

PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL

Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 28th April 2019

Encountering God through transformative worship, challenging discipleship,
generous hospitality & prayerful engagement.

CONTENTS

The Acting Dean's Foreword	2
Cathedral Council	3
Fundraising	3
Fabric	4
Canon Chancellor including Annual Theme	5
Education	6
Canon Precentor	8
Vergers	9
Music and Choirs	10
TRANSFORMATIVE WORSHIP	
The Society of Cathedral Ringers	14
Servers	15
The Cathedral's Ministry of Wholeness and Healing	15
PRAYERFUL ENGAGEMENT	
Bereavement Support Team	16
Toddler Group	16
Becket's Bunch	16
Gunwharf Chaplaincy	17
Hospital Wheelers	17
Companion Link with St Anselm's Cathedral Sunyani (Ghana)	18
Food Bank Donations	18
Uniformed Groups	19
12 th Cathedral Guides	19
GENEROUS HOSPITALITY	
Churchwardens	20
Service Welcomers	20
Duty Chaplains	20
Holy Dusters	21
Craft and Chat Group	21
Cathedral Club	21
Friends of Portsmouth Cathedral	21
Parish Lunch Club	22
The Flower Guild	22
Cathedral Guides	23
Research Group and Archive	23
Cathedral Shop	24
Christian Aid and Fairtrade	24
CHALLENGING DISCIPLESHIP	
Reflective Afternoons	25
Memorial Garden	25

THE DEAN'S FOREWORD

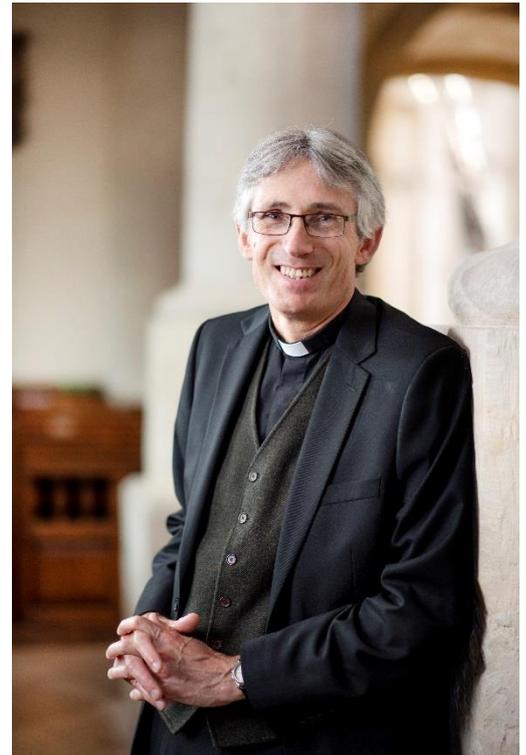
As I write this, I have been Dean of Portsmouth for one month and one day! I am delighted and privileged to be here, and am so grateful for the warm welcome Clare and I have received. Jo Spreadbury and David Price did so much to make my Installation a memorable and moving occasion, and I'm extremely grateful to them, and to all who were able to attend.

My first few weeks have been full of discovery and learning. Reading through the contents of this report has taught me even more, and are a fine witness to the vitality of cathedral life. There is so much here to give thanks for, and so many gifted and dedicated people to appreciate.

Having lived through nearly a year without a Dean in my last cathedral, I know how much extra work this brings to many people. Peter Leonard has done an outstanding job as Acting Dean, and I am really sorry not to have longer working with him before he departs for the Isle of Wight. But as I attend the Bishop's staff meeting, along with the three archdeacons, I am glad that Peter will continue to be a colleague in that forum.

As many of you will know, one of my first actions has been to embark upon a series of one-to-one meetings with a whole variety of people from Chapter, lay staff, church wardens and the cathedral community. It has been inspiring to learn about people's love of the cathedral and all that they do for its mission and ministry - and it has been instructive to hear a range of responses to a series of questions I have asked each one of them. I now have a clear sense of what most excites people about the life of the cathedral, what they perceive the key challenges and opportunities for growth to be, and where they feel I should most focus my attention in my opening months as Dean.

If you have not yet had the chance to tell me your response to these questions, but would like to do so, please get in touch. What you have to say will play a key part in my reflections on where God might be leading us into the next phase of our history.



Anthony Cane
Dean

CATHEDRAL COUNCIL

There were several changes to the membership of the Council last year. With the retirement of the Dean in July, Canon Peter Leonard was appointed as Acting Dean from August 2018; Councillor Ryan Brent served until May when he was replaced by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson; Sir John Chadwick served until August 2018 and Mr David Carpenter until September; and Dr Bryn Hughes took up membership in September and Dr Simon Kolstoe in November. A full list of Council membership through the year is in the Audited Accounts.

The Council met three times in the year, once, as usual, with Chapter.

At the April meeting Caroline Hewitt, a member of the Finance and Investments Committee (now Chair) and Senior Lecturer in the department of Accounting and Financial Management at the University of Portsmouth, gave a presentation on the cathedral finance research project and benchmarking exercise she had been working on, looking at cathedrals operating on similar scales and similar deficits. The same meeting also looked at the annual accounts produced from our auditors, haysmacintyre and the need actively to address the Cathedral's ongoing deficit, noting Chapter's commitment to redress this over the next few years and welcoming the decision to appoint a Head of Fundraising. Council formally received the Accounts at this meeting.

In October, the Council met jointly with Chapter and considered changes to our Constitution and Statutes to amend the composition of Honorary and Lay Canons and to include in the membership of Chapter two additional Lay members to be elected at the APCM: one of the Churchwardens and one other. These constitutional changes were formally approved at the November meeting. The October meeting saw the first draft of the 2019 budget and Cathedral Council formally received the budget at its November meeting.

The national Cathedrals Working Group delivered its report to the General Synod in July last year which includes the possible reconstituting of Cathedral Councils probably to reflect the views and links with the wider community and diocese. The NCI's Legal Office have started the drafting process for the legislation to institute this and other changes, with a revised Cathedrals Measure planned to go to Synod for its First Reading in July 2019 and a Final Drafting/Final Approval at the July 2020 General Synod.

*Peter Sanders
Clerk to the Council*

FUNDRAISING

The focus of my work has been on delivering the Cathedral's Fundraising Strategy.

Trust funds have been the most immediate and successful source of additional funds - £28,500 to date.

We are working on further income generation for the coming year – and we have a dinner, a Rum Festival, Laithwaite's wine tasting and we are exploring other activities to generate income for the Cathedral. The space is a wonderful one to hire as a venue for all sorts of activities and these need to be promoted.

We have raised awareness of legacies and we need to continue this, working with solicitors in the city to encourage people to both leave the Cathedral a gift in their will, and to know who already has.

The two new donation boxes have made a very significant difference to visitor income with donations increasing by over 100% in 2019 against the same time last year. They are part of a wider strategy of increasing footfall into the Cathedral, to broaden our appeal to tourists and visitors, and to spend more time in the Shop.

Other developments have been to set up an online shop, film nights, and "Light up the Cathedral Lantern" in memory of a loved one.

Tim Sledge – Head of Fundraising

CATHEDRAL FABRIC

Fabric Advisory Committee (FAC) Membership

The FAC is responsible for advising on and overseeing works to the Cathedral building and curtilage. It met five times in 2018: February, April, June, September and November under the chairmanship of Jane Jones-Warner. Chris Wood (Head of Building Conservation & Research Team, Historic England) joined the FAC in April as one of our Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England (CFCE) nominees; Robert Hunt (also CFCE nominee) resigned after eight and half years at the end 2018 and has been replaced by Mel Howse, a stained glass designer.

Cathedral Major Building Work

Much of the work of the committee in 2018 has, as in the last few years, involved monitoring significant repair works to the Cathedral building. Essential repairs to the north elevation and Cloister stonework and corroded windows, funded by the First World War Centenary Cathedral Repairs Fund (FWWCCRF), were completed in March. This was followed by similar work and a 'warm roof' (insulation above rather than under a roof) fitted to part of the asphalt roofing on the south elevation of the Cathedral, which was completed in December just in time for Christmas! The work included the renovation of the windows in the Navy Aisle, including The Portsmouth Grammar School (PGS) window commemorating those former pupils who died in the Boer War. This work was funded from our own resources with some support from PGS in relation to the memorial windows. We are grateful to both of our contractors Clarke Roofing Southern for the north elevation and Cloister works and B & M Clark for the south side works.



Quinquennial

As reported last year the Quinquennial report by our Cathedral Architect, Simon Ablett, undertaken in 2016, highlights and directs works required to the Cathedral. With the works to the north and south elevations now completed the Cathedral is generally in very good condition, though there are still some aspects of the building needing attention. Repairs to the south tower transept window, lead finials of the west end towers, refurbishment of the south west door, and the replacement of wooden ladders/steps on the roofs still need attention.

Other FAC Work

The committee has continued to encourage the regular monitoring of energy use and housekeeping procedures to reduce our carbon footprint and reduce costs in support of the Church of England's *Shrinking the Footprint* initiative and our target of 20% gross emissions reduction by 2020. As part of our commitment to 'Eco Church' we were awarded A Rocha's bronze award in 2016 and we are working towards the silver award, which we hope to achieve this year.

Centenary Project 2026/2027

Expanding the rationale of the 'Landscape Project' we are exploring and planning towards a 'Centenary Project' to deliver improvement to the Cathedral and its environment celebrating the conferring of city status on Portsmouth and the creation of the Diocese of Portsmouth and St Thomas's as a Cathedral.

Peter Sanders
Chapter Clerk and Secretary to the FAC

CANON CHANCELLOR

It seems incredible to me that by the time you are reading this I shall in fact no longer be the Acting Dean! It has been a roller coaster ride since David Brindley retired and I have both experienced and learnt a huge amount.

I had always thought that I had a very good working knowledge of the Cathedral prior to becoming Acting Dean but seeing it from this particular point of view was very enlightening indeed.



Being both Acting Dean and Canon Chancellor has been demanding and it has been practically impossible to maintain my work as Chancellor. I am indebted to the Education and Outreach Team, both paid staff and volunteers, for picking up extra work and ensuring that various events and functions have continued despite my preoccupation with the Acting Dean's role. I am also extremely grateful to the Chapter Clerk, Peter Sanders, and the Dean's Executive Assistant, Liz Snowball, for helping me keep on top of that role as well!

Annual Theme

Last year's annual theme of Time proved to be very stimulating in a variety of ways from highbrow lectures by astrophysicists to monthly Dr Who evenings. We continued our work with the arts community and the 'Monolith' installation proved to be both inspiring and challenging to many of us, provoking interesting and stimulating conversations and debate. The current 'Soup of Souls' installation is the climax of last year's theme and is a wonderful temporary addition to the Nave. It is proving extremely popular, bringing a large number of new visitors into the Cathedral who then enjoy looking around the rest of the building as well. We are now into our year considering 'Living Well' which commenced with 'An Evening with Ruby Wax', has seen us sign up to the Mindful Employer scheme and run a Lent course based on Living Well with God. Please do keep checking our website for more information and events.

Deanery Synod

The Cathedral is part of the Deanery of Portsmouth and we continue to play a full part along with all of the other parishes in its life and ministry. The Deanery of Portsmouth continues to offer chaplaincies in Charter Academy and other colleges in the City and we have been pleased to support these. We continue to work with the other churches in the Deanery to operate an Older Persons' Champion project. The post holder retired last year and the Deanery is currently looking to appoint a replacement. The role involves supporting parishes in their spiritual and practical work with older people. The Cathedral continues to play a part in helping to shape the Deanery action plan and thus the ministry and mission of the church in Portsmouth. We worked with Harbour Church to draw up a Mission Partnership Agreement between Harbour and St. George's which has seen Harbour plant into St. George's whilst also maintaining their traditional Sunday morning service. We are grateful to Kitty Price, June Purvis and Marion Syms for being our representatives on Deanery Synod.

Discipleship

Our discipleship work continues to centre on our Annual Theme but we also prepared both adults and young people for confirmation. Our team of Lay Pastoral Assistants continue to meet regularly for ongoing training and supervision and we have a team of Bereavement Support volunteers as well. In partnership with the Diocese we continue to run the Living Faith course. This is a two year, six module course exploring the Christian faith in more depth. We have a core group from across the Deanery taking part and have been joined by others who have done one or two modules. People can join at the start of any module and more details can be found on the Cathedral website. This course has been a great place to foster and discern vocations and many are now training for Lay Reader Ministry or ordination. We run a fortnightly group which meets in a local pub and explores the Christian faith together. Please do speak to me if you are interested in this or any of the other groups which are running.

Cathedral Curate

We have seen less of our Cathedral Curate, Matt Bray, this year as he has taken on a leadership role at St. George's. He does however continue to lead worship and preach here once a month and we are working with Harbour Church in supporting his work in Portsea.

*Peter Leonard
Canon Chancellor*

EDUCATION

Over 4,000 children have experienced a workshop, a service or a visit led by the Education team at Portsmouth Cathedral this year. Workshops that are now offered more closely in line with the National Curriculum continue to be popular and this year we have managed to meet demand by some flexible working hours during term time.



Workshops

Primary Schools

Primary age children have taken part in a range of themed workshops throughout 2018 which include

- Symbols in Christianity
- The Ichthus
- Church & Sacred Buildings
- Special Books
- Spirituality & Prayer, plus Spirituality & Art
- Angels as Messengers
- St George
- The Cathedral of the Sea & History of the city
- Remembrance
- All day school events on Holy Week and the Easter message

Annual Theme links

- Two Time Workshops – including 'Worship in Time' and The Black Canons, plus History of the Cathedral
- Fossils and Dinosaurs – with Dr Lil Stephens from the National History Museum

Bespoke workshops

Q&A with Canon Peter and St George's Beneficial Year 5 & 6 children, plus with the Revd Matt Bray and Year 7 & 8 students from St John's College.

We have welcomed uniformed groups for tours and a short craft activity this year, Rainbows and Cub Scouts.

Outreach & Cathedral Sing

Once again, I spent the annual two days at Catherington Church with the child-sized Bishop's vestments and ran sessions for children from Horndean Junior School about Christian symbols. The Cathedral of the Sea themed day at the Cathedral is very popular and has the benefit of being a joint offer to schools by the music and education departments. The Sing Team also ran workshops at the Diocesan Leavers' Services in July and these remain popular among children and staff alike!

I ran a prayer workshop at Horndean Junior School for their Year 3 children in June, focussed on The Lord's Prayer.

Canon Peter and I continue to lead Collective Worship in St Jude's Primary and The Portsmouth Grammar School Junior School, both on site and in the Cathedral. I took part in a Teacher Research Day at Fratton Park, with a number of venues for school trips exhibiting and presenting information. As a result, two new schools have booked and visited Portsmouth Cathedral this year.

This year's cohort of student teachers from the local SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training) programme visited the Cathedral and learned how we can support their RE, history, music, SMSC, Art and Geography curriculum! The Dean welcomed them with a short talk on the relevance of Religious Studies today and the importance of visiting a sacred space.

Family Activity Days

- Shrove Tuesday 2018 – A family activity day with a pop-up planetarium plus space- and time-themed activities, supporting the work of Sharon Court, our Annual Theme Curator.
- Chocolate Day – Fiona Sciolti from Sciolti Chocolates led a chocolate workshop for over 100 children, and gave a guided tasting workshop to visiting adults in the afternoon.
- Summer 2018 – A time-themed activity day with a model railway and the DeLorean car time machine from Back to the Future.

Other Roles & Training

I continue to attend the networking group of Education Officers in 'Cathedrals Plus' across the south of England, and have visited Wells Cathedral, Christ Church Oxford, Westminster Abbey and Southwell Minster to share best practice and develop ideas. This year I have been elected a member of the Cathedrals Plus Council. I have attended the National Cathedrals' Conference held in Manchester as well as the Hampshire Primary RE Conference in Wickham. Networking with other teachers at such events is extremely beneficial in spreading the word of the education team's work here at Portsmouth Cathedral, and we have received three bookings from schools who have never visited the Cathedral before.

As a member of the DBE (Diocesan Board of Education) and Foundation Governor of a Primary School, I keep abreast of new initiatives in schools and collaborate with the Education team in the Diocese and their work in church schools. I have worked with the new Diocesan RE Adviser in promoting the Education work of the Cathedral and I hosted and ran a training session with her including a tour of the Cathedral.

Volunteers

I was delighted to have a student from the University with us during the spring term. She was considering a move to teacher training and saw volunteering at the Cathedral as a great opportunity to get some experience working with children. We hosted a coffee and cake morning in May this year, hoping to attract new volunteers but sadly the publicity for this event was not as effective as it could have been.

I am always grateful for the support of all our volunteers, who give up their time and energy to support school visits and the work of the education team. We hosted a thank you tea for them in December as we wanted to show how very much they are appreciated and wish them a very merry Christmas!

*Sarah Page
Education Officer*

CANON PRECENTOR

The past twelve months in the life of this Cathedral have been significantly shaped by the departure of our Dean, David Brindley, and the appointment process for his successor, who is just about to be installed at the time of writing. Having preached a memorable Holy Week, David and Gill said their farewells on the second Sunday in June, with all the music and hymns for the day chosen by David, and Canon David Isaac returning to preach for the occasion, alongside the Dean's own final words. It has been good to hear since that they have happily settled in the New Forest and are thoroughly enjoying their retirement and the allotment.



Other farewells in the year were said to James Priory, Headmaster of The Portsmouth Grammar School, and The Chaplain of the Fleet, the Venerable Ian Wheatley, who preached here for the last time for our D-Day commemoration, appropriately as part of a series of sermons about 'Time' linked to the Annual Theme. There were two other shorter sermon series over the summer also, on the Bread of Life at the 10.30am Sunday Eucharist's – based on Gospel readings from John chapter 6 – and on the Old Testament Wisdom tradition at Choral Evensong.

After a glorious day for Beating the Bounds in May, the 10 days of 'Thy Kingdom Come' between Ascension and Pentecost were observed with the map of the Diocese once again used as a focus for prayer throughout this time in St Thomas' Chapel. The City Service fell on the day of Pentecost this year, and we welcomed the new Lord Mayor and City Council in the morning, and then the Bishop at the 6pm Eucharist with prayers in a variety of languages as an echo of 'speaking in tongues'. In June, there was a BBC live broadcast of Evensong for Radio 3, and then the week of Festivities included a concert by the Tallis Scholars as well several extra Lunchtime Live recitals, and our now traditional (three times!) sermon by a chorister: Christian Sim, one of our Head Choristers. The Cathedral Choirs went to sing Evensong at Botley and concerts at Soberton and Portchester in the course of the year, as well as assisting with Cathedral Sing days both in the Cathedral and out in schools around the Diocese.

After a full summer of visiting choirs coming to sing services here, we installed our new Choral Scholars, Organ Scholar, two Cantate Head Choristers and welcomed the new Head of The Portsmouth Grammar School, Dr Anne Cotton, in early September. After a Harvest Eucharist on Sunday 23rd September, about 60 members of the congregation stayed on to enjoy a home cooked Harvest Lunch in the Nave. This was a first trial of offering occasional parish hospitality with a meal together, and the response was so good that we decided on a repeat to celebrate the arrival of the new Dean just recently with a congregational lunch on his second Sunday here.



During the Autumn, to mark the WWI centenary we included a number of anthems and other music written at the time of the Great War to commemorate the fallen, as well as six figures placed in various pews in the Quire. "There but not There", to represent those who never came back. The new Chaplain of the Fleet, the Venerable Martyn Gough preached at the Royal Marines Band Service Memorial Day Service, and our Cathedral Curate Matt Bray at the Seafarers' Service. Serving and former members of Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service attended the annual QARNNS Association Service of Remembrance in early November. On Armistice Day itself, Sunday 11th November, the WWI Commemorations concluded with a special commission by Ola Gjeilo, A Mass of Peace, which was performed by our choirs and PGS jointly at the evening Remembrance Concert. The

Cathedral Choir ended the school term with a 5-day tour to Antwerp and Ypres in this significant year, singing at Ypres Cathedral on Sunday morning and at the Menin Gate in the evening, and visiting the Tyne Cot cemetery during the day. All who took part found it a profound experience, and it was a memorable tour. Special thanks to the local 'fixer' Dirk Smits in particular, and also to the choir matrons for their help with looking after the choristers so well.

A number of Carol Services had already taken place in the Cathedral before the Belgium tour, and in particular a new venture hosting an Emergency Services Carol Service for police, fire and ambulance staff from across Hampshire. Coming back from Belgium to the final week of services before Christmas was a wonderful way to conclude the year, with boy choristers singing a fourth Carol Service on Christmas Eve and the girl choristers singing at Midnight Mass for the first time. The sales of the Christmas CD on tour and at home were most pleasing, and it was featured numerous times on 'Classic FM'. This year once again we were able to sing both an Epiphany Carol Service and a Candlemas Carol Service, and it was a pleasure to invite singers from two local parish choirs to join the Cathedral Consort and sing for Candlemas.

There was a premier of a new motet in Advent by Alma Bethany, as part of a national series featuring contemporary women composers. In February also, a new set of Evensong Canticles composed by Thomas Hewitt-Jones was sung in memory of Trevor Owen, our Lay Clerk who died last year, and many of his family came back to join us for the occasion.

The new Annual Theme of Living Well has begun with a Ruby Wax evening in January and a significant sermon on mental health in February. We will continue with a Lent series in March exploring different styles of prayer and how they help us with 'Living Well in the presence of God'.

We are grateful as ever to all who read at services here, and lead intercessions, and serve, provide refreshments, welcome the congregation, and supervise the Becket's Bunch children and Toddler services, and act as Sidespeople. There are also many others who prepare the Cathedral for worship by cleaning, polishing, arranging flowers, moving chairs and choir stalls, printing orders of service, mending and repairing, and sweeping leaves outside the Cathedral. Their help – your help – is invaluable in maintaining the welcoming atmosphere and bright environment of the Cathedral as a place of worship and witness. Here, together, we can learn to Live Well in the presence of God, and together offer music and worship that transforms our hearts, our lives, our community and our world.

*Jo Spreadbury
Canon Precentor*

VERGERS

Over the past year, Maria Mann and Graham Kidd have continued to work as Assistant Vergers. Their commitment to the Cathedral has made it possible for us to be able to cover an increasingly busy schedule of events in the building.

I would like to thank the various volunteers who have assisted us over the past year. Ronald Rabbetts who has operated the sound system and helped to refresh the woodwork within the Cathedral. Celia and Anne have looked after and refreshed the linen stock. The Holy Dusters who do a wonderful job in keeping the building clean. The Cathedral Guides have worked hard to make visitors feel welcome and the Flower Guild have put a lot of effort into preparing floral displays throughout the year.

I would like to thank Canon Jo and all the clergy and staff who have enabled me to work efficiently and with confidence in my role at the Cathedral.

*Malina Green
Head Verger*

MUSIC AND CHOIRS

It continues to be a great privilege to help lead the music in Portsmouth Cathedral. As can be seen from what follows, our Cathedral choirs have been busy at home, through outreach and abroad.

Trevor Owen RIP

We were immensely sad to learn of the death of one of our longest serving Lay Clerks, Trevor Owen who passed away on 16th February after a short illness. His Memorial Service at the end of March was a fitting tribute to a man who had been immersed in the music of the church all his life from his time as a Chorister of Westminster Abbey when he sang at national events such as the funeral of Ralph Vaughan Williams and Princess Margaret's Wedding, as a Choral Scholar in King's College Choir, Cambridge, as a Lay Clerk at Worcester Cathedral and most recently here in Portsmouth. The Cathedral Choir was joined by many former singing colleagues from Westminster, Cambridge, Worcester, Chichester and Portsmouth. We commissioned a set of Evensong canticles from Thomas Hewitt-Jones in his memory which were first performed on February 3rd and will now be published by the Royal School of Church Music.

Holy Week and Easter



Our Holy Week and Easter in Portsmouth was attended by over 3,000 people over eight days of worship in words, music, darkness and light. We were pleased to collaborate with former Choral Scholar, Tom Heath, whose design and installation of light helped focus thoughts and invited contemplation of the story of the crucifixion. We welcomed many leaders from across the Diocese for the Bishop's annual Chrism Eucharist before the service of The Triduum unfolded. Our worship on Easter Day morning was enlivened further by a small orchestra accompanying us all for a rousing rendition of Schubert's Mass in G and Handel's Hallelujah Chorus. The men and boys sang a service of

early music for Easter Day Evensong, this time accompanied by Priory Consort of viols (*above*) and chamber organ. Thanks to all our musicians, including our Becket Players who add so much to our worship alongside the choirs and organists.

Winchester and Westminster

The Cathedral Choir sang alongside the Quiristers of Winchester College on a Tuesday in March. It was good to collaborate in this, marking as it did a recent exchange of singers with one of our young choristers Joss moving there last year and two Choral Scholars, Maxim and Sam, having come to us for a Gap Year.

Tour to Norway and Finland

A number of Choral Scholars and Lay Clerks flew to Finland and Norway immediately after Easter for a short tour. Lay Clerk Dr Nick Pepin frequently takes his Portsmouth University students to Kevo Research Station in Arctic Circle. Through his good offices we were able to stay at this magical place on the edge of a frozen lake and from there travel to Utsjoki Church to sing a concert. We then made an internal flight across into Norway to sing at The Arctic Cathedral in Tromsø (*right*). It was particularly wonderful to lead the music at their Sunday morning service and to enjoy their wonderful acoustic, stunning architecture and beautiful organ. The trip also gave us the opportunity to enjoy a Skidoo trip across the Finnish tundra, a glimpse of the Northern Lights, a trek up a Norwegian mountain and some reindeer steak!



People

It has been excellent to welcome so many new (and not so new) faces to all our choirs over the year. Welcome to Sophia, Lu-Li, Chi-Yee, Liberty, Dawn, Francesca, Sydney, Clara, Honor and Mei-Ling alongside former boy choristers now joining the back row, Sebastian, Joe, Edward and Ben. Our ten new boy choristers are coming to the end of their first year in choir and have settled in superbly well. Well done Oliver, Daniel, Noah, Alfred, David, Fraser, Amir, George, Nick and Eli. Our Probationers were promoted to Pro-Chorister earlier in the year, making way for a new team of recruits at the start of the Michaelmas term. And last, but not least a huge intake of younger girls for Cantate were installed and surpliced at the start of the new Choir Year. Congratulations to Noah, Alex, Owen, Henry, Cyrus and Harry; Noah, Daniel, Alfie, George, Oliver, Amir, Fraser and David. We installed our new cohort of Choral Scholars in September Anna, James M, Patrick, Peter, Ethan and Oliver as well as our Organ Scholar James F-R. We also installed a new Lay Clerk, James Lomas early this year.

Dean David

June saw the retirement of Dean David. When David arrived in post in 2002, the Cathedral was still in shock from a tumultuous period in its life. David quickly established a warm, welcoming and generous approach to Cathedral ministry and the work of the place ceaselessly expanded over his tenure. Any success we have with our music is very much down to his tireless support and encouragement of all involved in the department. We gave him a rousing and heartfelt send-off at services on Sunday 10th June.

Mr James Priory

We also bade farewell, at the end of the summer term, to the Headmaster of The Portsmouth Grammar School. He has been a stalwart supporter of the choristers through his work between school and Cathedral, but also by his physical presence at so many services and concerts over the past ten years as Head.

We sang Choral Evensong on BBC Radio 3 last June which, as well as the Cathedral Choir, featured the first broadcast of our new West End en chamades. Their addition created a good deal of comment on social media amongst church music fans! We were also delighted to receive feedback from the composer of the anthem, 'All wisdom cometh from the Lord' by the former Organist of York Minister, Philip Moore....

'Thank you so much for including my anthem in your broadcast last week. It sounded very fine. Please pass my thanks to the choir and especially to Sachin and the soloist. The playing was very rhythmic and the soloist sustained the line so well. Your interpretation of the last section was especially memorable and so well controlled. I enjoyed the Stanford too.'

We sang for the annual Royal Marines Band Service Memorial Day Service under the baton of their new Director of Music, Lieutenant Colonel Jon Ridley. We collaborate regularly with the band, most recently of course for the commissioning of HMS Queen Elizabeth. This service provided an opportunity to sing Sir Hubert Parry's 'Blessed Pair of Sirens'. The orchestra and combined choirs of Boys, Girls and Back Row made a thrilling noise to match the power of the Orchestra of HM Royal Marines!

We hosted a visit of the Choir of Royal Holloway College, London with their Director Rupert Gough for a joint Choral Evensong with Cantate last term. There are enduring links with the college, for we have seen many Gappers come to us after studying there; the first being Tenor Lay Clerk, Mr Green. More recently a number of Girl Choristers and Gappers have moved there to study following their time in Portsmouth.

The Peace Mass by Ola Gjeilo

It was a great delight to work with Director of the National Youth Choir, Ben Parry on a new piece for Remembrance by Norwegian composer, Ola Gjeilo, in partnership with The Portsmouth Grammar School, The Peace Mass is a Missa Brevis written for double choir, strings and organ but will also be arranged for piano and organ so that the work will have wider use. The annual Remembrance Concert with PGS and the London Mozart Players was a very moving event, coming as it did at the conclusion of the 100th Anniversary of the First World War.

Outreach



Our regular visits to work with local primary schools in our Cathedral Sing Project under the excellent leadership of Adrian Green and his team continue apace. Alongside our projects across The Isle of Wight, Gosport, Fareham, Havant, Hayling Island and Emsworth (to name a just a few!), we worked closer to home alongside the Cathedral's Education Department, regularly taking singing workshops with children in the Cathedral and leading concert programmes of sea-related music, which highlighted the cathedral's relationship with the sea.

In 2018, Tim Sledge was appointed as Head of Fundraising and thanks to his efforts and the generosity of a number of charitable trusts and foundations, the future of Cathedral Sing over the next few years is secured at a level which will allow us to work in classrooms and churches with around 1000 children each year. It's also interesting to note that the majority of our funding pays for the local singing leaders from Portsmouth Cathedral and other institutions who run workshops and concerts. In essence the Cathedral Sing funding supports church musicians with the skills to inspire and educate the next generation of children. We are very grateful to the following trusts for ensuring our programme can continue: Williams Church Music Trust; Portsmouth Lottery; Ouseley Church Music Trust; Golsoncott Foundation and Music for All.

As with any programme, we have to continue to adapt to find new ways to engage schools and support them across the Diocese. Long term funding is scarce, but with an open mind, there are always opportunities to be explored. In recent months, the Cathedral Sing team have been in discussion with the Music Department at The Portsmouth Grammar School (a member of the Cathedrals Choir Association), which is keen to help with our work and we hope this will help us achieve more as we continue to develop and re-evaluate how we can best serve the need for quality singing to be available to all primary school children, regardless of background.

For those of us who work in the Cathedral Sing programme, we do what we love, and we love what we do. This is because we see the big difference that a little singing makes in the lives of those we work with. That is what inspires us to keep going.

Cathedral Sing - Some helpful statistics for 2018

Budget £14,000 (of which £13,995.07 was spent)

State schools involved: **26**

Workshops in classrooms / events: c.**60**

Children engaged with: c. **1000**

Singing Leaders used: **5**

Concerts / Events: **7**

Portsmouth Cathedral Choir members engaged with: c.**50**

Areas worked in: Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, Petersfield, Hayling Island, Emsworth (and others through School Leaver's Services)



Schools engaged with through Cathedral Sing projects:

Isle of Wight Oakfield CofE Primary, Greenmount Primary, Binstead Primary, Gurnard Primary

Portsmouth Ark Ayrton Primary, Penhale Infants, Newbridge Junior, Arundel Court Primary, Manor Infants

Petersfield Froxfield Primary

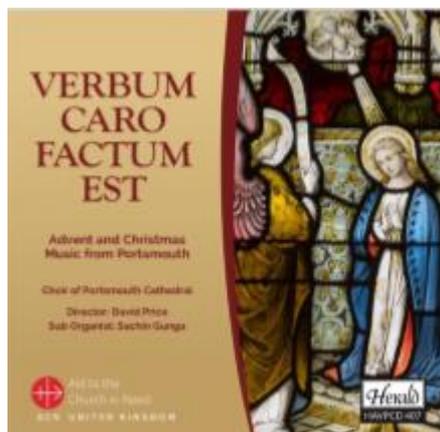
Hayling Island Mengham Junior, Hayling College, Millrythe Junior

Emsworth St James CofE Primary, Emsworth Primary

*Engaged through Leavers Services St John The Baptist CofE Primary, Wickham Primary, St Matthew's Primary, St Blasius Primary, St Alban's Primary, All Saint's Primary, Horndean Junior, Newtown Primary, Carisbrooke Primary, Newport Primary, Brighstone Primary, St John the Baptist Primary

We have just started a new project with funding from the diocese at St James', Milton, called 'Choir Church' which seeks to create new worship in the community centred on new choirs of all ages. We appointed Mr Ally Ross to lead and direct this exciting new project. Watch this space!

'Verbum caro'..... Advent and Christmas music at Portsmouth



Our Christmas services began early in December with two Carol Services aboard HMS Victory, a 'Blue Light Carol Service' for The Hampshire Emergency Services and a terrific fundraising concert in partnership with The Renaissance Choir for Rowans Hospice to a capacity audience. The concert raised over £3,000 for our local hospice and we look forward to working with them again in 2019.

Our new recording of Advent and Christmas CDs has proved very popular here in the UK and on tour in Belgium. A number of tracks were played in the week before Christmas on Classic FM and BBC Radio Solent.

*David Price
Organist and Master of the Choristers*

THE SOCIETY OF CATHEDRAL RINGERS

Regrettably, the year started on a sad note with news of the sudden and untimely death of Colin Younger towards the end of March. He had joined our band only a matter of months previously. Our best wishes and prayers continue to be with Colin's friends and family. I would like to record my thanks to Helen, Malcolm, Andy and Chris for representing the Cathedral Ringers alongside me at Colin's funeral in April.

This year we have welcomed back Peter to our regular Sunday service band. Many of you will remember him from his university days when he served as Vice Tower Captain. It is an absolute dream to have an experienced, readymade ringer join us (or rejoin us!) and he has already made a huge contribution to our ringing on both Sundays and Thursdays – welcome back Peter!

Our Sunday service ringing has continued to be well attended over the past year. Our numbers appear to have increased over the past year and we seem to be ringing 12 bells on a more regularly basis. Sunday morning ringing is what I personally enjoy the very most out of all the ringing we do and I truly believe that the standard of ringing we achieve would be the envy of many bands up and down the country. I am grateful as ever, for the continued loyalty of our Sunday ringers for the time they give up to support us.

I regularly find myself pleasantly astonished by the number of ringers our Thursday practices continue to attract and I am delighted that so many people enjoy coming to ring with us. I often find myself struggling to ensure that everyone rings what they want to in an evening. I only hope that ringers at all levels feel happy to approach me if they feel their requirements are not being met – my goal is for absolutely everyone to enjoy the 90 minutes they give up on a Thursday evening to ring with us. I hate to sound like a broken record to anyone who actually reads this annual report of our activities (!) but what I have said about our Thursday practices for the last two years remains a truly accurate assessment of my feelings about them. *“For me the challenge of balancing the needs of everyone who attends remains the most difficult but is one which I strongly believe is indicative of the strength of our band at every level. I am clear that embracing this diversity (in abilities) can only be positive and it is fantastic the ringers of all abilities feel welcome and are attracted to ringing here; I believe that we are far richer for it”.*

Our main social event this year was the Christmas Dinner held at Pebbles Restaurant on Stokes Bay for the second year running. The evening was attended by a large number of our ringers and regular visitors and was as ever a real highlight. Thank you to Sarah Carey for her hard work in organising this event in her (unofficial) role of Social Secretary. Will *“The Twelve Days of Christmas”* make a reprise for 2019...?

On 16th March we welcomed The Reverend Canon Dr Anthony Cane as our Dean and enjoyed his visit to the Tower on his first Thursday.

As many of you know, Peter Leonard who has been our principal contact at the Cathedral for the past couple of years (as well as for several years previously) is leaving Portsmouth shortly to become Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight. Peter has been truly brilliant to work with and I know that the other officers of the band will be as equally sad to see him go as I. Nevertheless, we say farewell with our warmest congratulations on his new post and hope we will keep in touch from time to time. On a personal note, I would like to express my sincere and unreserved thanks to him for his support particularly whilst I was dealing with the tenor clapper replacement.

Finally and once again, a huge thank you to everyone who has supported ringing at the Cathedral over the past year in whatever capacity. I say it every year, but it is true that it is all of you who make the ringing something which I am extremely pleased to be part of.

Benjamin Carey
Tower Captain

SERVERS

Serving brings people close to the heart of our worship at the Cathedral, and helps us all to focus on the way God comes to us in word and sacrament, as well as in silence and song.

Our team of servers has continued to provide faithful and reliable support throughout the year. Servers give valuable assistance to the vergers and clergy at Sunday Eucharist and special services. Serving duties do not need to be onerous, some volunteer to serve once a month, or whenever other commitments allow.

This year we have been very fortunate to gain several servers. Ruth, a choir parent; Olivia and Emilia, two young recruits; Steph, a Cantate chorister who started as part of her Duke of Edinburgh experience and stayed on: all have learned fast and have enjoyed becoming part of the rich life of the Cathedral. We were very grateful to Lyndon, who stepped in to help at the last minute at Christmas, and has kindly said he would be willing to serve again when his busy life allows. We have two more people in addition at the time of writing, who are just exploring the possibility of serving. Please let myself or Canon Jo know if you feel you would like to find out more and join our serving team.

*Cheryll Sewell
Head Server*

THE CATHEDRAL'S MINISTRY OF WHOLENESS AND HEALING

Our Cathedral has chosen the theme of Living Well for our 2019 focus. It beckons us towards the future, gives a glimpse of the 'Kingdom of God' and of creation renewed in health and wholeness. It challenges us to consider our relationship with our own body, with each other and the natural world and with our Creator. It invites us to look beyond our own circumstances towards the wellbeing of the whole creation.

Our Cathedral can be a focus of prayer for healing both in our weekly intercessions and as a place where many visit during the week for a moment of quiet and perhaps to light a candle or leave a written prayer request. In the differing stages of life, the ways in which we need God's healing touch may change and God meets us at our point of need, often through each other's care and prayer.

The Cathedral holds a monthly Wednesday Eucharist at midday with a focus on prayer for wholeness and healing. The service takes place in St Thomas' Chapel, and is usually attended by about fifteen people. Following the intercessions there is opportunity, for any who wish, to receive the laying-on of hands, either for themselves, or on behalf of a friend or relative. Following the tradition of early church, a brief prayer is made that God will meet the person at their point of need and bring his wholeness and healing into their life and situation. It is useful to know the person's Christian name but there is no need to articulate any further details. Some find it helpful to be anointed with oil at this time. Others choose to remain quietly praying in their seats. The service can be a source of great strength and comfort, especially for those facing long-term challenges. *Why not come along and join us one month?*

Marion Syms

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT TEAM

Bereavement turns our world upside-down and is one of the most painful experiences we endure.

(Royal College of Psychiatrists).

Portsmouth Cathedral now has a specific Bereavement Support Team. Eight members of the congregation undertook training last year to support those who feel they would benefit from emotional support. How we grieve is unique to each of us and many people may find it helpful to talk to someone outside their family and friendship group. Our volunteers will offer people the space to think, express emotions and to talk confidentially about their feelings. There is no set pattern to grief and no timescale for grieving and people may find support helpful in the early days or perhaps later, or much later. Those experiencing grief and loss who feel they would like some support from the Cathedral Bereavement Support Team can approach one of the clergy or contact the Cathedral Offices.

Mary Taylor

Bereavement Group Coordinator

TODDLER GROUP

We have continued to welcome between 12 and 20 parents/carers and their offspring each week. In July we had to say goodbye to 10 children most of whom had been with us since birth and were more than ready for school. Currently therefore, after an influx of new carers and babies, we are quite a young group and it has been good also to welcome back former members re-joining us with their new arrivals. For the first time, three of our mothers whose children are now at school have come back to help run the group. Ayu, Cynthia, Ann and I are so grateful for their energy and enthusiasm. Now that we have more helpers, regularly cleaning all the toys and equipment is less onerous.

In the absence of Canon Peter, Canon John Shepherd has been with us most weeks both in the Cathedral and hall afterwards, and Nicola Watson also helps when he cannot. We look forward to welcoming our new Dean and also hope that Canon Peter's successor will want to join us on a regular basis. We are sorry Peter is leaving and wish him every success as Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight. In the summer term we hired some bouncy toys for a treat and Father Christmas made his usual visit before Christmas when once again, each child was given a version of the nativity story suitable for their age. This group is a vital element of the Cathedral's Outreach to young families and we are always keen to welcome new members and helpers, so pop in any time!

Carole King

BECKET'S BUNCH (SUNDAY SCHOOL)

We continue to meet each Sunday in term time and now have six leaders and several new helpers ensuring that the DBS requirements are met. We really appreciate Canon Anthony joining us with his children when he is not elsewhere on duty and hope that new staff members may sometimes be able to be with us. Numbers continue to fluctuate and in general the group is very small and young. Older children do, however, enjoy joining us from time to time and helping the little ones with activities.

Following the Cathedral 'Time' theme, we have explored some of the Old Testament stories Jesus would have heard as a child using ideas from Godly Play, and in the autumn we looked at special times. Now we are planning to integrate 'Well Being' into our regular scheme of work. However small the group, this is an important element of the Cathedral's Outreach to young families.

Carole King

GUNWHARF CHAPLAINCY

The regular team of six, drawn all except one, from the Cathedral congregation continues to visit the retail outlets in Gunwharf Quays, usually on alternate Thursday mornings. Chaplaincy is essentially a listening ministry, often low key and therefore often overlooked and undervalued. However, the welcome which we receive from the outlet staff often surprises us, especially if we have been away or have missed a visit. It is clearly valued by many. Conversations are only rarely deep and meaningful, but when they are they can be very personal indeed and therefore valued by the staff, who seldom have anyone else who is independent of their management to whom they can speak and who will listen to them without judgement.

Turnover among the outlets, known as “churn”, continues, as do changes among the staff which sometimes makes relationship building difficult, but where there is continuity there is often a readiness to share news such as new additions to families or the loss of a loved one.

We ourselves, also need support and to this end we try to meet for coffee and a catch up before we hit the outlets. We also meet for Morning Prayer once a month in the Cathedral. It is important for us to take in as well as give out. More chaplains would mean fewer outlets each, so if you feel a call to this valuable ministry do please contact the Cathedral Offices.

David Stickland

HOSPITAL WHEELERS

We have had noticeable changes, in that we seem to have fewer patients to ‘wheel’, but they are still very much in need of time away from their ward in a place where they can find peace and fulfilment in the service. It may be just to sing hymns which they may not have sung in many years, if at all, or just to remember the last time they were in their own church before going to hospital for whatever reason.

Although there are fewer people, it remains for volunteers to meet them in their ward, bring them to the chapel to be greeted and supported, before and during the service and then returned to their wards ready for their lunch. The numbers fluctuate week by week. There are, of course, those too unwell to go home and families visiting their loved ones. Staff who are on a break also come and join us as do former patients who regularly return on the anniversary of their time in hospital, who, as an appreciation of the help they received, want to come to say, ‘thank you’ to the staff.

To become a ‘Wheeler’ volunteer is simple and it is an easy and valuable task. After an initial meeting with the Chaplaincy team and wheelchair safety training, it is just a case of choosing the Sunday which suits you best. Arriving at 9.30am we meet the Duty Chaplain, discuss the patients to be collected and any special needs. We want to make their experience as good as it can be. After the service we leave about midday. We chose the fourth Sunday in the month, some 25 years ago, and have never looked back except to be glad we were introduced to this valuable task. Most volunteers come from churches within the Diocese and many have served as we have for many years - one for 35 years at Queen Alexandra Hospital.

I would like to say, if there were no volunteers it would not be possible for patients to come to the chapel, as the ward staff and porters are not free and the patients need a congregation! For information about volunteering contact: - Su Bishop on 023 9228 6408



Alan and Judith Williamson

COMPANION LINK WITH ST ANSELM'S CATHEDRAL SUNYANI (GHANA)

Mention our Companion Link and thoughts in both Sunyani and Portsmouth turn to Bishop Festus's Toyota pick-up and the Eye Clinic on the Penkwase site, both of which we have been privileged to support. The pick-up continues to enable Bishop Festus to travel safely around his large rural diocese.

Bishop Festus is pictured here at a recent confirmation at St James Church in Dormaa Ahenkro, a remote and impoverished village on the Côte d'Ivoire border. Whilst in the area he inaugurated four new village churches.



The Eye Clinic, which has been supported by our Cathedral's Outward Giving, is developing well and starting to generate a small income. It has recently received government permission to develop into a General Clinic for the Penkwase location (where Bishop Festus has his residence). It will be staffed by a Physician Assistant able to supervise community and district health facilities in rural areas where medical officers are usually not available.



Bishop Festus at the Eye Clinic



Ordination at St Anselm's

At the Cathedral four new Deacons have recently been ordained and I am pleased to say that the Very Revd Timothy Kankum Dwumfour has returned as Dean, a position he held before his two year transfer to Nkoranza as Archdeacon.



Dean Timothy

The third triennial Synod has been held and 2019 proclaimed as a Year of Mission with church members encouraged to share the good news of Jesus, not only as a spiritual Saviour, but also as a Saviour interested in our everyday challenges.

What a joy and privilege to journey alongside and prayerfully support our partners in Sunyani as they continue to grow the Church in Ghana. *Do contact me for more information.*

Canon Marion Syms (Link Officer)

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

We continue to distribute the donations of food which are left in the boxes by the North Cloister door to the food bank that support Refugees, Asylum Seekers and to the families identified by the Roberts Centre as being in need of help. Sincere thanks to all those who help either by making donations or helping with delivery. Please consider adding extra items to your weekly food shop to donate if you don't already do so.

UNIFORMED GROUPS

Becket Hall is in regular use by Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Cubs and Beavers. The following report gives a flavour of activities of these groups.

12TH CATHEDRAL GUIDES

We started another busy year with the girls completing 'Go For Its', the girls organising an evening in their patrols with activities on their chosen subjects including: Craft Badge, a Ready Steady Cook evening and Easter crafts and food.

The Summer Term started with more patrol work and badges: Hobbies: Animal Active and Agility. We played rounders on Southsea Common and ended the term with a meeting with the Brownies. Some university students gave up their time to instruct the girls in their First Aid badge. In July we went to the Eastney Cruising Association and rowed in large boats called gigs. Quite hard work but fun and in the last week we had a picnic on the beach.



The Guides and Rangers 'Wizard of Oz' themed summer camp was held at Herons' Way Guide Site near Farnham. A great week with lots of sunshine during which we went to the Rural Life Centre for paddle boarding, the zip wire, grass sledging and swimming. We played lots of games and made models in Lego of the Wizard of Oz.

The autumn term we completed some more patrol work, Healthy Lifestyles and Traditions of Guiding badges and the start of a new program for all units. From the 28th to 30th September was 'Mix and Meet' camp with the Scouts at Lyons Copes camp site. 200 children completed activities like abseiling, climbing, inflatables, archery and the assault course in teams. We joined the rest of the Guides and Scouts from Portsmouth in The Remembrance Day Parade in the Guildhall. We ended the year with our pantomime Snow White and the seven Guides. Any enquires please contact me 12thportscathedralguides@gmail.com.

Judith Burr (Guide Guider)

CHURCHWARDENS

Last year we said goodbye to Dean David Brindley and recently welcomed our new Dean, Anthony Cane. We wish David and Gill the happiest of retirements and Anthony and Clare the warmest of welcomes, looking forward to our future working together.

It is with enormous sorrow that we record the recent deaths of two Churchwardens. Frank Reid served from 2005 to 2011 and from 2013 until his untimely stroke later that year. Michael Purvis served for six years from 2012. Both were loving, loyal and gentle leaders and will be sorely missed by all who knew them.

During the year we have enjoyed the usual busy round of civic, military and memorial services, particularly noting the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War I. Our Remembrance Service was particularly well attended, falling as it did on Remembrance Day itself and we enjoyed inspiring Ordination and Baptism and Confirmation services. We are so grateful for the unstinting help of our four deputy wardens and 25 sidespeople, several of whom have joined us during the last year. We are so grateful for their loyalty and flexibility at our regular Sunday services; their willingness to help at our very many special services makes the churchwardens' job so much easier. We hope to increase our teams to five very soon. We must also thank the willing 'extras' who volunteer to fill the gaps at our large Christmas services.

We held an enjoyable get-together early in September, chiefly to say thank you for faithful service generously rendered but also giving us an opportunity to air views and suggestions on how we can all discharge our duties as effectively as possible as a vital part of the cathedral's offering of welcome and hospitality to all.

We would like to thank Canon Jo and all the clergy, the vergers and the Welcomers for their support. Sue Ward happily returned as churchwarden last year and she and Sheila have enjoyed working together.

Sue Ward and Sheila Picton

SERVICE WELCOMERS

The team of 10 continues to give a welcome at the 10.30am Sunday Services, alongside the sidespersons, in this important ministry. We know that our presence does make a difference, especially when it is recognised, as we may have shown a newcomer to a seat, and they are grateful. A sidesperson may have indicated to us that there is a visitor, or we have noticed them, which then gives us the opportunity of introducing the Cathedral seating layout, and just a few minutes of their company, allow us to find out, sensitively, if they are just visiting or are residents.

Following the service we try to make the most of the coffee time, by getting alongside any new people, to make them feel 'at home', and if the vibes feel right, introduce them to 'what goes on' in the Cathedral. A few words from a favourite hymn, sums up what our welcome is all about:

*'Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.'*

Gerry Chilton

DUTY CHAPLAINS

We are grateful to retired clergy and Readers who offer their time as Duty Chaplains from Easter to October and to Hilary Spurgeon for helping to recruit and rota them.

The work varies as it does for many other volunteers and sometimes it is not busy which gives the opportunity to enjoy some quiet space, something not always possible in the busy lives many of the chaplains lead. The visitors vary, some coming from the other side of the world, some from this country, while others are more local, seeking solace in times of trouble or perhaps just seeing what does go on in the building!

For those who are ordained, there is an opportunity to celebrate the Holy Communion at one of the Midday services during the week whilst Lay Chaplains sometimes assist at these services. May we appeal to some of the retired clergy or Readers to consider undertaking this very rewarding ministry, thereby providing a human presence with the other volunteers as we welcome visitors to our Cathedral?

HOLY DUSTERS

Little has changed since last year's report. We are the same group who meet at 8.30am on Monday mornings. We sweep, dust, vacuum and polish in our own particular area and in the absence of one of our number, we cover that area as well. It is a great way to get to know the Cathedral.

Our aim is to keep the Cathedral as clean and tidy as we are able for the benefit of the many visitors and the congregation.

It is not all hard work. We are a friendly bunch and meet for coffee and lunch on occasions. We could certainly do with some more volunteers and, if you are reading this, and could spare an hour or so, we'd love to see you.

Sally Farnfield

CRAFT AND CHAT GROUP

Craft and Chat is a friendly group. Some like to come and chat over a cup of tea or coffee and some to knit or sew or practise other handicrafts. A lot of work is done at home, but the group discusses various crafts and new ideas pass back and forth. Meetings are on the first Thursday afternoon of the month 2.00pm-3.30pm. Just come along you will be warmly welcomed.

CATHEDRAL CLUB

We have had eight meetings on a roughly monthly basis since March last year, plus Christmas lunch at The Clarence. With interesting speakers, the talks have been on: a holiday in Bali; a good diet; a tour of some WWI war cemeteries; more stories from 15 years in the tourist office; history and photographs of the Royal Garrison Church; a quiz on cathedrals and slides of Scotland; the History of Portsmouth part two and a holiday in Japan. We have a regular core of loyal attendees but would welcome other members of the congregation or their friends to join us – a donation of just £1 is requested for attending with free tea/coffee and biscuits.

Ronald Rabbetts

FRIENDS OF PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL

Membership is open to all who, individually or collectively, wish to support the Cathedral by their prayers or interest in its life and ministry. The Friends have two main aims: to support the Ministry and Mission of the Cathedral and to assist financially the Dean and Chapter in preserving, maintaining, improving and enriching the fabric, furnishings, fittings and work of the Cathedral. Over the years the Friends have made many gifts to make the Cathedral more beautiful and functional; in the last year these have included the purchase of one of the new Donation Boxes and a number of Book Pillows for the display of rare books and archives. They also paid for repairs to the green chasuble plus an annual grant of £1,000 towards the work of the Education Department.

The Friends organise social events and cultural trips to local places of interest. Last year we visited Salisbury for Mompesson House and the Cathedral where we had a fascinating guided tour and met some of their Friends over tea. Later, we went to Winchester for the Cathedral's Christmas Market. Both visits were much enjoyed by the members. There was also a fun lunch following the AGM in late September. We publish an Annual Yearbook plus two Newsletters in spring and autumn. We are always delighted to welcome new members to swell our support of the Cathedral. Membership details and an application form are available in the Cathedral and online. Please come and join us.

Andrew Slater
Chairman of the Friends' Council

PARISH LUNCH CLUB

The Lunch Club continues as a vibrant community activity, thanks to the support of dedicated volunteer teams cooking delicious meals each week. There is still the continuing threat of volunteers deciding that they can no longer continue to support this long-standing commitment, now running for over 35 years. The camaraderie the Lunch Club offers to a regular group of diners from across the city each week, anything from 30 to 45 people, is a vital support to the community.

The Christmas lunch is always extremely well attended, usually over-subscribed due to its popularity and we catered for 60 this year. Equally the summer outing, a return visit to Redcliffe Garden Centre will be well attended, although this year it will be a lunch instead of a cream tea and a drive round the New Forest afterwards. The suspension of the bus service to Old Portsmouth in September caused problems for everyone and we lost one or two members and some were unable to get here regularly. There has been much relief since the limited service was resumed in January. A special thanks to everyone who continues to make this activity so appreciated, both the diners and especially the teams who make it possible.

Maureen Cole

THE FLOWER GUILD



Last summer's weather was wonderful to experience but in the Cathedral flowers wilted in a day or two keeping us busy watering and replacing blooms. We had very few requests for wedding and memorial flowers probably due to uncertain times, but please remember we are very happy to arrange for special events and for flowers in memoriam.

On Fridays, you may see the Flower Guild trundling around the Cathedral with flower-filled wheelbarrows and arranging pedestals, but much thought and planning has taken place before we get to this stage.

We have discovered that the floral foam we use contains materials which are non-biodegradable and are now sourcing an alternative. This is proving difficult but we hope to change to 'kinder to the planet' floral foam by the end of the year. We try to use long lasting and the least expensive flowers and would like to use British grown blooms but this is not always possible. Most available roses are grown in Kenya. We have to consider air miles against the work opportunities that flower production gives for

developing countries. We also have to buy in greenery as, in our city position, we have no opportunity to 'trim' garden trees in the quantity we need.

You will see that the Flower Guild have more to consider than arranging flowers and that we put thought and research into our work. Come and talk to us, give us your views. Perhaps consider joining us as we still need more arrangers.

Thank you to all who come to work with us at festivals. If you have not helped before, please consider joining the team at Easter or Christmas. Thanks especially to Ronald Rabbetts who has refurbished the pedestals. Thank you for your kind comments about our arrangements, they give us great encouragement.

Rosemary Fairfax

CATHEDRAL GUIDES

Our aim is to welcome all visitors and strive to ensure that they have an interesting and enjoyable experience. They are free to tour on their own, light a candle, relax, de-stress. Guides offer a brief history of the Cathedral Church of St Thomas based on the models, extended or mini tours as well as explanations of the varied features.

In 2018, we recorded 17,827 visitors global, national and local. 80% of the available guiding sessions were covered, slightly up on last year. This is no mean feat, as in spite of having two new guides, we have been sorely stretched due to bereavement, illness, surgery and treatment affecting family and friends. Grateful thanks to all who give so generously of their time. In addition to the Portsmouth Cathedral Welcome Leaflets in English, there are information leaflets in Dutch, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Polish and Spanish. These are most gratefully received. Activities for children are also provided.

In September 2018, Portsmouth Cathedral again took part in Heritage Open Days Weekend. 257 visitors were recorded – up on last year; 153 on the Saturday. Tour and Talks on The Clock (by Derek Frampton the Diocesan Clock Adviser), The Tangier Plate and Creators were enjoyed. The Creative Women Exhibition was well received. Jo Godfree (Volunteer Archivist) produced excellent coloured leaflets on these artists whose work enhances our fabric and worship. Placed appropriately, these leaflets added a professional touch that was much appreciated. This year Heritage Open Days at the Cathedral will be 20th-22nd September.

Margaret Wilson

RESEARCH GROUP AND ARCHIVE

The Group met six times in the last year. Four new booklets have been produced:-

- Some items of Interest 1 & 2
- Fathers of the Dockyard
- Admiral John Kempthorne and the Model of the Mary Rose

The 'Golden Barque' booklet has been revised and updated and leaflets produced on:-

- Confusing Calendars
- The Cathedral and World War I
- Mary Palmer

Some Items of Interest—2



PORTSMOUTH
CATHEDRAL

The format of the booklets has been changed to improve their display and sale in the Cathedral Bookshop. Discussions have covered a range of subjects, including the Heritage Open Days programme, the Welcome Leaflet, the Test Act certificate, the William and Mary coat of arms and the Cathedral Archives. Jo Godfree has greatly added to the discussions with her findings as she sorts out the Archives.

I would like to thank the members of the Group – Jonathan Collins, Jo Godfree, Mike Jackson, Pat Valler and Margaret Wilson. A special word of thanks to Mike and Jane Jackson for their hospitality, and to Chris Lovett for his computer and photographic skills.

John Friars

THE CATHEDRAL SHOP

The shop turned over approximately £44,000 in 2018 so with Cost of Sales at around £30,000 made a profit of £14,000. Bearing in mind that in excess of £7,000 was spent on the organ and Christmas CDs, this is still a very good profit which would not be possible without our Shop Volunteers to whom we are very grateful!

We have continued to focus on reducing stock to a more manageable level and in producing a complete inventory to help us manage what is left and inform decisions about what to purchase for this year.

We are advertising for one or two volunteer shop managers for the shop in 2019 to take over the day to day running. We are also planning to enter into a franchise arrangement with Oasis Bookshop in Romsey so that we can keep our stock more current and turning over more efficiently.

Over Christmas 2018, we opened an on-line shop which proved successful in selling CDs and Christmas Cards across the country (and world!). Whilst not any competition to large online retailers, we are hoping that the shop – both real and virtual – can start to supply churches in the Diocese with requisites and liturgical items to support parishes, help increase turnover and to also offer a “click & collect” service for them.

Any suggestions as to how we can help the shop to be more profitable and useful to the congregation and wider public would be welcomed.

*Nicky Taylor
Finance Officer & Shop Manager*

CHRISTIAN AID AND FAIRTRADE

The Cathedral community has responded generously to Christian Aid and Fairtrade in the past year, which has seen enormous problems across the developing world through conflict and catastrophe. Christian Aid often responds in areas where others are less prominent and Fair Trade makes a tremendous difference to communities able to gain the Fairtrade mark for their goods. This means they receive a fair price for what is produced no matter what happens to the market and a premium to spend on community needs.

As always we were able to put together a creditable total for our Christian Aid Week collection in May of £2,319.38, made up of the house-to-house collection, envelopes handed in to the Cathedral and a Big Breakfast. In September we had an appeal to help those affected by floods in Kerala which raised £157.35 and in January, Christmas goodies at coffee time after a 10.30am Eucharist raised £67.33, totaling £2544.06. Gift Aid from these events will have raised more than £200. The recent Cyclone Idai appeal raised £390.

We are a Fairtrade Cathedral. As such we agree to use Fairtrade products whenever possible and to encourage everyone who uses the Cathedral for events to do so too. As Christians, using Fairtrade products at home helps us to fulfill our mission to the poor. Our Fairtrade Breakfast in February 2018 raised £177 for the Fair Trade Foundation and another this February raised over £200. We are hoping to renew our Fair Trade Cathedral status this year.

Thanks to all who gave their time and money to support all this life-changing work, particularly those who collect house-to-house in Christian Aid Week, and those who help at events and ensure that as much as possible of the Cathedral's tea, coffee, sugar and other refreshments always bear the Fairtrade mark, showing our love for people to whom climate change, often caused by the western world's greed and exploitation, brings floods, drought, and mudslides, and who are unfairly affected by earthquakes and conflict. Their lives can be touched and changed by the work of Christian Aid and the Fairtrade Foundation and we can help them.

Sue Ward, CA and FT representative

REFLECTIVE AFTERNOONS



Previously known as Quiet Afternoons, this new title is more appropriate to describe these very popular gatherings.

We meet in spring, summer and autumn in an Emsworth home and garden. A guest speaker leads and guides us on the afternoon's theme, with times of prayer and reflection. There are opportunities for quiet meandering, sitting, reading or day dreaming in the garden and conservatory.

Transport to and from the Cathedral can be provided. Tea/coffee and biscuits (strawberries in the summer!) are available throughout the afternoon. All are very welcome. Watch the Weekly Notices for more details.

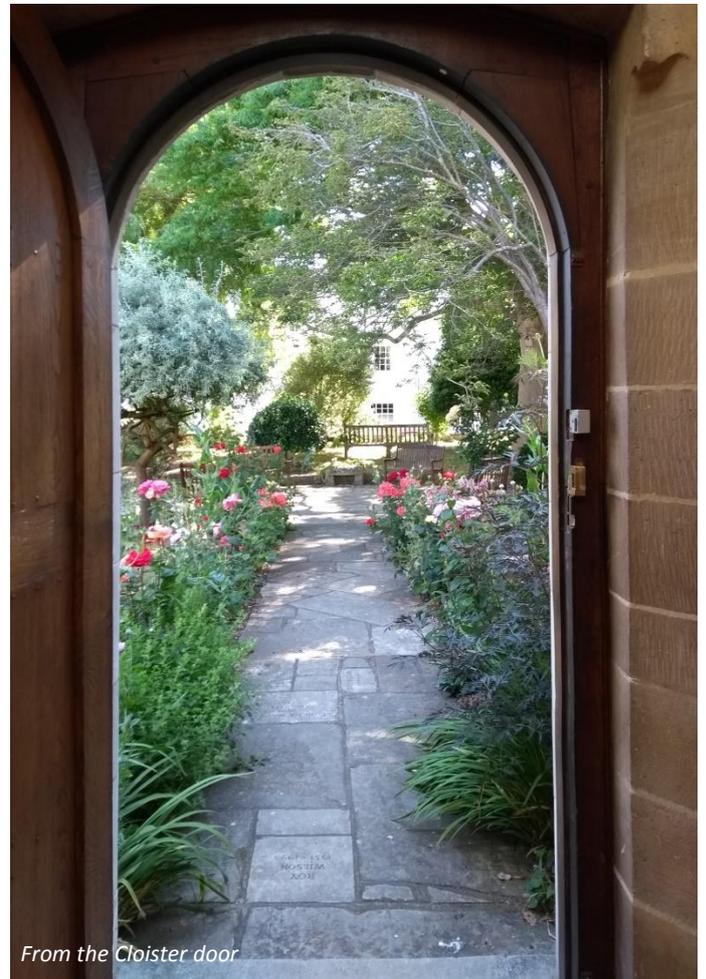
Delia Curry

MEMORIAL GARDEN

This year we are emerging from winter with the garden seeming to be a couple of weeks later than at the same point in 2018 so we don't have many snowdrops to report but the weather was so mild over December and January that many of our plants and shrubs have decided to start a bit earlier than usual. So much so that we have already seen bees making their way round some very early blossom.

We have managed to keep things tidy over the winter months. Hoppy, Alan and Don, for some reason or another have become more "fair weather" gardeners. This simply means they are more "vocal" than "physical". On the other hand, Chris, Sergio and Andy have soldiered on and we are very glad that Basil has joined us. We will always welcome other new volunteers. We expect soon to find ourselves so busy we only just have time for the coffee and cake that Andi and Terry have so generously continued to provide at 'stand easy'. Importantly, there is always time for greetings to anyone passing through the garden.

On a Tuesday morning we each have our favourite jobs but always turn a hand to whatever task is pressing at the time and within our physical abilities. Our silent expert Sergio really does know what he is doing and puts the rest of us to shame by the amount of work he gets through. He knows what to do with shrubs and bushes, keeping them looking ship shape and Bristol fashion. In short the Lord has smiled upon our labours and we all enjoy ourselves enormously. We are so grateful for the support we get from the ladies of Craft and Chat and also from the visitors that pass through, even if they only stop for a minute or two. So a big thank you from us in order.



'The Adams'

The Cathedral Church of St Thomas of Canterbury as at April 2019

The Dean

The Very Revd Dr Anthony Cane

The Chapter

The Revd Canon Nick Ralph
The Revd Canon Peter Leonard
The Revd Canon Dr Anthony Rustell
The Revd Canon Dr Jo Spreadbury

Caroline Hewitt (Chair of FIC)
Richard Smout
Emma Broome
David Carpenter

Chapter Clerk

Peter Sanders

Cathedral Curate

Matt Bray

Cathedral Reader

Kitty Price

Organist and Master of the Choristers

David Price

Finance Officer & Shop Manager

Nicky Taylor

Sub-Organist

Sachin Gunga

Dean's EA & Cathedral Office Manager

Liz Snowball

Organ Scholar

James Furniss-Roe

Education Officer

Sarah Page

Cathedral Sing Administrator

Adrian Green

Marketing Coordinator

John Bolt

Choir Matrons

Catherine O'Leary, Vanessa Fenton, Kyrie Wallis

Head Verger

Malina Green

Lay Clerks

Nick Pepin, John Mitchell, Francis O'Sullivan, Adrian Green, James Lomas, David Alcindor, Tim Burtt

Assistant Vergers

Graham Kidd and Maria Mann

Choral Scholars

Anna Palethorpe, James Martin, Patrick Ellis, Ethan Clarke, Peter Ashdown, Oliver Wilson

Administrative Assistants

Tim Burnett, Sara Clark and Sarah Lovatt

Maintenance and Cleaning

Bradley Hill, Tina Cartright and Tom Hullyer

Honorary Canons

The Revd Canon Bob White
The Revd Canon Karina Green
The Revd Canon Peter Sutton
The Revd Canon John Draper
The Revd Canon Will Hughes
The Revd Canon Peter Hall

The Revd Canon Mike Duff
The Revd Canon Hugh Wright
The Revd Canon Kevin Arkell
The Revd Canon Tom Kennar
The Revd Canon John Owen
The Revd Canon Julie Price

Lay Canons

Canon Lucy Docherty
Canon David Bennison
Canon Stuart Forster
Canon Neil Pugmire
Canon Margaret Chappell
Canon John Gwynn
Canon Bradley Albuery

Canon Graham Salter
Canon Sir David Normington
Canon Sarah McCarthy-Fry
Canon Robert Solomon
Canon Sheila Picton - Churchwarden
Canon Sue Ward - Churchwarden

Honorary Chaplains and PtO Clergy

The Revd Dr Ruth Tuschling
The Revd Steven Hunt
The Revd Dr Richard Wyld
The Revd Canon Angela Tilby

The Revd Canon Peter Cotton
The Revd Canon John Shepherd
The Revd David Stickland



Chapter, Ministry Team, Cathedral Staff, Choir and Churchwardens – 20th March 2019



The Cathedral Office, Cathedral House,
63-68 St Thomas's Street, Old Portsmouth, PO1 2HA
023 9282 3300 info@portsmouthcathedral.org.uk



 @PortsmouthCath

www.portsmouthcathedral.org.uk

 @portsmouthcathedral