

Cathedral Life Weekly

15th Sunday after Trinity Sunday 20th September 2020



A Message from: James Davy, Organist and Master of the Choristers

Almost six months after the Lent term came to an abrupt close on Tuesday 17 March, our choirs have returned to the Cathedral. We hope to resume choral singing in services soon, but our immediate concern was to get the choirs back to meet in person, refreshing musical skills, renewing the important sense of camaraderie that is such a key part of choir membership, and rehearsing repertoire so that we can sing as soon as is practicable. We also intend to make use of the extra time to record items for the future as well - watch this space! Fortunately, a Covid-secure rehearsal environment, thorough risk assessment, and the church's exemption from rules over the numbers allowed to meet means that - for the time being at least - we are able to renew our important work in providing musical opportunities and fellowship for our singers.

As well as missing out on a large chunk of the church year, with all the wonderful music that accompanies Lent, Holy Week, Easter and on to Pentecost (and missing out on our annual climb up the Cathedral tower for Ascension Day morning), we have had to say good bye to choristers and scholars. Whereas the end of the choir year is normally a big deal, with formal presentations and a shared lunch in Guy Harlings, this year we had to hold social events online; speeches from staff were replaced by videos, and for the first time a Year Book was produced containing highlights of the past year, with lots of photos to provide memories for future years of our half year singing.

We have welcomed two new choral scholars, Louis Pettitt and Tristan Harding, and Theo Drabble has stayed with us for a second year; we look forward to introducing them shortly. For the last couple of weeks our Sunday Eucharist has had a cantor providing some singing in addition to the increased provision of organ music and we look forward with hope to the chance to use our choirs and their music to bring comfort and joy, and (especially while congregational singing is still prohibited) the welcome sound of voices lifted in worship once again.

Pictured: the Cathedral choirs in rehearsal



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Courses taking place this Autumn:



**Radical Presence:
Green Christian**

Join Andy Griffiths and Imogen Nay in conversation about faith, scripture, Covid-19 and the environment.

Based on Green Christian's new course 'Radical Presence' you are invited to explore with them various Christian responses to some of the most fundamental questions of our time.

What does Christian hope look like in our current context?

What sort of action is God calling Christians to now?

Starting 1st October 8-9pm and 8th, 15th, 22nd October; 12th, 19th and 26th Nov.
Hosted on Zoom, email imogen.nay@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk to register for free.

Ordinand Gary Fleming is also running a new course for Faith Seekers. Starting in mid-October and taking place on a Wednesday evening, via zoom, the course aims to help create a place where people can explore the Christian faith together and reflect on how it can be lived out each day.

Please see the attachment that came with this email to find out more and for details on how to get in touch with Gary.

Pray with Us:

Today is Peacemaking Sunday (Tomorrow is the UN International Day of Peace): O God, who would fold both heaven and earth in a single peace: let the design of thy great love lighten upon the waste of our wraths and sorrows: and give peace to thy Church, peace among nations, peace in our dwellings, and peace in our hearts: through thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.



Please pray for our brothers and sisters in the Religious Society of Friends.

Please pray for Skylark Church, Widford.

Pray for the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan, The Most Revd Justin Badi Arama, Archbishop.

Please pray for those who are unwell including Jean Cooper, Rita James, Nicole Landon, Winnie Towers, Jill Withams and all those in need of our prayers.

Daily Gospel Readings for this week and use in your prayers:

Monday: Matthew 9. 9-13

Thursday: Luke 9. 7-9

Tuesday: Luke 8. 19-21

Friday: Luke 9. 18-22

Wednesday: Luke 9. 1-6

Saturday: Luke 9. 43-45

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Study with Us:

Bible Notes for this Sunday, 20 September 2020

Philippians 1.21-30

Ps 145.1-8

Matthew 20.1-16



Seek the Lord!

The justice and integrity of God flow throughout the whole of creation. God's generosity knows no bounds, and sometimes – as Jesus shows us in today's parable – it is too much for human minds to comprehend. Quite simply, God's ways are not our ways.

Paul declares that life itself is Christ, and his enthusiasm encourages us to fully embrace a life centred on Christ. (**First Reading**)

The **Psalm** declares that the Lord is close to all who call him. Our Lord is kind, full of compassion, and his abounding love is for the whole of creation. Such wonderful greatness cannot be measured.

Gospel - the parable of the vineyard labourers

Chapters 19 and 20 of Matthew's Gospel recount the 80-mile journey between Galilee and Jerusalem. Here we encounter Jesus the teacher more often than Jesus the miracle worker. Today's parable of the vineyard labourers is unique to Matthew and comes immediately after the story of the rich young man. The disciples, who have left everything to follow Jesus, are disconcerted and he is comforting them. Parables like this can be described as stories drawn from everyday life with an unexpected twist, thus leaving some ambiguity in our minds to stimulate reflection. So there are many gaps in the story here which are left to our imagination. Why were so many extra workers needed? Why had the workers hired last not been chosen earlier? And so on.

The landowner hires workers for his vineyard

As a result of the reorganisation of Palestine by the Roman General Pompey the Great (63 BC), large sections of the population had been dispossessed of their land. Herod the Great also expropriated large areas, giving the land to officials in his court. Many farm labourers, small tenants and artisans therefore had to look for work on a daily basis from the town square or market place (the agora). The grape industry was the most common source of employment. For Matthew's Jewish readers, the vineyard is also an important symbol of the People of God in need (see Isaiah 5; Jeremiah 12: 10; Psalm 80).

Daybreak and the eleventh hour.

At the time of Jesus, the hours were counted from dawn. So daybreak would be the first hour, about 6.00; the third hour about 9.00; the eleventh hour, 17.00.

One denarius a day, a fair wage

This sum was enough to keep a family for a day or two. By law, hired workers had to be paid every evening so that they could provide for their families. Jews were familiar with this, since the rules for paying labourers figured in the Book of Deuteronomy (24: 14–15).

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Pay the workers starting with the last arrivals

This is significant for the development of the parable. It raises expectations amongst the long-standing labourers, who assume they are going to get more.

Why be envious because I am generous

Matthew writes at a critical time for the first-century church. The communities were composed of original Jewish converts, present from the 'first hour', while newer Gentile converts who had joined the communities at the 'eleventh hour' were still given the same treatment and recognition. There was general discontent and grumbling.

As we come to pray together, with Christ at the centre of all that we are and do, how might we live out these radical Gospel values in a world that is in so much need of the kindness and compassion of God?

May we have the grace to listen to the cry of the prophet, and to seek the Lord with all our heart, mind and spirit. In this coming week, let us pray for each other with a generous love, recognising that we are all equal as we work together in the vineyard of the Lord.

Sunday Services:

7.45am	Morning Prayer	Live streamed on the Facebook page	
10.30am	Cathedral Eucharist	In the Cathedral & live streamed on Facebook	President: The Very Revd Nicholas Henshall Preacher: Canon Alison Kennedy
10.30am	Junior Church	In Guy Harlings Garden	
5.15pm	Evening Prayer	Live streamed on the Facebook page	
8.15	Compline	Live streamed on the Church at Home Cathedral Facebook page	Gary Fleming

Morning Prayer and the Cathedral Eucharist are available later on our YouTube channel – link from the Church at Home page of the Cathedral website.

News:

News

Cathedral Eucharist 10.30am on Sundays: Please note there is no longer a requirement to reserve a place/book a ticket. **However, if we reach capacity for any service and it would be unsafe to allow any more people into the building, it is with regret that we would have to close the doors and you would be unable to attend.** Following the latest Church of

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England guidance, it is now expected that all visitors to the Cathedral, for worship or private prayer, wear a facemask.

Junior Church is also back in Guy Harlings Garden. Please click on the link below to book in as numbers are currently limited in order to comply with government guidelines. You are very welcome to join Jean for some fun activities. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/junior-church-in-the-garden-tickets-121208551039>

Grappling with Mark's Gospel: a seminar by Zoom taking place on Tuesday, 29 September 2020 from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon. This is a morning for anyone interested in engaging at depth with Mark's Gospel. The seminar is led the Dean of Chelmsford, Nicholas Henshall, and will be taking place by Zoom. It will feature a series of short presentations, group discussion and an opportunity for questions. Participants will be sent a link to the seminar and preparatory materials in advance. To register, please follow this link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/grappling-with-marks-gospel-seminar-by-zoom-tickets-118604572469>

Book Group – This month we are reading “Black Dogs” by Ian McEwan. We will be meeting via Zoom to discuss the book on Monday October 5th at 7.30pm. All are welcome to join us – email: sallydilley@tiscali.co.uk to receive the Zoom link.

Breakfast with the Bible: has started, meeting via zoom from 8.45am to 9.30am. If you would like to join the sessions, please email Canon Imogen Nay on imogen.nay@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk for the Zoom code each week. Breakfast with the Bible is led by various members of the Cathedral congregation, lay and ordained. It includes time for discussion as well as some teaching input from the leaders. See the Breakfast with the Bible page on the website for full details.

Chorister recruitment – the first open rehearsals for prospective choristers will be held on **Monday 28 September 4 pm – 5 pm** (boys in school years 3 – 5) and **Tuesday 29 September 4.15 pm – 5.15 pm** (girls in school years 6 – 8); due to Covid-19 restrictions, places are limited so early booking is advised – parents will be able to observe the rehearsals online and future dates will be made available. Please contact Elspeth Manders on elspeth.manders@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk to book a place or for further information.

Refugee Engagement.

The new Chelmsford refugee support group have now got Home Office approval and are beginning their important work, enabling a refugee family to settle in Chelmsford. They are currently writing welcoming materials in English and Arabic for the family. The group originated from the Catholic Diocese of Brentwood and is being supported by the Cathedral Fellowship Group run by Brian Cooper. £10,000 has already been raised and the group have found an appropriate house. Inevitably further progress is being hampered by Covid-19. The group has a wide network of contacts, including they have developed wide contacts, including Chelmsford mosque and ‘Citizens UK’. Corporately we have invite them to submit an application for support from the Cathedral's annual charitable donations, but if you would like to know more or support the work in any way, please contact Chris Thompson; thompsoncjt01@blueyonder.co.uk or speak to Gervase Vernon.

Heritage Tours 2020

In September we normally see a series of tours and events around the national heritage weekend, and the Cathedral always takes part. This year, thanks to the hard work of the Civic Society, this is still going ahead – and everyone is welcome to join in online! You can find details of the whole series Contact Us: Cathedral Office, 53 New Street, Chelmsford CMI 1TY. Tel: 01245 294492 Website: chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk Facebook @chelmsfordcathedral Twitter: @ccathedral Safeguarding Officer: Elizabeth Marshall tel: 07902 225131 email: safeguarding@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk

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by going to <http://www.chelmsfordcivicsociety.co.uk/heritage-open-days.html> The virtual tour of the Cathedral went live yesterday (Saturday) at 10 am and is now available for everyone to watch. You can find the link to that by scrolling down the page to the 19th September.

Sarah Moss: This morning we especially welcome Sarah Moss. Sarah lives in Romford but has just starting training for ordained ministry at Trinity College, Bristol. She will be on placement here at the Cathedral for around 16 hours a week for the next two years. Inevitably Sarah begins here placement at the Cathedral in very unusual circumstances and we will be pioneering something new – not least as the wider context continues to change rapidly and in unexpected ways!

On-Line Giving: if you would like to donate to support the mission and ministry of the Cathedral through these challenging times, please visit the Cathedral website. Towards the bottom of the opening page you will see a heading “Supporting your Cathedral”. Simply click the link in the paragraph below to make your donation.

The Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, 27 September (next Sunday) straight after the 10.30 Sunday Eucharist. We are encouraged to make this as short as possible and it will finish by 12 noon. The papers are available on the Cathedral website and do please submit questions in advance of the meeting by emailing Dean@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk. The meeting will be live in the Cathedral and will also be live on Facebook.

Next Sunday is also **Harvest**. Given our context, this will be very different this year with no presentation of harvest gifts and no Essex Farmers Harvest Celebration at the Cathedral. However, the worship will still focus on the harvest and the Dean’s address for the AGM will use those themes as we reflect together on the last year and on what lies ahead.

Stewarding at Sunday Services: Since we have returned to public worship at Sunday Services the roles of the Welcome Stewards and Wardens have changed considerably. We are seeking to expand the team of Welcome Stewards for the future as a number of our current team are still shielding or are cautious about returning to the rota at the moment. Is this something that you would consider? We don’t know yet what worship will be like as we progress towards Christmas but if we can expand our team, we will be ready when we need to step into action. Please speak to Elizabeth Marshall or Maureen Benson (or email ej.marshall@blueyonder.co.uk) if you are interested. New stewards need to be appointed at the Annual Meeting on September 27th. All volunteers must complete a Diocesan Confidential Declaration Form and online safeguarding training in line with our Safer Recruitment Policy

Clare Broome is on leave next week so anything for the newsheet should be sent to laura.brayford@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk by 9am on Wednesday 23rd September. Thank you.

Reflections on being in communion with Christ – An update from Gary Fleming (Ordinand)

My time as Chaplain at Broomfield hospital and the impact of lockdown brought into sharp focus for me the meaning of being in communion with Christ. As an Ordinand theological reflection is something that is becoming ingrained in my faith practice, with the outcomes of this discernment leading me in various directions. My time as a Chaplain at the hospital was an example, as well as working with partners in the local area to continue to discern the best course of action for our work with the homeless and rough sleeping communities. I would like to take this opportunity to update you on aspects of this work and how, through the practice of theological reflection, I

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have maintained my communion with Christ and community. My hope is that this article lands at a time when, regardless of our situations, you also are being able to maintain a sense of togetherness and connectivity with our community and the presence of the living God in your life.

The reassurance of God's love and being in communion with Jesus has been something that I am sure has been a focus for us all over recent months. Of course, the Eucharist brings us into righteousness with God by being in communion with the body and blood of his Son, our saviour Jesus Christ. However, during lockdown the practice of being in communion with Christ has been brought into the context of what Paul describes as 'sharing in the Spirit' by being in full accord and of one mind with Christ (Philippians 2:1-5). Manifestly this has shown itself in how I have felt called to respond to events; where is God calling me to act, pray, discern His will in a given situation; bringing me into communion with the mind of Christ.

In practice this led to an engagement during lockdown to the needs of the rough sleeping community as part of a multi-agency response to ensure that all were offered a place of safety and provided for. The Intervention Hub that we had successfully hosted in Chapter House was unfortunately placed on hold as a requirement of lockdown. However, I have maintained the link with partners during this period to continue to discern the next steps as we emerge from lockdown and seek to build on new arrangements and ways of working. I am pleased to say that we are now in discussions with partners to consider the reintroduction of the Intervention Hub which provides multi-agency intervention support to the rough sleeping community. Additionally, we have been approached by a further organisation to host a social support group for those affected by addiction problems. We are currently considering the logistics of this, but this is something that has stemmed from the Intervention Hub and is being welcomed by partners.

The Hub and the new venture are important outreach opportunities for the Cathedral, evidencing an attentive ear to our communities and discerning the needs of the other. These actions are for me an aspect of being in communion with Christ by growing towards the mind of Christ. However, as Christians ours is in incarnational faith and to be fully in communion with Christ we are commanded to share in his body and blood. My reflection over lockdown brought this into focus. Whilst I can, as directed by Paul, strive to let the same mind be in me that was in Christ and share in the Spirit, my communion with Christ and righteousness with God takes place through the Eucharist and the realisation of Christ's desire to abide in Him and He abides in us (John 15:4). Moving on I look forward to our continued worship together and when we can as a community regularly share in the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ, Gary Fleming