / M3 1SX / 0161 833 2220

Cathedral Visitor & Conference Centre
Cateaton Street / M3 1SQ / 0161 817 4817