

cathedral news

March 2020

Prayer Worship Music Arts Education Heritage Welcoming

Manchester
Cathedral

More Caring

Page 3

Broadcast Services
on BBC Radio 3

Page 5

John O'Groats to
Land's End Cycling Marathon

Page 12

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Dean's Corner



Hope in your spiritual journey

We find ourselves in Lent with an invitation to a special time of fasting and prayer as we follow the Lord Jesus to the cross. Fasting involves sacrifice and discipline as we seek to deepen our relationship with God. During Lent we have an opportunity to reflect on how we interpret the scriptures - Canon David Holgate is leading this.

We also have an opportunity to 'Care for God's Creation' which is the Archbishop of Canterbury's lent book. The climate change issues offer massive challenge to us as Christians. Let there be action in our stewardship of God's amazing creation. The obvious challenges can be seen in our massively changing weather patterns.

May you have a blessed Lent, and may the pain of the cross and the joy of Easter bring hope in your spiritual journey!

God bless you,

Rogers Govender

More Caring

Márcia Wall, Canon Precentor

Last January I wrote a piece for the magazine on how we care for each other and how important it is that we reflect God's love for us in our actions and words.

Caring for God's creation is just as important as caring for God's people. God has made us stewards of his creation, and to be honest, we have not been very good at it.

I am not blaming previous or our own generation for this, some of it has happened because we were not fully aware of the consequences. No excuse, I know, but this should not let us say to ourselves, 'Too late, there is nothing we can do,' because that is not true. There is plenty that the Church and we can do about it. We share the responsibility of caring for God's world with each other.

Lent is a time to repent and take on challenges that will make us think and act in different ways.

The Church of England has launched a 40-day Challenge called Care for God's Creation. Starting on Ash Wednesday we have daily Scripture reading, a reflection and an action. Copies are available in church. You can pick up the booklet and start your journey anytime. It doesn't need to stop at Easter, once a good habit is set, it will continue.

Sharing is caring!

#LIVE LENT

CARE for GOD'S CREATION



Our Busy Cathedral: a Cathedral Guide's Perspective

Amos Millington, Cathedral Guide

Our Cathedral here in Manchester hosts many different activities but of course its primary function is to be a place of prayer and worship. These can take many forms, ranging from private individual prayer to an act of corporate prayer led by a priest, and personal acts of worship as well as the acts of worship we are familiar with in the set services, which can include music and hymns. It is quite common during the day for people to come into the Cathedral, not just to visit, but to engage in conversation with God through private prayer or contemplation. Indeed, The Fraser Chapel is reserved for such devotional acts.

There are at least three services hosted every day beginning with Morning Prayer at 9am, then Holy Communion at 1.10 pm and Choral Evensong at 5.30pm, or Evening Prayer at 4.30pm, to end the working day.

It is not surprising then that some visitors are taken aback to learn that we also host a range of nonreligious activities, for example clothing fairs, craft fairs, gin tasting festivals and music concerts, (both classical and pop). I explain to them that the Cathedral is physically divided into two main areas; the Chancel and Sanctuary, (east of the choir screen) which are the 'sacred spaces', and the Nave which is the 'public space'.

This division of the Cathedral into sacred and secular spaces dates back to medieval times and earlier when abbeys and monasteries were usually the only large public buildings in a city or town and were therefore, because

of their size and layout, focal points for both religious and secular community activities. The only other large buildings were perhaps castles or baronial halls but public entrance was only by invitation, or summons!

Back in Jesus' day, Herod's Temple was also used for commercial activities. In Matthew's Gospel, (Mt 21.12) we read that Jesus threw out those who were changing money, and selling sacrificial goods in the temple because of their corrupt practices. The space where business was being transacted was, according to my research, some 13.5 hectares in size, but then the commercial activity had got out of proportion and worship and prayer was being squeezed out. The Rood screen or Choir screen in our abbeys, monasteries and cathedrals helps to maintain a respectful boundary between the secular and the sacred.

Many visitors are pleasantly surprised that Manchester Cathedral does not charge an admission fee. Our Dean and Chapter are, in my view rightly, opposed to such a charge. It is only in recent times that entrance fees have been introduced in many other Cathedrals to help towards the upkeep and repair to the fabric. In medieval times there were no such charges but at that time many abbeys and monasteries had a regular income from the farms and land which they owned. Nowadays, we at Manchester have to rely on monetary gifts through freewill regular giving, or legacies. I always stress to visitors that our Cathedral is an active house of prayer and worship to God, and as such is freely open to all.



Broadcast Services on BBC Radio 3

Christopher Stokes, Organist & Master of the Chorists

On Wednesday, 11th March, the Cathedral Choir will be broadcasting a service of choral evensong, live on BBC Radio 3. This is an almost annual event for the Choir and significant in the life of the Cathedral. The Dean will be leading the service.

We are performing a varied selection of music ranging from Brahms' wonderful 'Geistliches Lied,' with its soaring and impassioned high notes for the trebles in the Amen, through Mendelssohn's motet 'Verleih uns Frieden,' featuring the basses and altos of the Choir, and a contemporary setting of the 'Magnificat' and 'Nunc Dimittis' by the British composer, Judith Bingham, with whom we already have a strong association: Judith has written a setting for us of the responses for Men's Voices and organ, in memory of Robert O'Connell, an ex-bass Lay Clerk, who died tragically young in 2018.

On the previous day, 10th March, we will be recording another service of Evensong, this time for transmission on 24th June, which is the feast of John the Baptist. Music on this occasion will be by Robert Ashfield, Francis Jackson and Edward Elgar.





Coffee Concerts

SUMMER SERIES 2020

We welcome you to join us for one of the best free concerts in the city; talented musicians, a fantastic setting with a friendly and welcoming atmosphere, all served up with complimentary coffee, tea and cake after the performance.

Saturday 18 April 2020 11 am
Chris Why (tenor)

Chris began his musical journey as a chorister at Lincoln Cathedral and is currently a Lay Clerk at Manchester Cathedral. He regularly performs with Armonico Consort and the BBC Daily Service Singers on Radio 4.

Saturday 9 May 2020 11 am
Manchester Chorale
40th Anniversary Concert

The Manchester Chorale is a mixed-voice choir based in Manchester. It is well known for the high quality of its singing, its well-blended sound, and sensitive interpretation to a wide range of musical styles.

Saturday 13 June 2020 11 am
Sergio Silva (organ)

The Cathedral will host Sergio Silva in a concert of organ music. Born in Lisbon, Sérgio Silva studied the organ with João Vaz and António Esteireiro at Lisbon's Gregorian Institute. He is the resident organist at Basílica da Estrela Church and St Nicholas Church in Lisbon.

Saturday 11 July 2020 11 am
Alex Smith (marimba)

A return visit to the Cathedral for Alex Smith who is a percussionist and educator. Alex works freelance as a percussion tutor, teaching orchestral, drum kit and world percussion both privately and in schools and music centres across Greater Manchester.

Here I am

So we enter the season of Lent. Each day gets a little bit longer. Winter passes, and everything begins to come back to life. Many people find this a good time to make space for silence and prayer. In many of the stories in the Judaeo-Christian tradition, when somebody senses the invitation of God they respond with 'Here I am.' This little poem is a meditation on these three words, and you might find it useful to read as a beginning to a time of silence:

Dwelling

I am not there
I am not then
I am nowhere else
but here.

I am not them
I am not you
I am myself.

I rest from doing,
need not achieve.
I do not ask
I do not need.
This is the place
for me to be.

Here I am.

Andrew Rudd, Manchester Cathedral Poet in Residence

Interfaith Safeguarding Forum

Nidhi Sinha

The Interfaith Dialogue on Safeguarding being held on Monday 23 March will be a unique opportunity for Manchester's faith institutions to get together and build a greater awareness of safeguarding. There will be discussion on a range of issues, including some of the more challenging and complex ones, in order to share learning and good practice from faith institutions on safeguarding, and also to facilitate debate on the challenges of protecting vulnerable people from harm.

We will also look at issues of extremism and radicalisation. To this end, the event will include a panel discussion, hosted by the Dean, before an audience made up of multifaith representatives, together with a diverse range of speakers and opportunities for searching questions to close. The audience will have a full opportunity to ask

questions from the panel and an interactive drama performance by Odd Arts on Blame and Belonging will also form a part of the proceedings.

We have been extremely fortunate in also securing a performance by the SoundUp Brinny-tones dementia choir. SoundUp Arts is a Community Interest Company focused on bringing participatory music to people living with dementia in order to increase wellbeing and strengthen communities, and their dementia choir is a way of sharing the joy of music with residents living with dementia, together with their carers and families. Within their weekly sessions at Brinnington Hall care home in Stockport they aim to provide participants with an experience of achievement, expression, learning and reminiscing, as well as offering them a sense of ownership, community and pride.

Music is a great holder for inclusivity, as even if a resident cannot sing they can be part of the music-making by tapping, clapping, playing a percussion instrument, whistling or moving.

You can see more of what the SoundUp organisation does on their website at www.sounduparts.com

Attendance for the whole Safeguarding event is free, but those wishing to attend are asked to register at <https://interfaithsafeguarding.eventbrite.co.uk> and download a free ticket from Eventbrite.

Empowering Women

On Friday 27 March 2020 from 1.00pm – 4.30pm, Sangha – an organisation Chaired by the Dean who will be hosting an event to ‘Empower Women’ and allow men to understand the importance of empowering women. Empowering women across the board benefits everyone in the long term and allows us to live a balanced, joyful and fulfilled life.

This event will bring people together and include some lovely food. There will be inspiring key note speakers and we will be inviting a very interesting and diverse panel for a Q&A session.

The session hopes to:

- To bring women together to build a greater awareness of Empowering women; including some of the more challenging and complex issues (subtle control; finances, power dynamics, the difference between cultural manners and language (and expectations); and empowering women
- Share learning and good practice from other women
- Discuss the challenges and what is needed to help keep women empowered
- General Q&A

We look forward to welcoming you to this special event



Taizé Service at the Cathedral

Canon Andy Salmon

On Sunday 29 March at 7pm, people from churches around the diocese will gather in Manchester Cathedral to pray in the Taizé style. Some will be from churches that regularly hold Taizé services, some from churches that are thinking about starting and some just out of interest.

We hope though that it will be a moving spiritual experience for everyone.

Many churches in the Diocese of Manchester have benefitted from and been influenced by the spirituality of the Taizé community, and many hold regular Taizé style services.

A Taizé service is marked out by simple prayerful chants, a period of silence, use of candles and icons and a beautiful atmosphere of prayer. Because of the international nature of the community, songs are sung in a variety of languages and often in Latin.



At Sacred Trinity we have been enjoying Taizé services on the first Sunday in the month for a couple of years. There are people who have been to the Taizé community in Southern France for a week or so who have found it a very profound experience but you don't have to have been there to enjoy their style of worship.

If anyone wants to be involved in the music on the day they should get in touch as it would be lovely to have a small one-off choir to lead us. I can be contacted at: andy@sacredtrinity.org.uk



John O'Groats to Land's End Cycling Marathon

Paul Firth

Graham Robinson, one of our chorister parents, is taking on one of cycling's toughest challenges - cycling from John O'Groats to Land's End - to raise money for our superb choir's next venture.

Following their successful tour to Portugal, our Organist and Master of the Choristers, Christopher Stokes, is hoping to be able to take them on another European city singing tour. This will require a lot of fundraising. The chorister parents have already made start, raising a wonderful £1,200 with the Christmas Draw; thanks to all who supported.

Since 2012 Graham has taken part in many long distance cycle rides: Manchester to Liverpool, Manchester to Blackpool to name a few. John O'Groats to Land's End will be his toughest challenge by far, but one he's training hard for. It will involve cycling an average of 67 miles a day for over two weeks, with little or no back up!

His motivation will not just to prove there is 'life in the old dog yet' as he puts it, but to raise money for charities dear to his heart: The Dog's Trust, an American Leukaemia Charity in memory of a friend and colleague who died in December, AITC, a community-based charity working with disadvantaged young people and of course Manchester Cathedral choristers.

The ride is planned for the end of July 2020. Please look out for more news in the Cathedral Sunday service notices and on Cathedral social media, for information on how you can support Graham's fundraising efforts for our wonderful choristers.



Holy Week and Easter 2020

Palm Sunday 5 April

Blessings of Palms
Procession & Sung Eucharist at 10.30 am
Music & Readings for Palm Sunday at 5.30 pm
sung by the Cathedral Voluntary Choir

Holy Monday 6 April

Sung Eucharist with Blessing of Oils and
Renewal of Vows at 10.30 am
*The Lamentations of Jeremiah
(Thomas Tallis) at 5.30 pm*

Maundy Thursday 9 April

Sung Eucharist and
Stripping of the Altars at 7.30 pm
followed by The Watch until 10.00 pm

Good Friday 10 April

The Way of the Cross at 12noon
Music and Readings at 7.30 pm
sung by the Cathedral Choir

Holy Saturday 11 April

Easter Vigil at 7.30 pm

Easter Day 12 April

BCP Matins at 8.45 am
and Holy Communion at 9.00 am
Sung Eucharist at 10.30 am
Festal Evensong and Procession at 5.30 pm

The Diary March

Tuesday 3 March

12:30pm Julian
Prayer Group

Saturday 7 March

7:30pm Moonlight
Sonata by
Candlelight

Tuesday 10 March

5:30pm BBC
recording of Choral
Evensong

Wednesday 11 March

3:30pm Live
broadcast of
Choral Evensong

Thursday 12 March

1:10pm Chetham's
Lunchtime Concert

Saturday 14 March

10am-4pm Worth
the Weight Fair

Saturday 21 March

11am Coffee Concert,
Pergolesi Stabat
Mater

1pm Be A Chorister
For A Day

Tuesday 24 March

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

Friday 27 March

6:30pm Gin &
Rum Festival

Saturday 28 March

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

Sunday 29 March

7pm Taizé Service

Service Times

Midweek Services

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

Saturday Services

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

Sunday Services

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

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

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

During the Easter week weekday services will follow the Saturday pattern

Looking ahead **April**

Thursday 2 April
1:10pm Chetham's
Lunchtime Concert

Tuesday 7 April
11:30am The
Bishop of Beverley's
Chrism Mass

Saturday 18 April
11am Coffee Concert.
Chris Why, Tenor
7:30pm Vivaldi,
The Four Seasons
by Candlelight

Saturday 25 April
10am-4pm Craft
and Flea Fair

Exhibitions

Admission to all our
exhibitions is free.

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

An installation by Philip
Wharton, 'Hope's Last Call',
will be exhibited under the
tower throughout Lent.



Community Profile

**Nagm Aldeen Ishaq,
Volition & Cathedral
Volunteer**

What is your favourite film?

I have many favourite
films but I loved Jojo
Rabbit.

What music do you like?

I enjoy most music,
especially live
performances. Naturally I
love Sudanese music.

What was the last book you read?

Good Vibes, Good Life
by Vex King.

Where was the last place you visited/ holidayed?

I went to Glasgow, which
was really amazing.

Do you have any hobbies?

I like physical activities,
especially football and
going to the gym.

Do you have any pets?

No.

Tell us something interesting or funny about yourself.

I like extreme sports like
rock climbing.

Clergy

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The Very Revd Rogers Govender
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Sub-Dean and Canon for Theology & Mission
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The Revd Peter Bellamy-Knights

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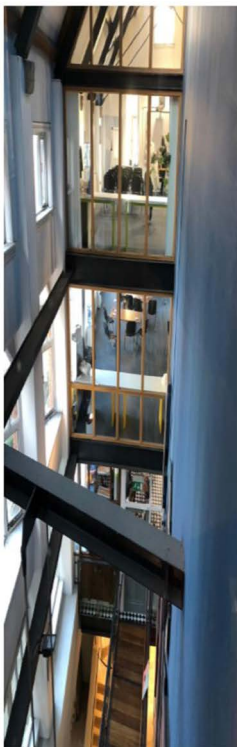
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Manchester
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Visitor Centre

The Visitor Centre at Manchester Cathedral offers multi-purpose event space ideal for business meetings, small conferences and training sessions.

Call 0161 817 4817 or email sales@mvcv.org.uk for further information.



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