



**COLLEGE OF CANONS  
STATUTORY MEETING**

**Friday 5 June 2015**

## **DEAN'S REPORT**

### **Chapter**

In May the Bishop appointed Mr Bryan Gray CBE DL as a Lay Canon and Member of the Cathedral Chapter. The Chapter has been delighted to welcome Bryan who brings a great breadth of experience and many valuable skills to the life of the Cathedral. It is very good to achieve again the full complement of Lay Members of Chapter.

In addition to the regular meetings of the Chapter, members have given time to extended discussions at Away Days during the year which have borne fruit as the Chapter embeds its commitment to intentional mission and, over and above the extensive and varied everyday demands of the Cathedral, works to identify the initiatives to which it seeks to give special attention. Four such initiatives have been identified for 2015: Hospitality, Young Cathedral, relations between Diocese and Cathedral and the Fraternity Project.

In the first half of 2014, the Chapter was required to prepare its submission in response to an enquiry by the Association of English Cathedrals and the Church Commissioners into "Cathedral Outcomes 2011-2014 and Plans 2014-16". The particular emphasis placed on measurable outcomes (rather than outputs) gave a particular edge to this enquiry. Measuring and assessing such outcomes poses a particular challenge in such a multi-faceted institution but it is one we try to address.

### **The Fraternity Project**

2014 began with the Fraternity Project in difficulty. Despite best efforts, the architectural design for the accessible entrance and additional facilities for the Fraternity building failed to receive support from the Cathedrals' Fabric Commission for England and in January 2014 the Project was deemed "out of time" by the Heritage Lottery Fund. A great deal of time and thought has been given through the year to get the Project back on track and it was tremendously encouraging to hear, in December 2014, that the HLF had given its support to the renewed project. Initial development funding of £81,000 should lead to an application for a major grant of £1.8million during 2016.

By March 2014 it became clear that the suggestion that HLF might be able to offer an extension of time to the original project to allow a new architectural design to be developed was not going to prove possible. The advice of the HLF was to prepare a new Stage 1 application. The Chapter and the Fraternity Project Management Group committed themselves to this way forward and set an ambitious timetable of submitting a new, fully-costed, application to HLF in August 2014, having sought initial responses from CFCE and the City Planning authority in July.

Careful enquiry and the generous help and advice of Mr Andrew Barnett, Senior Partner at Hopkins Architects (whose work on the Hostry at Norwich Cathedral has been much acclaimed), led to a competitive interview process with two firms who had the necessary flair for design and who were willing to work within the required timetable. The London-based firm of Feilden Fowles was appointed at the beginning of May 2014. A design was developed during the next three months and detailed costs were subject to detailed and demanding scrutiny during August in time for the HLF submission date.

In November 2014 the CFCE made a site visit to the Cathedral for further consideration of the new proposal. Their informal advice is encouraging and Chapter has agreed to conduct the thorough review of aims and objectives which the CFCE recommends to ensure that maximum advantage for the Cathedral's aims and objects is gained from the biggest capital investment into the Cathedral precinct for more than a generation.

The Chapter is tremendously grateful to members of the Fraternity Project Management Group and its advisors for staying with the Project and devoting the additional time that has been required to secure our position. It should be noted that in the Project's overall £3.25M budget, volunteer time given to the project is calculated at no less than £112,000.

## **Sanctuary**

It is never my intention in this report to trespass too far into areas of work overseen by colleagues but I make brief mention of several events and pieces of work which give a flavour of the remarkable breadth of the Cathedral's activity. Further detail will be found in the subsequent reports.

South Transept Masonry. In the summer a generous grant was received from the World War I Centenary Cathedral Repair Fund to allow the restoration of the badly eroded stonework above the main door of the Cathedral to proceed.

In June the annual Volunteers' Party took place in the Fraternity to the enjoyment of all and the delighted surprise of the Deputy Mayor of Carlisle - whose visits to the Cathedral usually find us in more formal mode. Our debt to our willing volunteers is very considerable and we continue to ensure good and safe practice.

Poetry. It is a pleasure to note that *Sanctuary* a collection of 50 poems written by Martyn Halsall in 2013 during his year as the Cathedral's first Poet in Residence has been published by Canterbury Press to warm reviews. Canon Geoff Smith, who succeeded Martyn as Poet in Residence in 2014, has offered 9 poems on the themes of "Sacred Spaces" within the Cathedral and its precinct. It is good that a poetry group continues to meet regularly and that our work in this area allowed us to be part of Carlisle's Borderlines Literary Festival held in September.

## **Staffing**

The Cathedral benefits from the dedicated work of its employed staff and the sense of vocation that is brought to the work that is required. After 12 years' service Mr Bill Graham retired at the end of 2014 as Clerk of Works. The Chapter and everyone living within the Abbey has reason to be very thankful for the good humoured and resourceful way in which Bill has responded to the 1001 maintenance tasks that arise in any year, as well as to the way in which he has managed contractors who come on site.

In November, Mr Andrew Rodgers, assistant Verger since 2008, moved to a new Verger post at Salisbury Cathedral. Andrew's dedication, unfailing courtesy and lively interest in all things archaeological won him the affection and gratitude of many. We wish him well in his career. In October Mrs Julie Birkett, assistant in the Prior's Kitchen retired after 17 years service there. The Directors of the Carlisle Cathedral Enterprises Company expressed their warm appreciation for her work both in the kitchen and front of house – as did many of our regular customers.

Slightly further afield, the Chapter noted that the Head teacher of Trinity School, Mr Alan Mottershead, moved to become Head Teacher of Canon Slade School Bolton in September after 11 years in post. The Dean and Canon Manley and several members of the Cathedral community serve as School Governors. They were able to join the farewell gathering at the end of the summer term. It is very good to report that Mr Derek Kay and Mrs Sheila Johnston, who have served the school with distinction as Deputy Head teachers, have been appointed, after a thorough interview process, as Co-Head Teachers of the school, The Chapter looks forward to working closely with them and to continue all efforts to build up the link between the school and the Cathedral.

## **Mission Statement**

The Mission statement of the Cathedral is "proclaiming afresh God's love to city, county and nation." Principal objectives are

- To offer worship to God every day
- To be a place which lifts peoples' minds and heart to God through the worship we offer and through teaching and example
- To be a must-see location with a message at the heart of the City of Carlisle
- To engage with the issues of the people of our City, the county and beyond.

February 2015

Mark Boyling,  
Dean of Carlisle

## CANON LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

### 1. ACQUISITIONS

The 218 volumes donated to the cathedral from the library of the late Dr. Bob Tennant have now been catalogued. Dr. Sandy Brewer, the donor, has generously paid for a special Carlisle Cathedral Library bookplate for these volumes which incorporate Dr. Bob Tennant's name.

### 2. NADFAS

Two members of NADFAS (National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies) have been working in a voluntary capacity on a library project since July 2014. Chris and Helen Tyson bring computer skills rather than library skills to the task, but their work on computerising the library shelf-lists is a useful contribution. An Officer of NADFAS from London has asked to visit the library on 30 March 2015.

### 3. 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE TREASURY

For 2015 the cathedral library is planning to celebrate with an exhibition the opening of the Cathedral Treasury by the Duke of Gloucester and its dedication by the Bishop of Carlisle in 1990. The Treasury subsequently benefitted from a refurbishment in 2002 with the help of an HLF grant and the proceeds of a Viscount Whitelaw memorial appeal. Although located at the cathedral, the Treasury is integral to the educational dimension of the Fraternity project. The exhibition will be mounted on the Heritage Open Day on Saturday 12 September 2015, among other occasions.

### 4. PUBLICATION OF THE 1988 TREASURY DIG

Dr. Mike McCarthy's Report on the 1988 Cathedral Treasury was published in the *Archaeological Journal* in 2014. The relevance of this for the cathedral library is that it holds the documentary archive of the dig and the boxes of small finds. To expedite the publication of this long delayed report, it was reduced to cover only the post-Roman period up to and including the twelfth century Romanesque period. The Roman period and the thirteenth century onwards were omitted from this publication as of less importance, however these do exist in the form of the original draft. Consideration should be given to having this retyped and made accessible by computer.

### 5. SPONSOR-A-BOOK SCHEME

Dr. Anna Howard continues to work on this scheme for the Cathedral Library, and requests to sponsor books on behalf of the Fraternity Project continue to be made.

### 6. BP. THOMAS SMITH 400<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION

For three days in September, the cathedral library mounted an exhibition in the Fraternity consisting of a selection of Thomas Smith's books in the library and a display of photographs and texts illustrative of his long life.

A visitors' book for the event reveals that the exhibition was well received. It was re-mounted for one further day on 5 January 2015.

### 7. FUTURE LIBRARY DEVELOPMENTS

The loss of the professional services of Clare Daniel has seriously curtailed the library work envisaged for this past year. Plans for this coming year include:

- a. Celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Treasury.
- b. Continuation of the work by NADFAS on the shelf lists.
- c. Consideration of a scheme to make the unpublished sections of the 1988 treasury excavation report on line.
- d. Evaluation of the possibility of regaining professional librarian help for the library.
- e. Collaborate with the library dimension of the plans for the Fraternity Project.

## **CANON WARDEN'S REPORT**

### **Pastoral**

It is always a great privilege in accompanying fellow Christians through the last months of their life. In 2014, several much-loved members of the Cathedral community, died. They were people of great faith: those who walked with them have been immeasurably blessed by the example of their fortitude and profound reliance upon God.

The Pastoral Link Committee has met three times this year. Sixteen Pastoral Link visitors have supported just over a hundred people with regular pastoral visits. Taking place as infrequently as each quarter or as often as twice a week, the aim is always that each person should know that they are loved by God and God's people and that they are not forgotten. Three times a year, 134 people receive a pastoral letter containing a small seasonal gift or prayer card and, at Christmas and Easter, handcrafted cards are also included. My thanks to all who source (often from fairly traded cooperatives around the Anglican Communion) or make the gifts, handcraft the cards and deliver them, wherever possible with a personal visit.

To assist those caring for family members who are terminally ill, a Cathedral Sitting Service has been formed. Eleven people will receive final training in 2015 and will be ready should the need arise.

This year, the Cathedral's Local Lay Minister has obtained the Bishop's licence and has joined the Reader and Canon Warden in taking Holy Communion to those who cannot attend services. As has been the case in previous years, the Reader sometimes acts as deacon at the Sunday Cathedral Eucharist and reads almost daily at Evensong. She chairs the Pastoral Link Committee, organises the distribution of pastoral letters and takes a significant share of the frequent pastoral visiting. In addition, the Reader leads the Young Cathedral team who deliver Godly Play and other material to children over five years of age on Sunday mornings.

The Hospital Chaplaincy Support Team has continued to assist the Cumberland Infirmary Chaplaincy with Sunday worship every other month. The Cathedral Local Lay Minister has also contributed to the worship this year. Thirteen team members at the beginning of the year are now eight, and the Team would welcome new joiners. The LLM also assists St Cuthbert's Church, Carlisle, with an annual marriage preparation course.

Adults and young people were prepared for confirmation on Easter Eve. It has been uplifting to see some of the young people active in Christian service and the adults active in discipleship, service and mission.

### **Safeguarding**

Further implementation of Safeguarding has been a significant focus this year. Building on the good practice that has been established, departmental audits have been conducted, review schedules established, working practices clarified, job descriptions of those with a safeguarding focus re-written, safe recruitment fully implemented, Cathedral documents and leaflets overhauled, internal training developed and record storage for at least 50 years consolidated. Though Guides, shopworkers and welcomers do not have specific Safeguarding responsibilities, it clearly can impinge on their contact with pilgrims and visitors. New guides have been trained and three catch-up training sessions for existing guides, welcomers and shop workers put into the 2015 diary. Volunteer appraisal for those with a safeguarding focus to their work is more complex: the numbers who contribute time and skill to various departments are considerable, and shorter, effective formats are under development to manage the time demands on the residentiary clergy and permanent staff who oversee them,

Oversight of safeguarding in the Cathedral is daunting: it became clear in 2013/4 that the workload and responsibility was unattractive to laity and that daily presence, along with a thorough knowledge of Cathedral departments and their working practices, was essential. Line management has been split into Chapter and Lay roles so that the Community have a lay person to relate to and the Canon Warden can be held to account by the Community and the Chapter for the administrative and policy aspects of the role. Posters with the Lay Lead's face and contact details are now displayed around the Cathedral and Precinct buildings, and especially in the Song Room.

2015 will see the diocesan policy re-written into Cathedral language with references to parish structures removed and Cathedral documents attached as appendices. Before general publication, this will go before the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer for approval. The time taken to drive safeguarding deeper into Cathedral praxis has been considerable and the demand for secretarial assistance significant. Ongoing secretarial support will be required but it is hoped that the time component will reduce in 2015.

I joined the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer to deliver the Leadership module around the diocese.

### **Hospitality, Welcome and Heritage**

The failure of the first design for the Fraternity project brought home the Cathedral's dependence on the project to deliver accessible, usable space suitable for education, heritage learning and hospitality, together with permanent staff to ensure that this focus and its facilities are sustainable. Present access to the Fraternity is unsuitable for the elderly, infirm, disabled or young children and during this year younger, fit adults have also had accidents on the stairs. The lack of space at Carlisle hampers attempts to develop a full, curriculum linked education and heritage learning offer to the local community, visitors, schools, colleges and research students. Lack of nave space inhibits the offer a forum for public theology lectures, local debate and the staging of large fundraising events. It was therefore a relief in August to submit a fresh application to the Heritage Lottery Fund and in December to hear that we had been successful. We look forward to an enhanced catering offer and to better, multi-use of both new and existing spaces.

### **Spirituality, Discipleship and Fellowship**

The return of the south aisle altar to its place now gives an opportunity outside regular worship to offer prayers of immediate importance in the world, nation, county and diocese, and is a quieter space where pilgrims can focus their petitions. The Cathedral is always ready to pray for parishes, emerging mission communities, other initiatives and local communities and I would welcome specific requests for prayer which fall outside the date range or scope of the diocesan prayer cycle.

On All Saints' Day, the Cathedral Community enjoyed lunch together at the Crown and Mitre Hotel in Carlisle. A further evening event is planned in late Spring when we hope to gather in the Fraternity.

We have been delighted to welcome new members to the congregations in the course of the year: it has been pleasing to hear that they have found the Cathedral welcoming and to see new Community members joining study groups and other activities.

Advent and Lent study groups again grew in numbers. The York courses for Lent and Advent ('Built on the Rock' and 'Jesus, the Voice that makes us turn'), provoked excellent discussion ranging from biblical study, doctrine, the implications for society and for Christian living, though the Advent course required some effort to relate it clearly to the season. Alternative courses were based on Henri Nouwen's book 'With Burning Hearts' and Bishop Stephen Cottrell's book 'Walking Backwards to Christmas'. Both of these provided opportunities for group members to bring aspects of their faith to greater maturity. Many members had, as children or young adults, received teaching about the Eucharist which they could not now remember. They felt enabled to deepen their spiritual, liturgical

and ritual understanding, thus allowing Christ space to enter more fully into their lives as they more fully entered into worship. Similarly, many found that their understanding of the Christmas narratives had stalled in childhood and that they lacked some of the richer layers of truth and purpose that were revealed. Good connections are being made between discipleship and mission and members are feeling better resourced and more confident to speak to others about their faith.

### **Cathedral links with the diocese and its parishes**

Exploratory discussions have begun with the diocesan Education Team to develop a diocesan Primary School Leavers' Service. A team is to be formed with representation from schools and we hope to offer the services at the Cathedral in 2016.

The Upper Room, with work, prayer and comfortable spaces, is now available free of charge to clergy, Readers and parish groups, together with a discount on food bought in the Prior's Kitchen. We hope that many will benefit from the opportunity to come to a quiet place away from parish or mission community, telephones and callers where there is space to work, reflect and find renewal. Bookings can be made through the Cathedral Office.

We welcome parish visits to the Cathedral on any day of the week and, with notice, I will be delighted to provide hospitality in my house. On Sundays, we welcome parishes to share in the Cathedral's worship and, if parishes wish, to contribute to that worship. In 2015 we shall develop a long-term programme of parish visits when we hope you will welcome some of us to join with your Sunday worship.

### **Training and Appraisal – Cathedral Staff and Volunteers**

Aside from training associated with safeguarding, regular training for permanent staff is being developed to ensure that staff own and understand both the legal framework for work and also the Cathedral's policies. The 2010 Equalities Act and policies about the use of social media will be highlighted in 2015 training. The core outline of this training will be trialled at the Lay Clerks' January meeting. Priors' Kitchen staff will additionally require refresher training in Licensing law and the identification of fraudulent age verification documents. New systems for annual appraisal have been put into effect.

During 2014, training in the Cathedral's governance structures and its Christian ethos was delivered to existing guides, welcomers and shop workers.

### **Chapter Link with the Bell Ringers**

I have been pleased this year to work with the Tower Captain and Ringers to develop a Constitution and to inaugurate an Annual Meeting. Safeguarding, Health and Safety measures, associated risk assessments and clear, safe working practices were already part of the Bell Ringers' way of working. An agreed list of Bell Ringers' Commitments had been produced.

### **2015 Objectives**

- To complete the deeper embedding of Safeguarding and all relevant documentation, conduct reviews and work closely with the Lay Lead
- To see the Development Phase of the Fraternity project move towards a successful conclusion by contributing to evaluation of the design, the formulation of the heritage learning offer and the general oversight of the project
- To continue to develop training and learning opportunities within the Cathedral and to liaise with the diocesan training officer about widening the offer
- To work with others to roll out diocesan school Leavers' services in 2016

## CANON MISSIONER'S REPORT

God is in the midst of her : God at the centre

Even after seven years at the cathedral, new opportunities still seem to be emerging as others seem to fade.

With the onslaught of GCSEs, the youth cell (plus) has been significantly reduced, and metamorphosed into a termly rather than a fortnightly activity. In contrast, a partnership with a local christian youth and community project, (City Reach) has resulted in the full use of THE LODGE each weekday.

The Chaplains, called to complement the welcomers and guides, are all fully commissioned, and are regularly in the cathedral offering silent prayer or listening and praying with visitors and pilgrims. It is a great privilege to be served by volunteers from other denominations as well as churches. On average, they are now ministering to between 8 and 20 people a week.

The Chapter has adopted an intentional mission statement: *proclaiming afresh the good news of God's love to city, county and nation*; and has begun the process of applying it to our context. Our intention is to develop an 'escalator' model of evangelism and discipleship : where an invitation to explore faith is explicit within all our activities, and once engaged, there is a 'natural' progression to the next level of understanding. A sermon series has been preached over four Sundays to introduce it to the congregations.

New 'enquirers' leaflets have been designed for visitors, aimed at those with no faith and leading to suggestions for responding. There is significant interest and they need to be constantly replenished. A new adult cell THE TABLE has emerged, meeting Sunday lunchtimes at The LODGE and welcoming 5 new members. Leadership is progressively shared and the group functions as a Christian Enquirers group following our explicit Christmas Service invitations to explore faith. Although not attending the group, two people have agreed to one-to-one sessions with the Canon Missioner : one a confirmed atheist.

Critical Mass, the termly informal/art-based Eucharist on a Saturday evening has moved to an earlier time but struggled to maintain support. The 12 -16 people who have attended have found it immensely helpful, but its future needs to be assessed in the light of the preparation time it involves.

A new lunchtime service, 'The offering of Incense' has begun, exploring the teaching of St Augustine and led by Readers and lay leaders of the Deanery. The signs are, it will be sustainable, forging a stronger link to the Deanery and helping to promote lay leadership in worship.

Our international mission giving has been split between support for All Saints Cathedral, Cairo (as being a Christian in Egypt continues to be difficult, if not dangerous) and an emerging project in Kenya, to help build a secondary school for deaf children in Riandu. This has become our main focus: we are aiming to send £10,000 to help build a classroom and dormitory for the Year 7 children. This will be quite an achievement when we are already committed to serious fundraising for the development of our Fraternity, but our congregations have successfully adopted the school alongside our own educational project, and it has become a regular part of our prayer, planning and individual giving. After the success of our first poet in residence (which resulted in a book); our second poet produced a display of posters exploring our Sacred Spaces values : columns of single-words contextualising and interrogating the themes. This was displayed in the cathedral for several weeks.

Community involvement has increased through expanding contact with schools, moving to vice-chair of governors at one, chaplaincy support at another, and the duplication of school choir led celebrations at another.

As Missioner, I have attended two national conferences, led three retreats, and organised several training days.

The calling as Rural Dean has meant several days exploring the concept of Mission Communities, with both Anglican and ecumenical partners. Though the Cathedral sees itself remaining as the County Church, Chapter is very engaged individually in supporting parish development, partnership and clergy support and new links are constantly being forged.

With the establishing of our termly PLUS eucharists, the demand for lots of research and design for our media and educational development at the Fraternity, the embedding of our mission statement and the strengthening of our new projects, the year ahead looks as busy as ever : making the need to keep God at the centre, even more important.

With thanks for your prayer and support.

March 2015

Michael Manley  
Canon Missioner

## MASTER OF THE MUSIC'S REPORT

Much has changed in the twenty four years since I was appointed Master of the Music. In place of a single "traditional" choir of men and boys singing six days a week, there are now five distinct choirs involving some 60 children, 15 teenagers and 40 adults, with a 50/50 gender balance overall. On top of this some 300 children annually participate in the Outreach Programme. The advantages of the current system are self evident: many more singers – particularly youngsters – have the opportunity of participating in the Cathedral's musical life at a level of commitment appropriate to their individual lifestyles. On the other hand an intensive daily exposure to sacred music for five of a young person's formative years is no longer an option at Carlisle. Yet despite all these changes the weekly pattern of choral services remains unaltered. The boy and girl choristers each sing two weekday Evensongs, whilst the Youth Choir sing on Wednesdays. Carlisle Cantate meet on Thursday evenings, and the Sunday services are shared out. Unsurprisingly the number of staff members required to deliver this increasingly complex and diverse programme is more than double what it used to be, and I am profoundly grateful to my colleagues for their skill, expertise and hard work. First amongst these is Edward Taylor, who produces excellent results from his singers and delights the Sunday congregations with his exciting voluntaries and improvisations. Thanks are also due to Ian Hare, Director of the Carlisle Choir, Ron East, the Outreach Programme Administrator, Aileen Brown, the Choir Matron, and to Beth Lund, the ever-efficient Music Department Administrator. We should not forget either the dedicated team of volunteer chaperones who enable the music department to meet the high safeguarding standards set by the Chapter.

As has been the case for several years, recruitment and retention are the biggest challenges as far as the **Cathedral Choir** is concerned. During the year I visited fourteen schools, held open informal auditions in April, a church primary schools' Evensong in June and a chorister taster day in September. As a result of these efforts twenty new children joined as probationers, although sixteen subsequently left, resulting in a net increase of four. Somewhat unusually only two choristers (Alison Kay and Seth Blacklock) were formally valedicted during the year, although three other choristers withdrew from the choir before completing their agreed period of service. From now on every chorister who "endures to the end" will be rewarded with a cash bonus of £200! A record number of eleven choristers gained RSCM Bronze and Silver Awards in 2014, the Bishop Pugh Prize being won by Matthew Warwick.

Owing to the difficulty in finding sufficient lay clerks during the first two months of the year the boys sang by themselves most Fridays, and I was not alone in being impressed by the achievements of such a small group of young singers. The boys also excelled themselves at the Carlisle Festival Evensong in July when the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of George Dyson's death was marked by a spirited performance of his D major canticles. The anthem on that occasion, Stanford's *For lo! I raise up*, composed in 1914 at the start of the First World War, was used again on Remembrance Sunday.

In May bass lay clerk Jonathan Millican celebrated twenty five years since he was first admitted as a chorister under Andrew Seivewright. Jonathan's ability to switch to alto or tenor at a moment's notice has on numerous occasions enabled the music to proceed as advertised despite the absence of one or more crucial voices. A liturgical performance of Gesualdo's demanding *Tenebrae Responsories for Holy Saturday* on the evening of Palm Sunday enabled the back rows (with guest soprano Anna Howard) to show what they were fully capable of. Other special events included the second Hadrian Choirs Festival held in Hexham Abbey in October, (a third is due to be hosted by Newcastle Cathedral in February 2016) and a Christmas concert featuring Part One of Handel's *Messiah*. Once again it was a pleasure work with the Friends of Camerata Cumbria Orchestra, and to have some members of the Youth and Carlisle Choirs join the chorus. In keeping with recent tradition members of the "home team" took the solo roles.

In September a Chamber Choir was formed consisting of seven experienced choristers and many of the lay clerks, with the aim of exploring some challenging repertoire in a detailed and professional manner. The choir's first outing was an Evensong celebrating the music of Andrew Seivewright in St. Oswald's Grasmere in September. Further distinguished contributions to the Cathedral's cycle of choral worship included the All Souls' Eucharist, when Victoria's six part *Missa pro defunctis* was used, and the annual Judge's Service. A brief appearance on BBC 1's *Songs of Praise* in December featured the unlikely combination of a robed choir and a hip hop rap artist! Amongst future plans are a performance of Schütz's *Die sieben Worte Jesu Christi am Kreuz* on Palm Sunday, a visit to Crosthwaite in July and a visit to the Isle of Man in the autumn.

Sadly Duncan Muir resigned his organ scholarship in March, leaving the Cathedral without an organ scholar for half the year. As a result of recent grant awards by the Friends of Cathedral Music and the John Pilling Trust, the Cathedral is now in a position to offer a package attractive to applicants from all parts of the UK. In September Harry Jacques, a music graduate of Bristol University with experience of working in both St. David's Cathedral Pembrokeshire and St. Mary Redcliffe in Bristol, joined the foundation as both organ scholar and deputy tenor lay clerk.

The Cathedral Youth Choir has enjoyed another highly successful year under the direction of Edward Taylor. Following the achievements of 2013, notably the tour to Mallorca and the opening concert of the Carlisle Festival (both referred to in last year's report), plans were put in place for the choir to make its first CD. Budgetary restraints dictated the choice of a private local record label, Phoenix Records, based in Brampton. Three nights of recording sessions took place in the early spring, and for the final session the choir was joined by Borders Brass, with whom the choir has worked on several previous occasions. Entitled *God is gone up with a triumphant shout* the CD consists of celebratory music for choir, organ, brass and percussion. The CD was launched at a public concert in July and to date some 120 copies have been sold.

During the year the choir gave two concerts outside the cathedral, the first during Passiontide at St John's Church, Keswick. As ever, a warm welcome was received at this now familiar venue. The major work was a complete performance of Duruflé's *Requiem*. The choir dealt well with the challenges of this piece and solo passages were sung to a high standard by Helen Sutton (alto) and Joshua Jackson (baritone). The other concert took place during December, this time at St James', Denton Holme. Instead of a traditional Advent and Christmas concert a programme of music for the church's year was chosen. Much of the music had been learnt and performed by the choir in the Michaelmas term and this not only relieved the pressure a great deal but also led to a higher standard of singing.

Integral to the development of the choir's sound is the work done by Mary Hitch, the choir's singing teacher for this year and a highly experienced musician. Not only has she been training soloists, but also the choir as a whole, working on techniques such as blend and voice production. She also assists Edward with repertoire, concert programmes and advertising, all with the aim of boosting development, getting the best out of the singers and enabling as many people as possible to hear them.

To assist in development Edward has also instigated a pattern of Upper Voice and Lower Voice Evensongs. This gives the choir the opportunity to experience different repertoire, opens up more practice time for the members not singing Evensong on that particular day and also helps at crunch times of the year, for example, during exam periods. This worked very successfully in the summer term. Alongside this, Edward chose repertoire for the choir during Lent that was entirely *a capella*, thus aiding listening and therefore tuning, working as a group and boosting confidence levels.

Over recent months the **Carliol Choir** has continued to supplement the activities of the regular cathedral choirs by singing choral services in their absence. There is some evidence that their contribution is valued by the cathedral community, and it is certainly much enjoyed by the thirty or so adult singers who take part. Church music of quality is at a premium in many parish churches, and it is good to have an opportunity to sing psalms, traditional hymns and various settings of canticles, responses and anthems within the context of a Cathedral Sung Eucharist and Choral Evensong.

Building on the foundations laid by Philip Hill, who continues to take a keen interest in the choir, there has been some modest expansion of the repertoire, and a decision was taken recently to purchase a set of anthem books. The choir is usually accompanied by either Jeremy Suter or Jordan English, both of whom are thoroughly acquainted with the cathedral organ.

The management of the choir is in the hands of a small steering group, who provide invaluable support with the library, robes, finance and other practical matters. In addition there is some interest in singing beyond the confines of the Abbey, and last summer the choir gave a concert in Crosthwaite Church, Keswick, and next June there are plans to sing in Greystoke Church.

The Carliol Choir is pleased to be affiliated to the Carlisle Cathedral Choir Association and to the Association of Cathedral Voluntary Choirs, at whose annual service in Derby Cathedral they were represented.

**Carlisle Cantate Children's Choir** had a busy and productive year in 2014 and some changes were made to the structure of their year to help develop the choir. 2014 should really be looked at in two halves. The first was a six month lead up to a major concert planned in the University of Cumbria in July. Although the choir worked hard towards this concert it was evident in the weeks leading up to the event that many choir members were struggling to keep up their commitment to the choir alongside other activities. This led to a postponement of the concert and a serious rethink. In July those members of the choir who were available sang a shortened version of the planned concert in the Tithe Barn. This was really the end of an era and the last concert for most including the choir's co-director, Jonathan Millican, who had accepted a full time senior lecturer's position at the University of Cumbria.

The choir resumed in September with only eight members remaining, thus calling into question the viability of the choir. Ron East worked extremely hard on advertising, current members of the choir spoke to their friends, and after an open evening in the third week of September the choir's membership was back up to 20. The new organ scholar, Harry Jacques took over the role of accompanist and is doing a fine job. New members filtered in during the term including some children from the Outreach Scheme and by Christmas there were 28.

Edward decided that giving a number of smaller performances throughout the term, rather than working towards one major concert, would keep the repertoire ticking over, the interest level up, and give the choir regular public exposure. No fewer than six performances in the Michaelmas term culminated in a particularly successful concert entitled *A Winter's Tale* given in the Border Regiment Chapel in late November. The choir now sings as part of the Outreach concert each term thus giving exposure to potential new members and their parents. During the run up to Christmas the choir performed for Judge Batty in the Tithe Barn and at the Lanes Shopping Centre in back to back performances of Christmas carols, once again reaching out to the community and assisting in developing performance skills.

The **Outreach Programme** continues to be as popular as ever with primary schools. Ten schools took part in the programme in 2014 and 380 children in total sang in the concerts. The schools were Blackford, Newlathes, Petteril Bank, Rockcliffe, Wreay, Ivegill, Ireby, Bothel, Thursby and Wiggonby - a mix of primary schools ranging in location from remote rural to inner city.

Schools appreciate both the musical experience that their children have and the opportunity that primary staff have to observe and so improve their teaching of singing:

‘Expert teaching - skills shown for teaching staff’ and ‘children gained in confidence and in performance skills’ and ‘many parents have commented on how wonderful the concert was’  
.....Thursby School

From parents:

‘They obviously responded to their conductor; wonderful’ and ‘the children were brilliant, that’s really started my Christmas’ and ‘my child has really gained in confidence. I cannot believe he was up there singing’.

The Programme also contributes to the Cathedral’s outreach mission and has drawn hundreds of families into the Cathedral - many for the first time.

Jonathan Millican stepped down as a music leader for the Programme in the autumn term following his appointment as a full time lecturer at the University of Cumbria. Edward Taylor has now taken responsibility for all teaching and has been ably assisted by Harry Jacques as accompanist for Cantate rehearsals and for concerts.

Ron East has administered the Outreach programme for eight terms, nearly three years, and will step down at the end of the spring term, 2015. The spring term programme, 2015, is already underway with three participating schools and a further three schools are booked for the summer term. The finances are secure for this period and the new administrator will have five months in which to settle to the new role of fund raising and recruiting new schools before the autumn term programme begins.

March 2015

Jeremy Suter  
Master of the Music

## **SURVEYOR TO THE FABRIC'S REPORT**

In many respects 2014 was a year for reviewing and preparing for future activity at the Cathedral. During the year I prepared my Quinquennial Inspection Report. This is quite a major exercise and produces a more substantial report when compared to a typical parish church. Because of my continuing involvement with the Cathedral it is also structured in a rather different way, aiming to direct the conservation and repair policy over a long period to identify where Chapter will have to face major financial commitments. It identified a range of already well know issues, for instance vegetation embedded in masonry, though on a building of the scale of the Cathedral these can be difficult to attend to. Looking to the future though, my report identified that we shall need to review again the masonry of the tower. There was work last undertaken more than 25 years ago and the soft St Bees stones is showing signs of weathering which should be looked at again in the next decade or so. I am also becoming concerned about the condition of the leadwork on some of the high roofs; some areas are now approaching a century since they were last looked at.

One area of concern has been the masonry around the South Transept entrance, the main way into the Cathedral. The richly carved detailing over the doorway has been wrapped in chicken wire for many years, and in the last decade other carved details have deteriorated at an alarming rate. We have been fortunate in attracting grant assistance from a dedicated Cathedrals' grant scheme from the DCMS and also the Headley Trust. After a very careful selection process we appointed a contractor towards the end of the year to work on the project. This will involve the total re-carving of the vine leaf details over the door, the capitals and two small angel figures. We are excited to see the early stages of the re-carving taking place in the masons' workshop.

We have been aware for a long time that the existing heating for both the Cathedral and the Fraternity was vulnerable to failure. The single boiler which heats both buildings was bought second hand in the 1960s and is both inefficient and unreliable. It is proposed that the boiler is renewed in the Fraternity project, but we have looked to obtaining funds in advance to renew the boiler and connections to the Cathedral.

Towards the end of the year the Clerk of Works announced his intention to retire. With the changing demands on the upkeep of the Cathedral and Close over his time with us and taking into account Chapter's limited resources we decided to restructure the post and look to appointing a part time head of maintenance.

March 2015

Nicholas Rank  
Surveyor of the Fabric