



**COLLEGE OF CANONS  
STATUTORY MEETING**

**Friday 6 May 2016**

## **DEAN'S REPORT**

### **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 Cathedral's life of worship**

It seems right this year to give particular attention to the Cathedral's life of worship in this report, since the Dean of Carlisle, unusually, serves as Precentor and takes the lead for the Chapter in the liturgical life of the Cathedral.

The pattern of daily prayer and worship is seen as the heart-beat of the Cathedral's life. This priority is made clear to all those who are being introduced to the work and mission of the Cathedral and is explained to visitors, some of whom can be surprised to find that the Cathedral continues to fulfil the purpose for which it was first founded. At all services, the duty and joy that we have to pray with and for the diocese, the city, the county and beyond is given careful expression.

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 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 4.15pm when the Taize 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 in 2015 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 Master of the Music of course will contribute his own report. 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.

### **Special Services**

In addition to what are termed the statutory services offered each day, the Chapter endeavours to offer a response which is welcoming and imaginative to individuals and groups who approach us with a request to hold a special act of worship at the Cathedral. Each year brings its own opportunities. Among anniversaries which the Cathedral was pleased to host in 2015, the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Women’s Institute in Cumbria-Cumberland was marked in December. Many WI members battled against the most difficult of weather conditions to come to a Carol Service on December 4<sup>th</sup>, the very day when many in the City and elsewhere in the county were to find themselves overwhelmed by flood. On December 21<sup>st</sup> the Cathedral was very pleased to work with the Cumberland Newspapers Group to launch a carol service to mark CN’s 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. The choir made a very fine contribution to this service when every seat was taken. Early in the year, the Cathedral worked closely with the executors of the estate of Miss Mary Burkett OBE, who for so many years was a very good friend of the Cathedral. A service of thanksgiving to celebrate Mary’s life and her exceptional contribution to the arts and to the life of the county was held on February 6<sup>th</sup>. Another capacity congregation gathered for a memorable act of worship.

A quite different style is used, as an example, at the now annual service to celebrate the work of Christian Aid at the Cathedral. Well-chosen themes and eagerly anticipated ‘Praise aerobics’ continue to draw lively interest from the local schools which contribute musically to the service and work hard beforehand to raise funds to support the work of Christian Aid projects.

### **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 Kearton 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.

This summary account does not convey adequately the amount of time and thinking these two strategic projects have involved both for members of the Chapter and for those who support the Cathedral's work in the Cathedral Office. The Chapter is also most grateful to the Cathedral Council, the College of Canons and others who have offered advice and have brought particular skills to the discussions that have been held.

The Chapter believes that both projects have the potential to deliver very significant new capacity for the continuing work and mission of the Cathedral and for the offer it seeks to make to the residents of the city and county and to our many visitors.

### **Mission Statement**

The Mission statement of the Cathedral is: "proclaiming afresh the good news of 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 hearts 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 2016

Mark Boyling,  
Dean of Carlisle

## **CANON LIBRARIAN'S REPORT**

### **1. ACQUISITIONS**

Canon Richard Bevan is the main donor among others who have contributed books to the library.

### **2. 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE TREASURY**

To mark this anniversary the cathedral library mounted an exhibition on the nationwide Heritage Open Days on Saturday and Sunday 12 and 13 September 2015. Reflecting the importance of the excavation to create the cathedral's underground Treasury, the exhibition illustrated the 2,000 year history of the cathedral site, using texts, books from the library, documents and photographs. At the Dean's request, the texts and captions were subsequently edited to create a document for use in the context of the Fraternity Heritage Lottery Fund bid.

### **3. BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CATHEDRAL LIBRARY**

At the request of Canon Jan Kearton, the library has produced a brief history of Carlisle Cathedral Library with an emphasis upon its stories.

### **4. 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. The total raised stands presently at £7,600.

### **5. TREASURY DIG SMALL FINDS**

In consequence of a recent decision, Carl Savage, a professional archaeologist working for the cathedral in a voluntary capacity, has removed the coins element of the small finds from the Treasury which have been stored in the Upper Library. An alternative location has been found for them. The removal of the other small finds would create valuable shelf space in the Upper Library.

### **6. NADFAS**

Because the home of Chris and Helen Tyson, the two members of NADFAS who had been working for the library, was among those that were flooded, their valuable work for the library has had to be temporarily discontinued. In a separate initiative, in response to a request from NADFAS, permanent shelf-room has been given to NADFAS reports on parish churches in Carlisle diocese.

### **7. CATHEDRAL GUIDE TRAINING**

Each year sessions are arranged for guide training drawing on library resources, either on specific subjects or in the form of questions and answers.

### **8. RESPONSES TO EXTERNAL ENQUIRIES**

The commonest form of external enquiry takes the form of responses to email requests of information on a very wide range of subjects usually channelled through the Cathedral Office.

### **9. SPECIAL TASKS**

#### **a. CUMBRIA GARDENS TRUST**

The trust recently provided funding for the repair of 17<sup>th</sup> century horticultural books in the library. In response to a request from them, a talk was given about these books at their AGM in the Cumbria Archive Centre.

- b. **ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH, BOWNESS-ON-WINDERMERE**  
At the suggestion of the Archdeacon of Westmorland and Furness, officers of this parish approached the cathedral library for help in resolving issues about a small library of books in the church.
- c. **DISPOSAL OF THE LIBRARY OF CANON RICHARD BEVAN**  
Canon Bevan requested help with the disposal of his books on the occasion of his moving away from Carlisle. These were collected from his house, sorted, some sold on his behalf, others retained for the cathedral library or otherwise distributed, and the balance going to Oxfam.

10. **FUTURE LIBRARY DEVELOPMENTS**

Plans for this coming year include:

- a. At the Dean's request, work has begun on assembling material for an exhibition in June 2016 of material relating to the life and work of the cathedral during the ninety years of the life of HM Queen Elizabeth II, as part of the celebration of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- b. Evaluation of the possibility of regaining professional librarian help for the library.
- c. Collaboration with the library dimension of the plans for the Fraternity Project.

February 2016

David Weston  
Assistant Librarian

## **CANON WARDEN'S REPORT**

### **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.

The Pastoral Link Committee has continued to meet successfully but is now seeking to broaden its membership to better reflect the wide variety of spirituality and tradition found both in the Cathedral's midweek Celtic and Justice and Peace Eucharists and also its Sunday afternoon Taize congregations.

The Hospital Chaplaincy Support Team now joins with parish teams to support the Cumberland Infirmary Chaplaincy with Sunday worship every other month. The Cathedral team have a new leader and several new members have been recruited this year.

Dementia awareness training for Link visitors is now being sourced and we understand that a diocesan offer may be available early in the New Year. We aim to become a dementia friendly Cathedral.

### **Safeguarding**

It became clear this year that 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.

Volunteer appraisal for those with a safeguarding focus to their work continues to be challenging with such large numbers of people involved.

Work to put the diocesan Policy into Cathedral format was completed in September but October brought the new diocesan update. Work has continued since October to re-write the affected Cathedral sections, to re-word relevant proformas and to establish procedural changes in all departments. This work is expected to be complete by the end of February next year. Chapter again approved the Cathedral Policy at its November statutory meeting whilst noting that changes are in process.

The Cathedral note that the diocese is to be externally assessed by the national Church Safeguarding Team in November 2016, and is ready to be included in this inspection should the national Team and the diocese wish us to be.

The Cathedral has benefitted greatly from its relationship with the present Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, Mr Robert Parks. The working relationship established has been fruitful and supportive. We wish Robert joy in his retirement and look forward to establishing similarly good working relationships with his successor after Easter next year.

I have continued to join the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer to deliver the Leadership module around the diocese. A new programme of nationally-formulated training is expected in 2016 and we look forward to learning more.

### **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. In the meantime, important work on the Interpretation Plan continues but cannot be made final. Clarity about the size of the activity and interpretation budget waits upon full quantity surveys of the new build elements of the project. However, teaching and learning is at the heart of the project rationale and careful balances must be struck to ensure the delivery of a vibrant new offer.

Partnership working is being explored with the mobile library service, Tullie House, Carlisle Castle, The University of Cumbria, Tourism Cumbria and English Heritage in the area to maximise the benefit that can be gained for visitors and local community members from the Cathedral development.

In the Cathedral, a grant from the Allchurches Trust has enabled us to commission a touch-screen display to stand outside the Wilfred Chapel in the Crossing. Work with the Centre for Christian Studies at York University has continued throughout the year and is now near completion. The display will interpret the wonderful Brougham Triptych, intentionally drawing visitors into the Christian story and providing opportunities both for learning and for prayer. We hope to install the screen after Easter in 2016. Do come and see it over the summer.

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

Lent and Advent courses were particularly well-attended this year. The Lent course, based on the film *Chocolat*, proved extremely popular, though it did test both our Lent abstinence and the capacity of the Canon Warden's house to the limit! The format of a bring-and-share meal followed by a film viewing and discussion was so popular that it is to continue with the offering of one film night each term. Bishop James came to share his expertise on film with some the group and helped the group to understand that study of a wide range of films should be undertaken regardless of whether the issues raised are difficult, comfortable or challenging.

Though it had proved popular it has been decided not to offer the York courses this year. The material lacks particular Lent or Advent focus and, though good discussions are raised at the time, the format is 'comfortable' and it is sometimes difficult to measure lasting gains. Offerings from this stable will be kept under review but we look forward to the introduction of different conversation partners and a more challenging format.

The 'Food for Thought' model is being considered when the Fraternity or other premises become available. We hope to offer these evenings to all.

It is always a pleasure to share this lovely house with others, and I have been pleased to welcome the Cathedral Friends for a strawberry and Pimms social evening and the Choir Association for a summer barbecue. The Pastoral Link and the Hospital Chaplaincy Support Teams have enjoyed social evenings here too. I hope to invite the Music Department and the Works and Vergers teams next year.

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

Plans are now nearly complete for the first diocesan Leavers' Service in the Cathedral this year. So popular has the idea proved that three days are being offered to primary schools across the diocese and we hope to continue the offer in years to come.

The Upper Room offer is beginning to be taken up by clergy, Readers and parish groups and we encourage further bookings through the Cathedral Office. Do come and be refreshed and renewed in this ancient place soaked, as it has been down the centuries, in prayer.

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.

The appointment of a new Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Vocations Advisor was announced this autumn and the Cathedral clergy look forward to working with him to foster every kind of vocation that God calls his people to.

It is my intention to be present at every diocesan installation, collation and mission community formation that I am able to and I would be most grateful if those with responsibility for new appointments could kindly include me in the invitations. The Cathedral stands ready to support and encourage all parishes, clergy, and ministers both lay and ordained in their work to spread the good news of Jesus Christ and to encourage responses to it.

### **2016 Objectives**

- Through good safeguarding practice and process, to continue to ensure that the Cathedral is a safe and welcoming place for all children and adults at risk of harm or neglect.
- To complete the vision for the Cathedral's teaching and learning offer relating to the Fraternity project and to develop and advertise an annual offer to the Cathedral community, Cumbria and the Borders
- To explore possible teaching and learning partnerships with the University of Cumbria, the nearer Scottish universities and the Universities of Durham and Newcastle
- To successfully launch the diocesan Leavers' Service and to begin to develop other diocesan service offers
- To work closely with those training diocesan curates, ordained and lay ministers and to offer suitable Cathedral placements
- To work closely with those fostering diocesan vocations to ordained and lay ministry

February 2016

Jan Kearton  
Canon Warden

## **CANON MISSIONER'S REPORT**

### **Virtual or 'real'?**

What makes you an authentic person? Many would say your integrity; being the same person on line as you are at home or work. Certainly that rings true for most of us – but is there something more than being consistent?

In the wonderful book 'The Velveteen Rabbit' the stuffed toy is told quite plainly that the only way to be truly 'real' is to be truly loved. Moreover, it doesn't happen overnight, but through a long process of being loved, the effect of a deep relationship.

How can we demonstrate that simple truth (that we only become who we are meant to be through real relationships) in today's culture when so many relationships are forged and maintained online?

How can we suggest that none of us are fully who we are meant to be, without reconnecting with God?

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.

Relationship too has been at the heart of much of the Rural Dean work. In a Deanery where our present stipendiary budget is grossly unsustainable (even with subsidy from other deaneries); the dreaded challenge to parishes to not only work across their boundaries but 'see' themselves as area (rather than parish) based has been painful as well as liberating; and a much more radical change than many had anticipated.

Thankfully, the concept of Mission Communities is slowly emerging as the relationships develop and the vision is accepted as a long-term plan rather than an immediate panacea.

Outreach within the Cathedral continues to grow, thanks to the ministry of the chaplains (another 3 trained and ready to activate); the popularity of the Sensory Trail, the frequent requests to copy our evangelistic leaflets (from Dorset to the Isle of Man!) and the beautiful illustrated Gospel, always on display. Our aim still, is to make it nigh impossible to walk through the grounds or enter one of our buildings without being explicitly engaged, in some way, with the reality of God's love. Best displayed by us? We have also developed some colouring books for children, for Evensong and the Cathedral Eucharist: encouraging them to follow the service and to add their prayer and worship.

We were able to host the northern missionaries this year, who 'discovered' the Cathedral in more ways than one! Several leaving a little envious of the beauty and atmosphere that we take for granted. The national gathering too was invigorating as we explored the new survey about belief in Jesus.

Roles in Trinity School, James Rennie School, Reiver Scouts, Curate Training, Cumbria Cursillo, Pioneer Curate Support and speaking and retreat bookings continue; and its still a great privilege to learn so much through them.

Our support for Christian Aid this year saw the touring of a 4 foot fibre-glass calf (Finlay) around schools and businesses, culminating in a great service: and money to buy 11 cows for third world countries.

Similarly, we seem to have established an Epiphany Christingle service; successfully raising money for the Children's Society.

Our support for the building of a school for deaf children in Riandu, Kenya has faltered a little with the onslaught of our work with flood victims, (with other churches we have taken on responsibility for looking after a section of the city) but we hope to get back on track soon.

I remain grateful for the many words of encouragement and the many prayers, offered in support of the work and for me personally. Thank you and God bless

February 2016

Michael Manley  
Canon Missioner

## MASTER OF THE MUSIC'S REPORT

The primary focus of the department continues to be the musical enrichment of the Cathedral's daily cycle of worship. During school holidays this task is in the hands of the Carliol and Visiting Choirs, some of which travel considerable distances and incur significant expense in order to sing here. For most of the year, however, the Cathedral and Youth Choirs are charged with the responsibility of maintaining our centuries old choral tradition. Only on a Saturday night "the voice of prayer" be unsung.

The major festivals of the liturgical cycle generally feature the full **Cathedral Choir**. At other times the boys' and girls' treble lines function independently of each other, thus requiring each chorister to attend once a fortnight on Sunday and two weekday Evensongs. The back rows sing six services per week although the personnel vary from day to day. Following her graduation from the University of Cumbria, Hannah Scotson became one of four full time lay clerks in September. A pool of seven part time singers (aged 15 to 75+) completes the team. These include two current members of the Youth Choir, and at the opposite end of the experience spectrum Jolyon Dodgson, who was recently awarded the MBE for services to music. Unfortunately a severe leg injury is confining Jolyon to his home for the time being, and Alan Wilcock, the choir's longest serving lay clerk, is on extended sick leave. This leaves the tenor line seriously exposed and frequently requires Jonathan Millican to switch from bass to tenor, thus earning him the unofficial title "flexiclerk." An advertisement for a tenor has appeared regularly in the *Church Times* since 2010!

Individually there have been notable achievements amongst the choristers. Two were examined successfully for the RSCM Bronze Award and a further seven gained their Silver badges, including Matthew Warwick, who for the second year running won the Bishop Pugh Prize for the highest mark in the county. Matthew was also the 2015 recipient of the Dr. H.E. Ford Prize and in November passed the RSCM Gold Award with honours, along with Francisca Boyling who had recently moved up to the Youth Choir. The other choristers valedicted in 2015 were Owen Neale and Charlotte Thomson.

The boys and girls' sections each made significant progress in the latter part of 2015, and this was particularly evident when the choir went on tour to Riga in October. The first concert attracted an audience of around 500 plus a film crew from Latvian TV, and two subsequent performances saw the choir reach even higher standards of performance and presentation. Alongside a significant grant from Carlisle Cathedral Choir Association the tour was financed through the choristers' own fund raising efforts, including a three hour Singathon for which members of the public were invited to sponsor performances of their favourite anthems (some even sponsored themselves to conduct the choir).

Buoyed by the success of the Latvian tour the choir approached two joint services with the Gabrieli Choir of Budapest with confidence. Kodaly's *Missa Brevis* was used on All Saints' Day and the following evening a liturgical performance of the Duruflé *Requiem* was enhanced by Jonathan Millican's baritone solos and Edward Taylor's masterly realisation of the organ part. Reinforced by three new members the Cathedral Chamber Choir made a good impression at the annual Judge's Service. Earlier in the year this group of experienced choristers and lay clerks had performed Heinrich Schütz's *Die sieben Worte Jesu Christi am Kreuz* and sung Evensong in Crosthwaite Church (near Kendal).

December's devastating floods and ensuing travel disruption forced the cancellation of some services and the re-scheduling of rehearsals. Choristers and lay clerks alike made heroic efforts to attend the Cathedral, as a result of which the Christmas concert proceeded as planned. Finzi's *Et in terra pax* was sung by the Chamber Choir with soloists Jonathan Millican and Matthew Warwick, while Francisca Boyling and Tamsin Jones were given major roles in excerpts from Handel's *Messiah*, for which the Cathedral Choir was joined by five members of the Carliol Choir. Proceeds from this event were

donated to Cumbria Flood Relief. The choir was on especially good form for the Christmas services, which this year included an additional carol service to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *The Cumberland News*. Much of the credit for development of the treble line belongs to Charlotte Jackson, who gives individual singing lessons to many of the choristers.

Early in February 2016 the choir travelled to Hexham Abbey for the third Hadrian Choirs Festival. One day later the first of three recording sessions took place for the latest CD. Due for release in the summer *Imagined Corners* will consist entirely of music with a particular connection to the Cathedral. Over the past 25 years several distinguished musicians have composed for the Cathedral Choir, and their music will feature alongside works by Andrew Seivewright and local musicians, including two of our current lay clerks Tamsin Jones and Jonathan Millican.

Over the course of the year there has been a net increase in the number of girls from 17 to 20 and small decrease in boys (from 12 to 11). Statistics such as these fail to tell the story of numerous recruitment visits to schools and the hundreds of leaflets handed out to enthusiastic children.

Each Wednesday, as well as on some Sundays, the **Cathedral Youth Choir** can be heard singing to a very high standard under Edward Taylor's inspired and energetic direction. The events planned in 2015 for this choir included three concerts. These assisted in the choir's development through the introduction of some challenging repertoire and enabled the choir to reach out into different communities within the county. Additionally the choir took part in a performance of *Ahoy* by Alexander L'Estrange jointly with the Abbey Singers, Carlisle Cantate and Patteril Bank Primary School Choir.

The choir's membership in 2015 stayed steady at around 20. This included a strong tenor section led by Harry Jacques and a soprano section led by Emily Milburn and Frances Sutton. Younger male voices began to develop, in particular that of Robert Henderson in the tenor section. In September the back rows suffered a little but only briefly as new members were gained from beyond the cathedral community. At the time of writing 17 members now regularly commit to the choir with a good balance between the four parts.

As in 2014 Edward not only chose to challenge the choir with unaccompanied repertoire during Lent but went one step further by organising a meditation style concert, which was entirely unaccompanied, in Our Lady and St Joseph's Catholic Church on Passion weekend. This took the form of a Eucharist featuring Vaughan Williams' *Mass in G minor* alongside Allegri's *Miserere* and various anthems from around the world. The choir achieved a very high standard and members of the audience were said to be 'deeply moved' by the experience. Much of this music was then repeated during Holy Week at the Cathedral. The second concert of the year took place in Lanercost Priory and included Stanford's *Three Motets*, Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs* and several works by Arthur Sullivan. The third concert, scheduled for Christmas in Patterdale, was cancelled at twelve hours notice due to terrible weather conditions and resulting floods. It was, however, rescheduled to take place in Penrith at the end of January. Almost a hundred people attended a successful concert of music for the season, some of which had been performed a few weeks before in the Cathedral at the Epiphany Carol Service.

The choir has continued to work well on a weekly basis as part of the worship pattern at the Cathedral. New music regularly integrated into the repertoire has helped aid musical development and build on the members' ability to sight-read and learn quickly. Regular upper voice and lower voice Evensongs have continued to be part of schedule, partly to allow more practice time but also to allow members to experience different repertoire and build strength and confidence in their particular part. Mary Hitch, the choir's singing tutor until July, played an important role on such occasions by taking workshop style rehearsals with those choir members not singing Evensong. She also coached soloists to a high standard and worked with the whole choir in the approach to concerts. Sadly, due to work commitments, the job of singing tutor is currently vacant.

Future development plans include the desperate need to recruit for September as many members of the choir leave for University. Edward aims to visit all the senior schools in Carlisle, Wigton and Brampton in the summer term. An invitation to visit Penrith again will form the choir's Easter concert and plans are in the making for a commission by Adrian Self for choir and brass to be performed in July. Edward hopes to fill the vacancy of choir singing tutor as soon as possible. He is also looking into the possibility of a mini tour to another part of the UK and the making of another CD now that the previous one is nearly paid off.

Under the direction of Ian Hare the **Carliol Choir** sang at 14 Cathedral services during 2015, each preceded by a rehearsal, and held a further 16 rehearsals, usually on Wednesday evenings from 7.30-9.00 p.m. in the Song Room. In addition, they sang a programme of church music in St Andrew's Church, Greystoke on 6<sup>th</sup> June, having in recent years performed at Wreay and Crosthwaite.

It is just as well that they do not attempt more than this, as each appearance is a logistical challenge. A diverse group of up to 30 people from a wide geographical area have to be informed of dates when they are to converge on the Abbey, whatever the weather. Their music is housed on the top floor of the Cathedral Office, from where the Honorary Librarian carries it, having first arranged it in numbered folders. Some members look after their own robes, but others borrow them from our stock, which until recently were hung in the Song Room but have now been moved to the Prior's Tower. As Psalm singing is no longer widespread in churches, all the choir's psalms are typeset with the chant adjacent, to facilitate learning.

The organisation of the Carliol Choir is in the hands of a small Steering Group, and it is worth remembering that not only are all the singers volunteers, but also that they pay a modest annual subscription which goes towards the running costs of the choir, including the purchase and maintenance of the music, robes, etc. There is also a modest allowance from the Dean and Chapter for this purpose. Considering the nature of this commitment, it is remarkable that membership has held up so well, although there have been a few retirements, and there is scope for a little recruitment, especially among the altos and basses.

**Carlisle Cantate** Children's Choir is constantly undergoing change due to the coming and going of children, making it quite hard to plan far in advance. However, by the beginning of 2015 numbers were healthy compared to the previous July and some of those members had been there since the very beginning in 2009. Edward Taylor's regular termly plan included a solo concert as well as participation in both the Outreach Concert and the PLUS Eucharist. Further to this there were occasional one off events such as performing in the Lanes and at care homes at Christmas.

In March, the choir gave a Saturday lunchtime concert in the Border Regiment Chapel featuring excerpts from musicals. The choir had a good audience and the timing and style of the concert worked well. A few days later the choir took part in the Outreach concert. The choir takes on an important support role in this event, singing the joint items with the schools. The concert also provides a good opportunity to try out new repertoire out and enables the choir to reach a wider audience.

At the beginning of the summer term, Edward was approached by the director of the Brampton Transition Choir, Sarah McAllister, to stage a joint concert as part of the Lanercost Festival. An exciting programme was put together and rehearsed but with only a couple of weeks to go the funding from the Lanercost end was pulled and the concert cancelled. Edward therefore reversed the invitation and the Brampton group came to sing with Cantate in the Fraternity in a 'café style' concert with the audience sitting around tables with food and drink available throughout the performance.

By the end of the summer term, as had quite often been the case, the choir had lost a fair few members and it was felt that something needed to be done to counteract this problem. This coincided with the time that Ron East left the post of Administrator and Anna Howard took over. It was felt that a long term development programme should be put in place to gain more funds, keep the choir members for longer and get the choir better known in the region. It was decided that putting up the termly fees would assist in keeping the choir afloat. Of course there is a link with the amount of members of the choir to how much money the choir makes and with overheads exceeding income on a weekly basis the choir was losing money. It was also decided to put an incentive in place in the form of asking parents to pay for a full year in advance at a reduced termly rate.

The choir had a successful Christmas term with a performance in the Lanes, at Pennine Lodge Care Home and in the Outreach Concert. Also, some members took part in the Crib service and the PLUS Eucharist. Two events were cancelled due to the floods, one at Lanercost Priory and the other at Sainsbury's in town.

To continue with development more plans have been put in place and at the time of writing some have already occurred. To raise the profile of the choir and to attract more members the *Cumberland News* were invited to a rehearsal resulting in a two page spread and the front cover of the 'Life' section. An open evening followed which brought in seven new members. The local music services have also agreed to support the choir, in particular with advertising events and also with boosting numbers. The choir will be performing with Dumfries Choral Society in March, singing in the Lake District in the summer and have an invitation to perform at Muncaster Castle.

The **Outreach Programme** continues to be very popular with schools. Nine schools, ranging from rural Bewcastle (with all 17 pupils) to larger schools in the city centre, took part in the programme in 2015. These were Kirkbampton, Thursby, Caldew Lea, St Margaret Mary, Belle Vue, Cummersdale, Bewcastle, Stanwix and Longtown. Places are reserved throughout 2016.

Feedback from schools continues to be very positive, a headteacher recently commented that: 'Ed had high expectations of our children and got them to sing at a standard I didn't think was possible in just a few weeks...'

Likewise we always receive comments about how excited children, teachers and parents alike are to have the experience of singing in the Cathedral: 'It was a fantastic opportunity to perform at Carlisle Cathedral... the families were very impressed with the event'.

In summer 2015 the role of Outreach Administrator passed from Ron East to Anna Howard. Ron had been running the programme for nearly three years and had secured good funding for the future of the project.

Since December 2015 tickets for Outreach concerts have been charged at £2 in an attempt to create an additional income stream. Feedback from the schools is positive about this move. In addition to grants from various trusts, Cumbria Music Service, and in-kind support from the Cathedral, the programme should be financially viable for the long term.

Following Harry Jacques' appointment as assistant organist of St. Mary's Newark, Max Smith joined the department in September, just as news reached us that a grant of £7,000 had been awarded by the Ouseley Trust towards the long term endowment of the position of **Organ Scholar**. A graduate of Huddersfield University and an organ scholar at Wakefield Cathedral, Max, like his predecessor, is living and working on Susan Aglionby's farm. As well as accompanying some services sung by the Cathedral Choir he helps to teach the probationers, assists Edward Taylor in training the Youth Choir and accompanying Carlisle Cantate rehearsals, and acts as Youth Choir Librarian.

After one year Beth Lund left the post of **Music Department Administrator** in order to train as a teacher, and has been replaced by Veronica Stockdale. Aileen Brown continues to support the Cathedral and Youth Choirs as Matron, and Jennifer Fleming heads a team of dedicated chaperones.

### **Aims and Objectives for 2016**

- To recruit one full time bass and two full time tenor lay clerks
- To obtain funding (including housing) for three full time choral scholars
- To recruit boy and girl probationers for the Cathedral Choir
- To recruit new members for the Cathedral Youth Choir
- To appoint a vocal coach for the Cathedral Youth Choir
- To raise funds to enable the performance of a newly commissioned work for the Cathedral Youth Choir
- To arrange a programme of three concerts per year for the Cathedral Youth Choir
- To increase the membership of Carlisle Cantate Children's Choir
- To develop and expand as necessary the repertoire of all the Cathedral Choirs
- To maintain the contents of the Cathedral Music Library in good condition and identify someone to take over the role of Cathedral Choir Librarian
- To secure funding for the Outreach Programme
- To maintain the Cathedral's two organs and three pianos in good condition

February 2016

Jeremy Suter  
Master of the Music

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

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 20<sup>th</sup> C Nativity Window in St. Catherine's Chapel (the shop) and address issues of water penetration through the upper part of the porch.

Whilst the scaffolding for this work was in place I was able to gain access to the roofs of the transept and the nave. There is no other safe way onto these roofs. I have recommended that the nave roofs are renewed. They are amongst the oldest in the cathedral and the lead is starting to fail. We hope to be able to apply for grants to undertake this work in the coming year.

During the year we appointed a new part time Head of Maintenance, to succeed the Clerk of Works who had retired. The change in title reflects the changing role since the small stone masons' team was closed a number of years ago and most work is put out to contract. With a small estate of properties, the grounds as well as the cathedral, there is always routine work to undertake.

The initial phase of lighting the Cathedral is now about 15 years old. Towards the end of the year we decided to instigate a review of the installation. We have arranged for a consultant lighting designer to recommend whether we need to upgrade any of the installation, taking into account the significant changes in technology in the past decade. The system is quite 'high-tec' and computer controlled and we have become aware of the need to upgrade some of the components. This exercise is likely to continue throughout 2016 and perhaps beyond.

The houses within the Abbey need constant attention and I assessed the external woodwork which has led to some renewal of windows in the Deanery which were in a poor state of repair. We are aware that it is easy to concentrate on the Cathedral and Fraternity and rather neglect the other properties which form part of a unique and significant historical setting.

March 2016

Nicholas Rank  
Surveyor of the Fabric