

THE CHAPTER LETTER

Sunday 24th January - Saturday 6th February 2016



LINCOLN
CATHEDRAL

Philip Buckler, *Dean* **Gavin Kirk**, *Precentor* **Mark Hocknull**, *Chancellor* **John Patrick**, *Subdean*
Philippa White, *Succentor*

Jesus prays to his Father in St. John's Gospel that his followers "may be one". I trust that it's a prayer that has not been far from our lips during this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity that comes to and end today (Sunday 24 January). The search for unity exists within our own Anglican Communion as much as it does across the various Christian denominations. This was demonstrated with the recent Anglican Primates meeting ending with the suspension of the American Episcopal Church; an action that brought sadness and heartache to many not least amongst those of us who, until now, have always celebrated the breadth and diversity of the Anglican Church.

However, whatever our misgivings might be about the outcome of that meeting, we do nonetheless continue to echo our Lord's prayer that we may be one. Those words will be on our lips this afternoon as we welcome, amongst others, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Nottingham as our preacher. We welcome Bishop Patrick McKinney for his first visit to the cathedral with representatives from other Christian denominations across the City and County. Our joining together in worship shows that the ecumenical conversation has come far in recent decades but, at the same time, acknowledging that there is much to do until the desire to be one is ultimately fulfilled.

For that fulfilment we wait patiently upon the Lord. Next Sunday (31 January) we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) and meet again the priest Simeon who waited patiently upon the Lord to have the promise fulfilled that he would see the Christ Child; and on having that promise fulfilled he proclaimed "Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people". For Simeon it took many years for his prayer to be answered but in the end his patient faithfulness was amply rewarded, his life fulfilled.

Next week we also say goodbye to the Dean and Mrs Buckler. Now whilst the Dean may wish to depart in peace (i.e. without much fuss!) it is an opportunity, at the 10.30 Eucharist, for the Cathedral and wider community to wish Philip and Linda all the very best for their retirement and to give thanks for his faithful ministry amongst us: a ministry that has been a model of bringing people together as one and thereby enabling God's will to be fulfilled in and amongst us.

John Patrick
Subdean

Sunday 24 January 3.45pm: We welcome the new Roman Catholic Bishop of Nottingham, the Rt Revd Patrick McKinney as our preacher at Evensong during this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Everyone is welcome to stay for refreshments after the service.

Farewell to the Dean: As you know the Dean of Lincoln, The Very Revd Dr Philip Buckler is retiring on Sunday 31 January 2016. He will be presiding and preaching on that day at a 10.30am Eucharist followed by refreshments in the south transept. If you would like to join the Cathedral community as we come together and give thanks for Dean Philip's ministry at the cathedral and in the diocese, please could you RSVP to Anne James, precentorpa@lincolncathedral.com or leave a message on 01522 561632. There is certainly no obligation, but if you would care to make a donation towards a leaving gift please contact the Chapter Office on 01522 561602 or email the Assistant Chapter Clerk on assistantcc@lincolncathedral.com.

faith@lincolncathedral meets next on Wednesday 27 January. We will meet at the Victoria on Union Road at 7pm for a chat and a drink, beginning discussion at 7.30 – our topic this week will be “What is the point of Lent?,” and discussion will be led by John and Alice McNeill. Everybody is welcome to come and join us for informal discussion, a drink and socialising; any questions/ comments please contact the Curate (curate@lincolncathedral.com/ 567004).

A note from the Chapter Office: We are looking to recruit a p/t Secretarial Assistant & Subdean's Secretary to carry out a wide variety of secretarial and administrative duties in the busy Chapter Office. Details and an application pack can be found on the website at <http://lincolncathedral.com/become-part-of-our-cathedral> or contact the Chapter Office on 01522 561601 or email chapteroffice@lincolncathedral.com. All handwritten applications must be received by Monday 1 February.

Shrove Tuesday: The Community Association committee members are looking forward to Shrove Tuesday on 9 February. There will be a meal in the Chapter House similar to last year and with entertainment. Tickets will soon be available. Please make a note of the date and come and join us.

Gluten free biscuits: Members of the 9.30 congregation who are Gluten intolerant have hitherto not been able to enjoy a biscuit with their coffee after the service. Thanks to the generosity of one of our congregation, a box containing Gluten free biscuits will now be available, positioned on the central table. The box is clearly labelled and should be kept closed apart from when actually taking the biscuit.

Road Improvements Scheme: Lincolnshire County Council will carry out road and drain repairs on two consecutive Sundays in February. Bailgate will be closed to vehicles on Sunday 21 and Sunday 28 February, between Westgate and Eastgate. The northern section of Bailgate between Westgate and Newport Arch will remain open as usual, as will Eastgate which can be accessed via Minster Yard. Advanced warning signs will be erected one week prior to works commencing. Traffic will be diverted; full pedestrian access will be maintained.

Lincoln Lectures 2016: David Natzler, Clerk of the House of Commons, ‘700 anniversary of the 1316 Parliament’ Friday, 11 March, 7pm.

Peter Hennesy, Lord Hennesy of Nympsfield, ‘Writing the history of one's own time’ Friday, 20 May, 7pm.

St John Passion: Lincoln Cathedral Choir will perform St. John Passion by Johann Sebastian Bach on Saturday 12 March 2016 at 7.00 pm. All tickets will be given allocated seats. Tickets are now on sale on our website or in the shop. www.stjohnpassionlincoln.eventbrite.co.uk

Advance Notice – a date for your diary: Rachmaninov concert in the Cathedral Chapter House on Saturday 30 April. The Lincoln Chorale will sing the Rachmaninov Vespers, and the internationally renowned Trio Apaches, starring Lincolnshire's own Ashley Wass, will perform Rachmaninov's Trio Elégiaque. Details available nearer the time.

Jesus Christ Superstar: Back By Popular Demand: The popular rock opera will be back in the nave for another year with eight nights running from 22 – 30 August 2016. Tickets will go on sale on Sunday 14 February 2016 at 9am on the Cathedral website. (An Amateur production by arrangement with The Really Useful Group Ltd)

The Works Manager writes: At Christmas we said goodbye to masons Sebastian Kirmaier and Niki Kerridge. On Christmas Eve, Sebastian and Niki were married, and they are moving to Cambodia, where Sebastian will take up the post of Head Conservator at Angkor Wat under a collaborative project between the Cambodian and German governments. This is a very exciting new beginning for them; we send them our best wishes.

We welcome our new stonemason, Tristan Delpouve. Tristan trained in France, his home country, and has most recently been working in New Zealand.

Bible Readings

Sunday 24 January

Sung Eucharist
Mattins
Evensong

3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10, 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a, Luke 4: 14-21
Deuteronomy 30: 11-15, 3 John 1: 5-8
Numbers 9: 15-end, 1 Corinthians 7: 17-24

Sunday 31 January

Sung Eucharist
Mattins
Evensong

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Malachi 3: 1-5, Hebrews 2: 14-end, Luke 2: 22-40
Exodus 13: 1-16, Romans 12: 1-5
Haggai 2: 1-9, John 2: 18-22

Sunday 7 February

Sung Eucharist
Mattins
Evensong

Sunday next before Lent

Exodus 34: 29-end, 2 Corinthians 3: 12-4.2, Luke 9: 28-36
Exodus 33: 17-end, 1 John 3: 1-3
Exodus 3: 1-6, John 12: 27-36a