

cathedral news

November 2019

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Manchester
Cathedral

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From Egypt to the Promised Land

In October I was invited to celebrate the Jewish Festival of Sukkot at the Heathlands Village in Salford. It was organised by the Jewish Representative Council. This is also known as the Festival of Tabernacles or the Festival of Booths and reminds Jews of their ancestors temporarily dwelling in Tents on their journey from Egypt to the Promised Land. It is also celebrated as a Harvest Festival.

You will remember Peter offering to build three temporary dwellings for Moses, Elijah and Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration when Jesus' divine glory was revealed to him, James and John.

This was a wonderful time of fellowship with our Jewish friends as well as members of diverse faith communities present. May we too be reminded of our spiritual journey to life in Christ and also experience the glory of God!

**With love,
Rogers Govender**



Gunpowder, Treason and Plot

David Sharples, Archdeacon of Salford

As a child I always loved bonfire night. I adored the fireworks, especially the rockets as they soared into the night sky; I loved the 'rip-raps' as they hopped unpredictably around the ground. Tracing my name with sparklers, feeling the intense heat of the blazing fire in the cold November air whilst chewing treacle toffee were all essential elements of the night. I even enjoyed the next morning as we ran outside to inspect the dying embers of the fire. It was all thrilling and exciting.

Yet I had no idea about the trauma that lay behind it all, let alone the horrific fate of the Gunpowder Plot perpetrators. A group of deeply unhappy gentry had planned to murder the king and the country's entire political leadership and many Londoners who would also have been killed by the explosion and the ensuing fires. Though the plot was unsuccessful, the horror of what might have happened sank deep into the nation's consciousness; King James, Queen Anne, Princes Henry and Charles, political leaders and bishops would have been wiped out in an instant.

The uneasy Elizabethan compromise not to enquire too closely into people's souls was over. Fear, anxiety and a desire for revenge took hold. Catholics were now the enemy within. A generation later the whole country was at war with each other and we descended into the abyss. We learned a costly but vital lesson; that we must respect and live with difference and plurality.

It's said that we British have a particular genius for compromise and pragmatism, even when we passionately disagree. If so, we need to rediscover that art. We are a deeply divided nation and the church has a crucial role to play in helping us heal. We do need to 'remember, remember' not only 'gunpowder, treason and plot' - and where that leads us - but that God 'has committed to us the message of reconciliation'. This begins with listening to others stories and seeing how the world looks through their eyes. As Archbishop Justin has said, "Reconciliation is not the ending of all difference, but the transformation of how we deal with difference".

Handel's Messiah, with the Cathedral Choir and Manchester Baroque

Christopher Stokes, Organist and Master of the Choristers

On Saturday, 30th November, the Cathedral Choir will be staging its annual performance of Handel's Messiah. The fresh young voices of the choristers chime so well with the lively, expressive lines of the underpinning accompaniment.

This year that accompaniment will be brought to life by Manchester Baroque – a new period instrument orchestra based in Manchester. The orchestra will be led by an international star of the Baroque violin world, Pauline Nobes. As in Handel's day, the pitch will be a semitone lower than standard modern pitch. This has all manner of implications for the performers: mostly benign, unless you have perfect pitch!

There will be four soloists: Philippa Hyde (soprano), who has sung with us on numerous occasions including the televised Easter Day service some four years ago; Joyce Tindsley

(contralto), again no stranger to our shores; Alex Banfield, possessed of a glorious tenor voice which we had the privilege of hearing on a daily basis when he was a tenor lay clerk here; Terence Ayebare (bass) has sung Bach's St John Passion with us before and takes a strikingly dramatic stance with Handel's demanding arias.



Friends Update

Pauline Dimond, Honorary Secretary

The Friends of Manchester Cathedral held their 5th afternoon tea on Saturday, 24 August. Although numbers attending were slightly lower than usual due to a major event taking place in the city, it was a very enjoyable occasion and resulted in a profit of £160 for our funds.

Our autumn meeting was held on 16 October with a talk by Dr Alison Rohan on the "First 17 women who stood for election to Parliament in 1918", followed by lunch.

The Friends' latest gift to the Cathedral has been a new piano for the Music Department. We enjoyed hearing a recital on it by Chris Stokes on 26 October.

The Friends' Council recently made plans for the coming year, with three meetings in the Visitor Centre and a proposed weekend away visiting Southwell Minister. We are always ready to welcome new members, so why not join us? Membership application forms are available in the Welcome area.



Wood Street Mission

Des Lynch, Manager

Wood Street Mission is a children's charity, which was set up in 1869 by Alfred Alsop. Based in the Deansgate area of Manchester, Alsop was appalled by the living conditions that families endured at the time and desperately wanted to make a difference.

Today, some 150 years later we continue to support children and families living on a low income throughout Manchester and Salford.

- We support families by offering practical help through the Family Basics project, providing children's clothing, toiletries, bedding and baby equipment together with other basic items.
- The SmartStart project provides both new and good quality used school uniform in addition to accessories such as new winter coats, school bags, stationery sets.

- We distribute thousands of books to local children, through our Wood Street Book Clubs/Roadshows.
- At Christmas new toys and gifts are distributed to children (over 11,000 toys and gifts were distributed during the 2019 Christmas period).

Not all of the support that we provide has to come in a tangible way. We want to provide experiences that will last a lifetime for the children we support, whether this be through the Christmas parties or through the day trips/events that we organise.

With the help of our supporters we aim to make a difference and improve the life chances of some 76,000 children currently living in poverty in Manchester and Salford. All our services are free to access on referral.

Please see www.woodstreetmission.org.uk for more information.

Saint of the Month

23 November:
St Clement,
Bishop of Rome ca. 99

Albert Radcliffe, Canon Emeritus



Clement is thought to have been ordained by St Peter and was his third successor as bishop of Rome. An old tradition identifies him with the Clement named by St Paul in Philippians 4:3. What is known for certain is that as bishop he wrote a stern letter to the church at Corinth urging repentance and reform. It was so valued that it was read in public worship, along with the Scriptures. It offers important insights into the life of the early church and was the reason Clement is counted as the first of the Apostolic Fathers, alongside Polycarp and Ignatius of Antioch.

Tradition has it that under the Emperor Trajan, Clement was banished to a stone quarry in the Chersonesus in the Crimea, where he converted many fellow prisoners to the Christian faith and for which he was

martyred by being tied to an anchor and thrown into the Black Sea. For this reason, his emblem is the 'anchored cross' and he is the patron saint of mariners and stone cutters.

Saints are our examples of how faith is to be lived out in even the most difficult and discouraging of circumstances. Clement seems never to have been afraid to act on that faith lovingly, when he must often have been tempted to keep quiet.

Biblical Interpretation in Manchester Today

SCM Studyguide to Biblical Hermeneutics, 2nd Ed (2019), by David Holgate and Rachel Starr

David Holgate, Sub Dean and Canon for Theology and Mission

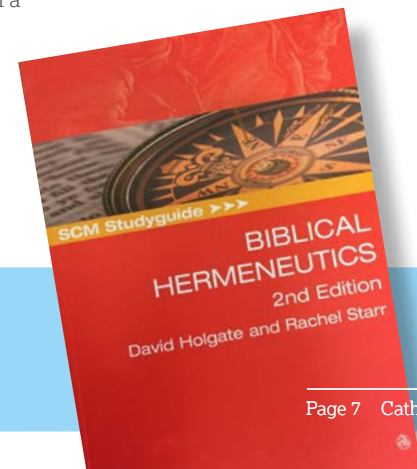
Fifteen years ago, a friend and I wrote a handbook on biblical interpretation to help ordinands develop 'life affirming interpretations' of the Bible. It was published by SCM Press in 2006 and has been widely used. When SCM asked us to prepare a second edition, we realised that it would need to deal with many of the changes to the way we study the Bible, such as digitalisation, new understandings of identity, the challenge of climate change and the experience of reading the Bible with other texts and faiths.

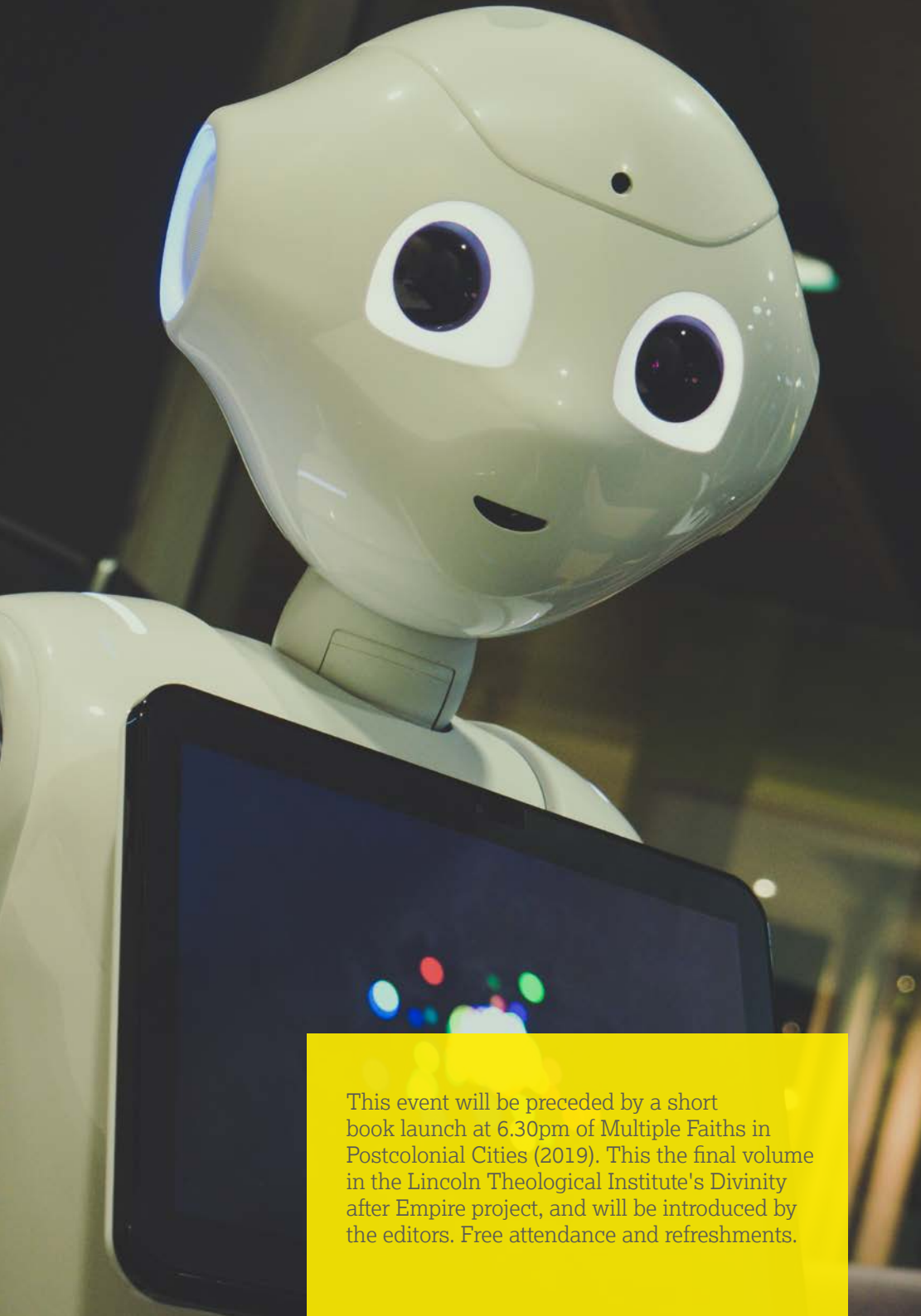
As we now access biblical texts and study resources online, we are able to find and compare passages within it, and to read it alongside other ancient and modern texts. My experience of doing Scriptural Reasoning in Manchester, reading New Testament passages on particular topics with texts on the same topic from the scriptures of other faiths, is included in a completely new section.

Regarding who we are as Bible readers, we now recognise that no-one is normative, and everyone is complex. As two white readers, we consider the African, Asian, Latin American and Mediterranean contexts of the Bible, recognizing that few biblical characters look like us and ask how that insight might affect our interpretation.

Finally, we ask again: how does the Bible form and shape our life of faith? How does it help us all to act with justice, gentleness, courage and faith?

The new edition will be launched at an event at the Queen's Foundation in Birmingham, where Rachel teaches. I will offer a Lent Course based on the book on five Mondays next year (2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 March 2020, 6pm – 8pm in the Cathedral Library). <https://scmpress.hymnsam.co.uk/blog/introducing-the-studyguide-to-biblical-hermeneutics-2nd-edition>





This event will be preceded by a short book launch at 6.30pm of *Multiple Faiths in Postcolonial Cities* (2019). This the final volume in the Lincoln Theological Institute's Divinity after Empire project, and will be introduced by the editors. Free attendance and refreshments.

Loving Machines?

An evening of films and discussion, 18 Nov, 7pm,
Manchester Cathedral

Scott Midson, Lecturer in Liberal Arts at the University of Manchester

What does it mean to 'love' robots? Should we love them? Can they love us?

A new wave of social robots is coming into our homes and hospitals, to provide companionship for us, and to deliver care to us. How are we to relate to them? This free event will premiere a short film about relationships with robots followed by a discussion of some of the science and philosophy behind how we see our relationships with robots developing in the future. Might we be replaced by them? Might we learn to love them?

Love is a big term. It is important for thinking about marriages, families, and friendships. In religious thinking it is an important way of thinking about the value of creation in relation to God, its creator. Can we extend love to our own robotic creations, and can they love us at all? This event will focus on two robots and two different aspects of love.

First, MiRo is a pet-like robot designed to provide companionship in the home. How we interact with MiRo and other pets can reveal ideas about love as a form of attachment.

Second, Pepper is a humanoid (human-shaped) robot that is designed to provide a service for humans in a range of settings from shops to hospitals. How we trust Pepper impacts its ability to provide care for us. In both of these cases, 'love' can be thought about through the types of relationships we build – or don't build – with robots.

Following a pilot screening of some short films about MiRo and Pepper, a panel of experts will lead a discussion about how research is shaping our future with robots, by addressing questions about humans, robots, and the relationships between the two.

This work is the product of 'Living with and Loving Machines', a research project at the Lincoln Theological Institute (University of Manchester), and it is co-funded by Scientists in Congregations and Creative Manchester.

Interfaith Festival of Lights, 9 November, 6.30pm

Nidhi Sinha, PA to the Dean

On Saturday 9 November, the Dean, as Chairperson of a relatively new charity named Sangha, will be hosting a new event for the Cathedral—an Interfaith Festival of Lights.

As the autumn leaves start to freeze with the oncoming winter, many world religions take this time of year to celebrate the hope that light can bring: Diwali, Hanukkah, Fete des Lumieres -Lyon (France), Candlemas. Even in the southern hemisphere, communities are linked by light, hope and goodness. At Christmas in Rio de Janeiro, people gather for the lighting of the world's largest Christmas tree in water. In all these celebrations light signifies similar messages of spiritual triumph over darkness, goodness over evil and life over death.

The evening will include Lithuanian dancers, Indian dancers, Bengali folk dance, Lion dancers, Sikh Kirtans and much more! We hope to see you at this free event to celebrate how light connects every story and every community through the magic of light.



First Prize Winning Poem in the 2019 Manchester Cathedral Poetry Competition

Mary Magdalene in the Desert

Listen, tossers: meeting him was a revelation.
He took my jar of oil, gave me a foot rub.
He listened to me, liked what I had to say.
God, that was a different way of being alive.

I lost him in the end as I should have known
I would, though he'd spouted all that bollocks
about coming back, about always being
there for me. He was a man, after all.

But then I happened to tell a friend
I'd seen him walking near the tomb,
and the whole bloody thing got out of hand.
I see him all the time, gobshites. Everywhere.

I came here to escape the whole friggin' circus.
Living alone in a cold dark cave
can be very appealing to a woman.
I think it's the total lack of morons.

At first I cried every night and every morning,
even though and because there was nothing
between me and the soft sunrise,
between me and the red sun leaving.

My hair grew, long as rushes; my skin got tough.
One morning I washed in a pool after rain;
anointed my hands and feet. A bird sang;
I knew two things. I held my face up to the sun.

Ailsa Holland
Manchester Cathedral Poet of the Year, 2019

Service of Thanksgiving and Blessing for our Pets and Working Animals

Marcia Wall, Canon Precentor

Our pets are very special to us, loyal companions, they are like members of our families and give us unconditional love. Our working animals, from police horses to therapy dogs, help us in our daily lives in so many ways. For the second year running we are held a Service of Thanksgiving and Blessing for our Pets and Working Animals on Sunday 13 October.

The service was very well attended, during the service people had the opportunity to tell us about their pets and how much they mean to them. The Manchester Cathedral Children's Choir took part in the service and sang The animals went in two by two, hurrah! hurrah!

We gave thanks to God for creation, asked God to forgive us when we fail to look after our animals well and asked God to give us the strength and courage that we need to act when we see animals in distress.

Big thank you to all who attended and hope to see you again next year!



The Diary November

Friday 1 November
5:30pm All Saints' Day
Festal Evensong

Thursday 14 November
6:30pm Manchester
Xmas Lights switch on

Saturday 23 November
12noon & 6:30pm
Laithwaites Wine Fair

Saturday 2 November
5:30pm Requiem
Eucharist for All Souls'

Saturday 16 November
10:30am-5pm
Manchester Print Fair

Sunday 24 November
7:30pm Candlelight
Concert

Sunday 3 November
7:30pm Concert by
London Concertante

Sunday 17 November
2pm Wood St Mission
Anniversary Service

Monday 25 November
7pm 'You are Mine'
Bishop David
Book Launch

Monday 4 November
7pm Margaret Beetham
Book Launch

Monday 18 November
7pm 'Living with and
loving Machines'

Thursday 28 November
7pm The Lord Mayor's
Carol Concert

Friday 8 November
7:30pm The 2019
Manchester Sleepout

Friday 22 November
1:30pm & 5:30pm
Laithwaites Wine Fair

Saturday 30 November
7:30pm Performance
of Handel's Messiah

Saturday 9 November
10am-4pm Manchester
Craft & Flea
6:30pm Interfaith
Festival of Lights

Sunday 10 November
10:30am Eucharist & Act
of Remembrance
7:30pm Manchester
Peace Song Cycle

Monday 11 November
10:45am Armistice
Day Service

Tuesday 12 November
7pm Maverick
Sabre Concert

**Wednesday 13
November**
7pm Tinariwen 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 4.30 pm

The Cathedral Choir will be on holiday from 26 December until Monday 6 January. Please note that services taking place between Christmas Day and New Year's Day will follow a slightly altered schedule.

Looking ahead December

Sunday 1 December
6:30pm Advent
Procession

Tuesday 3 December
7:30pm MedEquip4Kids
Christmas Sing-along

Thursday 5 December
7:30pm Children's
Society 'Sing for
Christmas'

Saturday 7 December
7:30pm LGBT Christmas
Carol Concert

Sunday 8 December
3pm St John's
Ambulance Service

Monday 9 December
7pm The Christie
Charity Christmas
Concert

Tuesday 10 December
7:30pm Henshaws
Carols by Candlelight

Thursday 12 December
7:30pm RMCH Charity
Carol Concert

Saturday 14 December
12noon-1:30pm
Christmas Carol Sing-
along

7:30pm Family
Carols Concert

Tuesday 17 December
7:30pm Mercy Ships
Carol Service

Friday 20 December
7pm 'Prevent Breast
Cancer' Concert

Sunday 22 December
7:30pm A Festival of
Nine Lessons and
Carols

Christmas Eve
12noon Blessing of the
Crib
11:30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day
10:30am Sung Eucharist

Exhibitions

Admission to all our
exhibitions is free.

Retreat Association Icon
exhibit in the JesusChapel,
with a quiet day in the
refectory on 30 Nov
23 Nov-1 Dec



Community Profile

**Saul Knights,
Sydney Nicholson
Organ Scholar**

**What is your
favourite film?**

Zhang Yimou's Raise the
Red Lantern

What music do you like?

Anything by Johann
Sebastian Bach.

**What was the last book
you read?**

Stuart Schram's Mao
Tse-tung, a biography of
Chairman Mao and an
account of 20th century
China.

**Where was the last place
you visited/holidayed?**

Cologne, Germany

Do you have any pets?

Four cockatiels.

**Tell us something
interesting or funny
about yourself.**

I speak fluent Mandarin
Chinese and Russian, as
well as numerous other
languages.

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Charity Christmas Events

**The Lord Mayor of Manchester's
Christmas Carol Concert**
Monday 28 November 2019, 7.00pm

MedEquip4Kids Christmas Sing-along
Tuesday 3 December 2019, 7.30pm

Children's Society 'Sing for Christmas'
Thursday 5 December 2019, 7.30pm

**The Proud Trust
LGBT+ Community Carol Service**
Saturday 7 December 2019, 7.30pm

The Christie Charity Christmas Concert
Monday 9 December 2019, 7.00pm

Henshaws Carols by Candlelight
Tuesday 10 December 2019, 7.30pm

**Royal Manchester Children's Hospital
Charity Carol Concert**
Thursday 12 December 2019, 7.30pm

Mercy Ships Carol Concert
Tuesday 17 December 2019, 7.30pm

Prevent Breast Cancer Concert
Friday 20 December 2019, 7.00pm

Manchester Cathedral
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