

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 December 2015

The Annual Report of the Chapter, which can be inspected at the Cathedral Office, amounts to more than 40 pages. This publication reproduces extracts from the report and makes them more widely available.

FROM THE DEAN

Chapter

There were no changes to the membership of the Chapter in the year 2015. It is good to report, however, that both Canon James Westoll and Canon Alex Barbour accepted the Bishop's invitation to serve for a second triennium. Both contribute significantly to the thinking and work of the Chapter. In addition Canon Westoll serves as Chapter Treasurer and Canon Barbour serves as a member of the Activity and Interpretation working group as the Fraternity Project is developed further. Very early in 2016 it was announced that the Venerable Kevin Roberts would be resigning as Archdeacon and Residentiary Canon shortly after Easter 2016 in order to take up the post as Director of Re-Source, based in Wells. The Revd Anne Roberts will serve as Palace Chaplain there.

The pattern of daily prayer and worship is seen as the heart-beat of the Cathedral's life. The congregations attending at the 12.30 Eucharist on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays remain strong and the increased frequency when residentiary members of the Chapter preside at these services allows greater engagement. Regular worshippers enjoy the variety which is provided at 12.30pm with Celtic material being used on Mondays and material from the Iona Community used to provide a focus on issues of Justice and Peace on Wednesdays. In Advent and Lent many value the organ music provided during the Friday 12.30 Eucharist. On Thursdays the Offering of Incense at 12.30 was introduced in 2015. This is a layperson-led service with a particular emphasis on intercessory

prayer. The Chapter is grateful to members of the College of Canons and others who, as members of the Guild of Priests, preside at the 12.30 Eucharist from time to time and to the Revd Ferial Etherington in particular who, as Honorary Vicar Choral, readily assists at both the daily office and at the weekday Eucharist especially when a gap needs to be filled at short notice.

Sunday Worship

Residentiary members of Chapter continue to reflect on the Sunday pattern of worship. Within the overall pattern advantage is taken of the seasonal resources now widely available and the decision to print complete service papers for each Sunday of the year allows maximum flexibility.

Once a term, the PLUS Eucharist on a Sunday at 10.30am is now an established feature of the Cathedral diary. The PLUS Eucharist allows us to recognise and celebrate the part played by young people in our regular worship. Boy and girl choristers all attend the PLUS Eucharist together with members of the Youth Choir and, in 2015, members of the Cathedral's Cantate Choir. Arrangements are made for choir families to have breakfast, to attend a workshop before the 10.30 Eucharist begins and to contribute what the workshop has allowed them to explore as well as to hear the musical achievements of the young people with whom we work six days a week.

In 2015 arrangements were made for an additional Sunday service once a month at 4.15 when the Taizé choir leads an act of reflective, meditative worship at the end of the day. The first such service was held in January 2016. The residentiary members of Chapter are working to address the decline in overall Sunday congregation numbers in 2015, mindful of the deaths of several regular members of the congregation as well as others moving away from the area or becoming less able to travel.

'The Table' offered by Canon Manley at Sunday lunchtime completes the varied Sunday programme with a session which explores the Christian faith and allows a time of informal worship. This introduction to the Christian faith was advertised at all services held over the Christmas period.

Choral Services

The Chapter cannot thank loudly enough or often enough the chorister parents who transport their children to and from the Cathedral so faithfully in order to sustain the pattern of sung services six days a week. The pattern of sharing weekday services between the boys' and the girls' top line serves us well.

The Chapter is mindful of the additional work involved for the Master of Music in ensuring that we have a full complement of back-row parts when vacancies for lay clerks are so difficult to fill. The financial element of this annual report reveals what it costs to maintain the musical tradition which adds such richness to our worship. Many cathedrals, the Chapter knows, spend a great deal more in this department.

Strategy and Vision

Two strategic projects have taken a great deal of time during 2015. The Fraternity Project entered into its new Development Phase as the year began. Progress with the procurement of consultants proved to be time consuming and difficult to keep within budget. A careful review of essential outcomes of the Project was undertaken to ensure we will have an affordable and deliverable submission to make to the Heritage Lottery Fund by the end of January 2017. Canon Gray chaired a group which delivered a revised Business Plan by the end of 2015; Canon Kearon chairs the Activity and Interpretation Group and is working creatively with the newly appointed Activity and Interpretation consultants.

During 2015, the Diocesan Board of Finance announced that it had decided to relocate Church House from Carlisle to Penrith and expected to dispose of their properties (the

former Resources Centre, Church House and the former Vicarage of St Cuthbert's church) which are adjacent to the Cathedral precinct. The Chapter came to the view that, historic associations aside, there were strong strategic reasons for the Cathedral to try to acquire the site to create additional capacity for which needs had previously been identified but for which no easy solutions had been found. A Task Group was created to consider options and at the end of the year the Chapter was ready to engage in discussion with the DBF to explore the best way forward.

Mark Boyling

FROM THE CANON WARDEN

Pastoral

Numbers of those visited by the Link visitors have fallen to the low eighties this year due to the deaths of some of our older link members and others moving away to be nearer to relatives. Link visitors met just before Christmas to share a celebration meal of thanksgiving for their careful ministry conducted amongst the most frail and vulnerable members of our dispersed community. The Cathedral are fortunate to benefit from the skilled and dedicated work of both the Cathedral Reader and the Cathedral Licensed Lay Minister (LLM). Succession planning has been put in place as the LLM is to become President of the Diocesan Mothers' Union in 2016 and I am grateful to other link visitors who have offered to take on extra visiting.

Safeguarding

It became clear this year that the safeguarding policy is in a continuous process of change. The demand for secretarial support is continuous: policy updates which affect the many proformas and procedures in use in the Cathedral, staff and volunteer turnover and recruitment, the numbers of children onsite for split-area activities, and activities involving adults who may be vulnerable are daily concerns. Record keeping must be meticulous, up-to-date and secure, departmental audits carried out annually and training supplied in-house for those who meet children/adults

who may be vulnerable in the course of their role but who do not lead activities for them. The Chapter this year decided to allocate 0.2 secretarial assistance to the Canon Warden role and I am delighted that The Dean's PA has agreed to fulfil this role. This has not been an easy decision to take as Chapter's budget is seriously constrained but it has already increased capacity and aided positive and pro-active working.

Hospitality, Welcome and the Cathedral's external Teaching and Learning offer

Work to shape the Cathedral's new teaching and learning offer has begun in earnest this year. A team of Chapter members including the Canon Missioner has been joined by a former Pro Vice Chancellor of the University of Cumbria whose work has been in teaching and learning at all levels. Consultants have been engaged to re-envisage the Activity Plan and to re-interpret the Fraternity, its Library and the Cathedral precinct. Exciting progress has been made and we now wait for the architect's team to come to a design freeze so that the teaching and learning work stream can also be finalised.

Cathedral links with the diocese and its parishes.

The Cathedral welcomed a fourth year Assistant Curate to undertake a placement from September to December last year. This is a unique opportunity for curates to experience the life of the Cathedral, to understand its working and governance and to become part of its worship for a time. The Cathedral have now developed an offer to all diocesan Assistant Curates: each new priest will be invited to spend a weekday or Saturday here and to preside at the Eucharist that day and placements varying from a week to several months will also be offered to those in IME 6 and 7. Cathedral clergy very much welcome the opportunities they are being offered to become part of Assistant Curate training.

Jan Kearton

FROM THE CANON MISSIONER

This year has seen the development of THE TABLE. A simple gathering around a simple table, each Sunday lunchtime, for soup, bread, study, discussion and prayer. Relationship with each other and with God, is high on the agenda, and the group is beginning to grow.

Alongside this emphasis, we have revamped our 'Young Cathedral' (Sunday School), focussing more on showing video clips, chatting around the same table, and encouraging the exploration of 'Christian skills': prayer, bible-reading and fellowship: thanks to a small but talented and dedicated team of volunteers who run it.

In addition, some of our youth gather occasionally to - yes you've guessed it - eat; and share (PLUS), where again through relationships and openness, our faith is explored. We've also enjoyed our termly PLUS-focussed Eucharists: complete with a drumming workshop and giant poster making.

In many ways, each of the groups is fragile and small: but the advantage is the depth of relationship that follows.

Michael Manley

FROM THE SURVEYOR TO THE FABRIC

The most exciting project to have happened is the masonry work undertaken to the South Transept. For many years there has been concern about the condition of the stonework around the door and the delicate carving which had failed and been wrapped in unsightly chicken wire. Over the past ten or so years we have witnessed a rapid deterioration of the other carvings in the area, including the two angels on either side of the porch. The relatively soft St Bees stone was weathering badly. We were successful in obtaining two grants, one from the government funded First World War Centenary Cathedrals' Repair Fund and one from a major charitable foundation. We are delighted by the outcome which involved new carvings of the angels, capitals and the two orders of

deeply undercut vine leaf carvings. All this work was undertaken by one carver taking over six months. We also were able to repoint the upper stonework and let some new stones in where the existing had perished. We also used the grant to re-lead the important 20th century Nativity Window in St Catherine's Chapel (the shop) and address issues of water penetration through the upper part of the porch.

Nick Rank

FROM THE CHAPTER TREASURER

The 2015 Common fund account has produced a surplus of £10,500 which is well ahead of our break even budget forecast. With such a diverse organisation there are always a large number of variables which are hard to predict with accuracy so it is with some relief that we are able to report such a figure.

It should be noted, however, that to achieve such a surplus we drew down on the Abbey Properties Fund for the first time since its inception some 5 years ago. The income from this fund is available for repairs to properties within The Abbey and Chapter had identified three specific projects over and above the general repairs one would expect running such a portfolio.

Income streams were stronger than expected in some areas, especially from facility fees for the commercial use of our buildings and from our investments. However we have noted that dividend growth is slowing and property income is static in line with the local economy. The Prior's Kitchen had a much improved year following a review. The shop continued to perform well.

Expenditure was largely in line with forecast. Music accounts for 17.5% of our regular spending and the department budget was fully spent in 2015 - after a few years of under spend.

Looking ahead, as ever there are many areas of concern. The floods and continuing wet weather have had a noticeable effect on the footfall over December and into 2016 and the closure of the Settle-Carlisle railway

line at Armathwaite is expected to have a negative effect on summer visitors. Our costs and especially wages continue to escalate at a faster rate than our income. Many of these costs, such as the increase in insurance tax are beyond our control, resulting in a forecast budget deficit for 2016. A continuing tight grip on our finances will be required.

James Westoll

CATHEDRAL WEBSITE

www.carlislecathedral.org.uk

The Cathedral website covers many areas of the Cathedral life, gives full details of forthcoming events and includes many photographs of recent activities.



The Cathedral Shop

A wide variety of gifts – many made in Cumbria

*China, wood, speciality foods, icons, prints,
jewellery, CDs, toys and gifts
Greetings cards for all occasions*

Summer Opening Hours

Monday to Saturday - 10am – 5pm

*A Member of the Made in Cumbria
and Hadrian's Wall Country Retailers' Schemes*

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surroundings of the Fraternity Undercroft.
Fairtrade drinks, wholesome lunches,
afternoon teas and snacks.*

DAILY SPECIALS AVAILABLE

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Monday to Saturday

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Hot food till 3pm, last orders 3.15pm

Open Bank Holiday Monday 29 August

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