

# *Liverpool Cathedral Life*



**December 2009**

**no 73**



# Holy Land Pilgrimage 2010

Canon John Roberts is hoping to take a group from the diocese on pilgrimage to the Holy Land for nine days probably in November 2010 depending on the number of people expressing interest in being part of that group. It will include staying several nights both in Galilee and Jerusalem in good hotels. The cost would be in the region of £1250 though this cannot be confirmed for a few months yet. Planning is in the early stages.

Anyone interested in coming on this pilgrimage or having further details is invited to contact Canon Roberts by email [canonjvr@hotmail.com](mailto:canonjvr@hotmail.com) or speaking with him personally.

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**Next issue:** 24th January.

Articles and ideas are always welcome and should be sent to Stuart Haynes: [stuart.haynes@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk](mailto:stuart.haynes@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk).

**Deadline for submissions:** 4th January

**Cover picture** by Phil Doragh 2009

# Wonder & Toil

In the extreme busyness of December, it is easy to lose sight of what we are doing, or who it is all about. Yet our worship through advent helps us focus on the true meaning of Christmas.

We have started with a quite wonderful Advent Sunday service of *Darkness to Light* at its new later time. The design of the service used the Cathedral building superbly.

We began in complete darkness, with the call to prayer of the Mattins Responsoy echoing from a single voice far away at the west end. The procession moved slowly towards the sanctuary as reading after reading unfolded the promise of Christ, and the lights of candles spread eastwards. High and low,

near and far, light came until we ended with the great Advent carol, *Lo, He comes with clouds descending* thundering into the lit Cathedral.

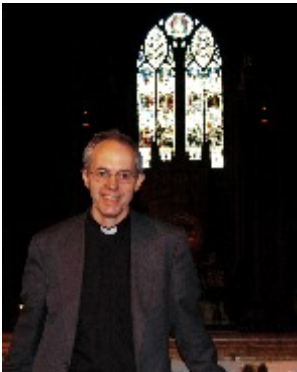
The message was of Christ, His first and second coming. I found some of the readings and music almost unbearably beautiful, speaking of the hope that Christians alone can proclaim with absolute confidence. Not only can we proclaim hope, but we must. It is one of the words that God calls the church to cry out and live out. The hope is in a God of resurrection; a God who so empties Himself that He becomes the most powerless of human creatures, a new born baby; is so obedient in His life and death that He conquers death, and so fulfils the purpose of God that in Advent we remember: he will return and justice and good will reign.

Which brings us back to the hustle and bustle of December. Proclaiming hope means chair moves for vergers, sore throats for choristers, endless printing for the office, ceaseless organisation of services and

of events. Every part of the Cathedral goes into overdrive, from kitchens and events teams to maintenance and constables. The problem is that busy people can get short with each other, everybody is tempted to think that somebody is not really pulling their weight, and worst of all some wretched cleric keeps bringing God into it, when we are all busy.

That contrast sums up the reality of Christian life. There are moments of sublime wonder, what St Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:58 calls *work* (ergos in the Greek he wrote), by which he means works of drama and power that lift our hearts and faith. There is also much of what, in the same verse he calls toil (kopos in the Greek). Both are, and always have been, normal features of Christian living. Both are equally important to God, because in that verse Paul calls the Corinthian Christians to persevere in their ergos because their kopos is not in vain. “Keep doing the grand stuff and know the boring bits are not in vain” would be a fair interpretation.

(continued on page 4)



# Fayre Success

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Craft Fayre on the 21st November either by donating goods, manning stalls or spending money!! To date a total of £2,163.05 has been raised for Cathedral Funds.

Special thanks must go to the following people:

Joan Walters for encouraging people to use their talents and donate goods; Steve Cranney and Tony Baker for all their help setting up the tables and especially for ferrying all the books over from St James House; Tracey and Matthew for all their help on the day.

# A big thank you to Alethea

There are many aspects in the life of the Cathedral that just seem to happen. Often we don't pay too close attention while they are there. But we are quick to miss them when they are gone. Our wonderful flower displays certainly fit that bill and it is a testament to the whole team's skills that Liverpool Cathedral boasts displays that are second to none.

The work of the team has been coordinated by Alethea Fielding who has stepped down from that role. The Flower Ladies joined Dean Justin Welby in the western rooms recently to thank her for all she has done in ensuring that we have flowers that,

in the Dean's words, are as good as in any Cathedral in the country.

Alethea has not totally walked away from the flowers as she will continue to be a part of the flower rota. In the meantime Derek Collins has agreed to help co-ordinate the rota for the future. Derek said "Id like to thank Alethea for her dedication and professionalism in her role as the Cathedral's Head Flower arranger and co-coordinator. However it is equally good to know that we will be seeing Alethea from time to time as she will continue to be on the rota alongside her team at Our Lady and St Nicholas Pier Head.

Taking on this role as the Cathedral's Flower Co-coordinator is a great honour indeed and I would like to thank the Dean and Chapter for considering me worthy. I will do my best to work with and support the Ladies in the teams with the excellent work that they do Sunday by Sunday, at the big Festivals and other Events in the Cathedral".

*(continued from page 3)*

All of it is good, if all of it is an offering to God. He is just as interested in kitchens as clergy, and in chair moves as choirs singing. They all matter equally if they are offered to Him. Christmas is a time when Christians have a series of unique gifts to offer a shop-tired, frazzled world. Not just hope but

purpose, not just the story of a God who comes but forgiveness and reconciliation with God and each other that is offered for the taking. Not even buy some get some free, just free. It is hard work, but it is above all God's work and worth more than diamonds as a result.

**Dean Justin**

# Reflections on 2009

**As we draw to the end of 2009, *International Year of the Child*, Sarah O'Donohue reflects on our work with schools and hopefully look forward to being the first Cathedral to gain the Child Friendly Award**

**O**ur mission beyond 2009 is to continue affirming and celebrating the importance of children in the Cathedral.

Each December, as I look back, I am amazed at how much we have achieved. This year has been no exception. Despite the economic situation we have noticed a steady growth of schools attending the Cathedral on organised visits. As always our ministry with schools would not be possible without a wonderful team of volunteers who always go the extra mile. So a BIG thank you for all you do.

Highlights for 2009

have been the *Cross Factor* event focusing on Lent and the importance of the cross, the launch of our *Signs & Symbols* trail and clay workshops.

Our Remembrance workshops for Primary and Secondary schools proved to be very popular. In four days over 350 children came to hear reminiscences from some of our Cathedral interpreters who experienced evacuation and living through war. During the day pupils heard about life on the Home Front, they were shown gas masks, ration books and sat in a mock air raid shelter complete with sirens and bombs dropping. They

used their own memories to create a poppy remembrance stick, and heard about our very own Noel Chavasse. It was apt in the year in which the last remaining veterans from WW1 passed away that more pupils understood the need to remember and help families by giving money to the poppy appeal.

Below is a picture of the prayer paper aeroplanes that pupils made and flew into the camouflage net. This proved very popular with schools and members of the public alike. I was a simple act of remembering and praying for those who are still fighting today.



### Children's Chapel update.

We are pleased to announce that the new altar frontal designed by reception pupils at Highfield St Matthew's CE Primary, Wigan will shortly be on the altar in the Children's Chapel. This frontal was designed to celebrate the 'Year of the Child 2009' and beautifully highlights the talents and skills of children.

### New Educational volunteers

In the last few *Cathedral Life* editions we have been asking for more educational

volunteers. We are pleased to welcome Veronica Hancock to our team.

### Advance Notice

The annual Schools Epiphany Service will take place on Friday 8 January 2010 at 1.45pm. To book a place for your school please contact The Metropolitan Cathedral.

### Embracing Hope

Embracing Hope is a Cathedral service for those who are recently bereaved or who are in need of comfort. The next service will take place on Monday 18th January 2010 at 7:30pm in the Lady

Chapel. For more information please contact Education on 0151 702 7210 or e-mail [education@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk](mailto:education@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk)

So as we reflect on this special year for children and the Cathedral we thank the Lord for giving us a compassionate heart and strength to serve the schools. As we move into 2010 we ask for guidance and wisdom to affirm and celebrate the work we do with schools.

*May you have a merry Christmas and 2010 be a year of peace and joy.*

## A traditional parish harvest



The Bishop of Liverpool preached at Lathom Park Chapel's Harvest service followed by a traditional parish lunch, earlier this year. We've previously featured two other traditions from the farming cycle: Rogation Sunday & Plough Sunday. Harvest completes the set.

# Lady Chapel update

**W**e have had a very positive response to our call for memories regarding the Lady Chapel, and we have also had a significant amount of interest from local press and radio. We would like to thank everyone for their contributions so far. It is sure to be a great success, and exhibits will include

original drawings of the 'noble women' windows, information on the altar fronts and photographs of the building of the chapel and cathedral. We are still looking for memories, pictures and artefacts. If you have anything you think would be suitable, please contact [val.jackson@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk](mailto:val.jackson@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk) or 0151 702 7227.



## *Focus on the Bride* **Photo Workshop**

**A**fter the success of our autumn photography workshops, a new session for those keen to learn how to photograph a wedding will run in January. The course, which takes place on January 18th, is suitable for absolute beginners and accomplished photographers who wish to expand their knowledge in this branch of photography. Wedding dresses and a model will be available for the practical session from 10am-1pm under the guidance of award-

winning photographer Martin Birchall. This is a rare opportunity to learn the essential practical skills of bridal photography using the truly magnificent

backdrop of the Cathedral. Workshop fee: £50 per person, available from the Cathedral Shop on 0151 702 7255 or [www.cathedralshop.com](http://www.cathedralshop.com).



photo © Hallbadorn, [www.flickr.com/photos/hallbadorn](http://www.flickr.com/photos/hallbadorn)

# Adopt a Pipe!

**L**iverpool Cathedral is offering one of the most unusual and original presents for this Christmas. The chance to adopt a pipe from its magnificent organ.

Liverpool Cathedral's organ is the largest in the UK and with over 10,000 pipes available for adoption there is plenty of choice.

As a pipe adopter you get a unique certificate of adoption and your contribution is recorded in our commemorative book.

There's a range of pipes available for adoption which makes it a gift that can suit everyone's wallet. See the table below for a full list.

Proceeds raised will go towards a £900,000 appeal



to raise money to restore the Great Organ.

Professor Ian Tracey, Organist Titulaire, said "adopting a Cathedral Pipe must be one of the most unique presents you could hope to buy. It's a novel gift which allows the adopter to have a real part in the future of this great organ".

If anyone wishes to take advantage of the offer then they need to contact:-

The Cathedral Organ Appeal, Liverpool Cathedral,  
St James House, L1 7BY  
0151 709 6271

[rosemary.barton@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk](mailto:rosemary.barton@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk)



pipe	donation £
up to 2ft	2
up to 4ft	4
up to 8ft	8
up to 16ft	16
up to 32ft	32
Bombarde organ stop	25
Tuba Magna	50
Trompette Militaire	50
64ft Resultant Bass	50

# Go Penguins!

**Liverpool Cathedral is happily offering a very majestic and supremely 'Christmassy' home to two of the penguins on the city's *Winter's Trail* from Sunday 22nd November 09 to Sunday 10th January 10.**

**T**wo life-size penguins sponsored by the local Primary Care Trust and PR company ICE Creates will be seen and enjoyed by the thousands of people who come to Liverpool Cathedral through the festive season.

Joining 'Poppy', one of the penguins 'Penny', will enable people to have their

say on the big issues facing their local communities.

Penny the Penguin has been designed and sponsored by aptly named Merseyside-based marketing and communications company, ICE, as part of the Go Penguins initiative – a 'Winter's Trail' of 100 five foot tall penguins around Merseyside's cultural highlights, marking

Liverpool's Year of the Environment.

Stuart Jackson, Chief Executive of ICE says, "At ICE, we have a strong emphasis on community engagement and social marketing - listening to people, in order to understand their needs and bring about real and lasting change. Part of the idea behind this was that we wanted to get people talking! Our interactive penguin is a fun way of encouraging people of all ages – and from all sections of the community - to think about the important issues affecting the areas where they live. It's easy to use and open to everyone.

It's been a real team effort designing and developing Penny the Penguin, involving a range of creative expertise. I'd really encourage everyone to visit Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral and try out our unique interactive sculpture for themselves!"



photo Phil Doragh

# Cathedral Reflection Zone

**T**here is now a new, updated “reflection zone” around the font. The reflection zone is one of the ways we enable visitors to pause and consider their encounter with God in this great space.

Canon Richard White says “many visitors have found the reflection zone extremely helpful as a way to encounter God and reflect on their own spiritual journey. The zone offers images, bible passages and simple interactive exercises as a pathway for anyone who wants to take a few

minutes to stop and reflect. The previous zone was based around the creation account, while this new one takes different aspects of life, symbolized by different parts of the body”

Last year it is estimated that over 10,000 people used the reflection zone, with several hundred asking for more information.

As Richard says “we want to offer a whole range of different ways for different people to encounter God, whether



photo Andrea Young

praying in a Chapel, lighting a candle, taking part in a worship service or using an installation such as this reflection zone.”



photo Andrea Young

# Art Award

## Liverpool Cathedral and Tracey Emin win 2009 ACE Award for Art in a Religious Context

**T**he Tracey Emin work *For You* which is above the Great West Doors in Liverpool Cathedral is this year's winner of the ACE Award for Art in a Religious Context.

Art and Christianity Enquiry (ACE) is the UK's leading educational charity in the field of Visual Art and Religion. Since 2003, it was awarded projects that have highlighted

religious faith in art, design and architecture.

Emin's work was commissioned by Liverpool Cathedral, and exhibited as part of the 2008 European Capital of Culture Year. *For You* is a pink neon, written in Emin's handwriting, with the words "I felt you and I knew you loved me".

Liverpool Cathedral also received the first Liverpool Chamber of Commerce Arts Award for this work in

2008

Canon Anthony Hawley said "Liverpool Cathedral is delighted to have won this ACE award for a work which continues to offer all who come here the opportunity to contemplate the feeling of love, as well as bringing encouragement and provoking thought. *For You* fulfils all our expectations and we hope those of the artist too."



the world today



led by **Bishop James Jones**  
six **Wednesdays**  
**17<sup>th</sup> Feb - 24<sup>th</sup> March**  
at **7:30pm**  
in **Liverpool Cathedral**

Bishop James takes us on a journey to see Jesus' perspective on the critical issues we face today including belief, the environment, suffering, death and community.

Whatever your faith this promises to be a fascinating series that will change the way you see the world for good.

To receive updates on this exciting series write to: [lent@liverpool.anglican.org](mailto:lent@liverpool.anglican.org)

# The Emerald Window

**Wilf Wilson continues his occasional series looking at the *Gospel Windows* which can be viewed from the choir area in front of the altar**

**A** The Evangelist St Mark. The subjects shown peculiar to his Gospel are:-

The preparation for His Ministry, Our Lord in the Wilderness (Chapter 1v13), the call of Simon and Andrew (Ch 1v16), the healing of Simon's wife's mother (Ch 1v30-31) and our Lord blessing little children (Ch 10v13-16). The symbol of ST Mark is the Lion.

**B** On either side of the circle we have, on the left, the healing of the deaf and dumb man (Ch 7v32-34), and on the right the healing of the blind man (Ch 8v22-25). The left hand main subject is the baptism of our Lord (Ch 1v9-11) and the right hand subject is the Transfiguration (Ch 9v2-8).

Below the subjects are angels holding scrolls on which are the words "My Beloved Son" and "Hear Him".

**C** The big figures above the subjects, from left to right are:-

Noah, a type (Hebrews 11v7);  
Zachariah, a prophet (Zachariah 13v1); Enoch, a type (Hebrews 11v5) Malachi, a prophet (Malachi 4v2)

The little figures and groups in the shafting are:-

**left hand light:**  
angel, angel  
Moses & Miriam,  
Our Lord Blessing Children,  
Nicodemus,  
Philip the Deacon

**right hand light:**  
angel, angel  
Moses & the burning bush  
Healing the demoniac Boy  
angel, angel

The inscription at the bottom-right of the window is, "William Ewart Gladstone. Born 29th December 1809. Died 19th May 1898"

His coat of arms is shown in the bottom-left corner.

The cost was defrayed by public subscription.



# Singing for Poland

**Two members of the girls' choir  
give accounts, in their own words,  
of a recent choir tour of Krakow**

I really enjoyed our Choir trip to Cracow. The churches where we sang were really beautiful with lovely statues, candles, flowers and paintings. The people there seemed to enjoy our singing. We even sang in the Salt Mine, deep underground.

On our first day in Cracow we went to the Market Square, where there was a really tall tower and a trumpeter came out right at the top of it to play. It was quite magical, just like being in a fairy tale, especially as it was so very cold and still.

I also liked visiting Pope John Paul's birthplace and seeing his tiny cradle and his red Cardinal's hat.

There was a large statue of him outside which was beautifully coloured and covered with flowers.

On All Saints' Day we went for a long walk and ended by visiting a cemetery which was really busy. The graves were lovely with candles, coloured lights,



*Wieliczka salt mine near Krakow*

photo © Peter Reed, [www.flickr.com/photos/petereed/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/petereed/)

photographs and flowers and there were lots of people visiting them, wearing fur coats and hats. The cemetery had a market and we bought sweets to take home with us.

Our hotel was very nice and it had a great swimming pool. I really enjoyed the breakfasts where we could just help ourselves to the food we wanted to eat and I liked

visiting the other girls in their rooms.

My sister and I can't wait until the next time that we can go on tour!

**Carla Miler**



*St Anna's Church, Krakow © JerzyW*

**W**e met at the airport for an early flight. It was nice to see each other after the half-term break that the tour followed. The journey was smooth and didn't really take longer than expected. When we arrived in Poland, the first difference we noticed was that it was cold!!

We travelled into Krakow city centre and were given a quick walking tour around the historic old city and the huge main square, afterwards enjoying a meal in a traditional Polish restaurant. This was our first taste of Poland (literally!) and over the few days of the tour we packed in so much it was unbelievable!

One of my favourite parts of the trip was the following day. We wrapped up warm and visited the Wieliczka Salt Mines. After walking down a seemingly endless staircase we were taken around the mines, with the guide explaining how the miners had sculpted the rock salt into amazing, meaningful statues. It was incredible! We finally entered the Chapel of St Kinga, which was by far the biggest and most impressive of all the underground chapels. We sang a few pieces down there in that chapel and the acoustic was

excellent!

For most of the older girls of the choir, the next day was probably the most memorable, if not enjoyable part of the trip, when those over 14 visited Auschwitz. The proof of the brutality that had occurred there was deeply emotional, and had a profound impact on all those who went. Although very upsetting, we all learned something whilst we were there. Gwen and some of the younger girls had taken a walk in the afternoon and visited a cemetery which was full of flowers because of All Saints Day. Back at the hotel, after we'd warmed up, a few of us, older and

younger girls and layclerks took part in a said Eucharist by Canon Myles and he drew together our experiences in a special time of reflection.

All in all, the trip was a great success and everybody returned feeling that they had got something out of it. It was the first choir tour with both girls and layclerks and I'm sure there will be many more to come. The tour guides, Brendan and Anna, were terrific and so too were the Cathedral staff and helpers. Thank you to all who made this fantastic tour happen.

**Sarah Davies**



# Great Hymns of the Church

*Hear the herald's proclamation in the desert far and near,  
Calling all to true repentance, telling that the Lord is near.*

*Oh, that warning cry obey! For your God prepare a way.*

*Let the valleys rise to greet Him, and the hills bow down to meet Him.*

Isaiah 40:3, paraphrased by Johannes Olearius (1611-84),  
translated by Catherine Winkworth (1827-78).

December sees us into the season of Advent, the four Sundays before Christmas, which means 'coming' or 'arrival', and is, in a sense the countdown of anticipation in which we celebrate Christ's first Advent, or coming, in which He was born into this world as the babe in the manger in Bethlehem 2009 years ago.

The third Sunday of Advent is associated with John the Baptist, our Lord's second cousin, born in 7BC to the elderly priest Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth, who grew to manhood in the Judean desert (Lk 1:80) where he received his call to be a prophet, circa AD27 (Lk3:2). He quickly gained widespread fame as a preacher of national repentance. Crowds flocked to hear him, many confessing their sins and receiving baptism in the Jordan. He condemned the established order (Lk 3:9) and denounced religious leaders. He looked forward to the Coming One whose ministry would be a baptism with the Holy Spirit and fire (Lk 3:16ff). Among those who came to him for baptism was Jesus, whom John hailed as the Coming One, although later in prison he began to doubt (Jn 1:35ff; cf Lk 7:18ff). He left the Jordan for a while to work in a Samaritan area (Jn 3:23), which could explain Jesus' statements of 4:37ff: He was reaping what John had previously sown. He returned to Petraea, in the territory of Herod Antipas, who imprisoned him as leader of a dangerous movement that denounced his second marriage. Months later, he was beheaded ( Mk 6:14ff).

## **31: On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry.**

*On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Come then, and hearken, for he brings  
Glad tidings from the King of Kings.*

This popular Advent hymn was originally written in Latin as *Jordanis oras praevia*, and far from being from the Early Church, dates only from the eighteenth century.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>2. Then cleansed be every breast from sin;<br/>Make straight the way for God within;<br/>Prepare we in our hearts a home,<br/>Where such a mighty Guest may come.</p> | <p>4. Stretch forth Thine hand, to heal our sore<br/>And make us rise and fall no more;<br/>Once more upon Thy people shine,<br/>And fill the world with love divine.</p> |
| <p>3. For Thou art our salvation, Lord,<br/>Our refuge, and our great Reward.<br/>Without Thy grace our souls must fade<br/>And wither like a flower decayed.</p>        | <p>5. To Him who left the throne of Heaven<br/>To save mankind, all praise be given;<br/>Like praise be to the Father done,<br/>And Holy Spirit, Three in One.</p>        |

Our hymn is no 12 in the New English Hymnal, and no 208 in the Church Hymnary (Third Edition). It was written by Carolo ('Charles') Coffin (1676-1749) from the Ardennes in France, who became college principal at Beauvais and Rector of the University of Paris. He wrote over a hundred hymns, and in 1736, the vast majority appeared in the Paris Breviary and *Hymni Sacri Auctore Carolo Coffin*. The words were translated by John Chandler (1806-1901), considered to be the best translator of his time, because of his desire to see the Anglican Church correlate ancient prayers with the hymns that would have accompanied them at that time in history. He thus collected and translated many such hymns. Chandler was educated at Corpus Christi College, Oxford and succeeded his father as vicar of Whitley in Surrey. Our hymn was first published in English in Chandler's *Hymns of the Primitive Church of 1837*.

Our hymn has been considerably altered by various editors of hymnbooks, mainly to bring the English translation more into conformity with the original Latin text than was the case with Chandler's rather free translation. The last two lines of the first verse have been variously rendered as

*Awake, and hearken, for he brings  
Glad tidings from the King of Kings.*

The second verse is sometimes rendered

*Then cleansed be every Christian breast,  
And furnished for so great a guest!  
Yea, let us each our hearts prepare  
For Christ to come and enter there.*

Nearly all modern hymnbooks amend the fourth verse to a translation first produced by the Editors of *Hymns Ancient and Modern* in an effort to get closer to Coffin's original Latin:

*To heal the sick stretch out Thine hand  
And bid the fallen sinner stand;  
Shine forth, and let Thy light restore  
Earth's own true loveliness once more.*

Our hymn is written in Long Metre and is universally sung to a tune, the name of which depends on where you live: in England, it is known as Winchester New; in Scotland as Crasselius, and in Germany as Frankfurt. It has been adapted from a chorale in Georg Wittwe's *Musikalisches Hand-Buch*, from Hamburg, 1690. John Wesley introduced it into England in his *Foundry Tune Book* of 1742, where he describes it as a 'swift German tune'. The version we sing today has been arranged by William Henry Havergal (1793-1870).

And so, in Kirk and Cathedral, as we celebrate Advent, we pray with John Bell of the Iona Community:

*The third is for the Baptist,  
Who cried, 'Prepare the way.  
Be ready for Jesus,  
Today and every day'.*

**Andrew Ventin**

# People of Faith & Prayer

John of the Cross (1542-1591) ~ The Dark Night

by Janet Fletcher

John was born near to Avila, in Spain. Showing no interest in the lessons at school, he went to work in a local hospital. While there, he attended the nearby Jesuit school and began to study Latin, rhetoric and the classics. He was encouraged to seek ordination, with the intention and hope that he would then become the hospital chaplain. He became known for his writing and poetry, as well as being a spiritual director. All quotes are taken from, John of the Cross: selected writings, The Classics of Christian spirituality.



John had a deep desire for solitude and the contemplative life, and so joined the Carmelite order, and came to know Theresa of Avila. Theresa was looking for help in transforming the life of the Carmelite nuns into a more contemplative way of being and living; John was one of the friars who offered to help. She wanted a way of prayer which sought to reach into the inner self, withdrawing from the noise of the outer world, and so coming to a complete union with God.

There were times in his life when John's teaching and prayer brought about tension and jealousy with those in authority over him. This led, in 1577, to him being taken, blindfolded, as prisoner, and he then spent about 9 months in a dark small room, with very little to eat. During this time he began to compose poetry as a way of expressing his innermost feelings, and writes of his experience in terms of the dark night, but one that was still held in the love of God. John wrote about the very intimate relationship that God calls us into, and through his writing encouraged others on their own spiritual journey.

John believed that the more we grew in the love of God, the more we could share that love with others through our lives, and that holiness, as a gift of God was something we became more aware of as we sought the presence of God in stillness and prayer. He wrote if we desired God then there would be felt within 'the unfolding of the life of grace into a strict union of the sanctified person with God, who is the source of sanctification.' [pg.29] An unfolding and a union that may seem to be the unobtainable ideal, but one that he grounded within the reality of the dark night, and the love and presence of God.

In the Ascent of Mount Carmel, he writes of the need to be 'empty' to receive the fullness of God's love, and a putting aside of the ways of the world if we are to find true union with God.

*To reach satisfaction in all desire its possession in nothing.*

*To come to possess all desire the possession of nothing.*

*To arrive at being all desire to be nothing..*

*To come to what you are not*

*you must go by a way in which you are not.*

[pg.78]

- What are your thoughts on this short quote?

He sees the way into intimate union with God as coming through the way of negation; that is not negative but positive. We know who we are through knowing who we are not. We come to understand something of who God is through the way in which we understand who God is not.

- In a time of quiet prayer reflect upon the many different aspects of your character, what words and phrases would you use to describe who you are and who you are not.
- Then reflect upon God. What words and phrases would you use to describe who God is to you, and who God is not.
- The Dark Night is the poem John of the Cross is perhaps, most widely known for, and is a part of the Ascent.
- Read through the last verse from The Dark Night, in a time of quietness and prayer:

*I abandoned and forgot myself*

*Laying my face on my beloved;*

*all things ceased; I went out from myself,*

*leaving my cares*

*forgotten among the lilies.*

[pg.56]

- What do these words say to you, and about your relationship with God?
- John uses evocative and intimate language when speaking of his, and our, relationship with God. How comfortable are you in using this style of language to describe your own relationship and journey with God?
- John's desire was to do whatever God asked of him in his life. What is the desire behind all that you do?

John writes the Dark Night from the perspective of having journeyed through the 'dark' and now reflects upon it in the knowledge of God's love for him, for us. The dark night is our journey of faith, which we experience in many different ways – joy and desire for God, to the awareness of the imperfections or sinfulness of life which takes us away from God leading to our need of purifying or cleansing. The dark night may also be a time experienced as feeling utterly alone. John asks us to seek to do the will of God by acknowledging and admitting our imperfections, and allowing the flame of God to transform us.

- In a time of quiet prayer, reflect upon your journey of faith, and those times when you may have experienced a 'dark night'. What did that time feel like? How did it affect, change, deepen, or challenge your relationship with God?

In the Living Flame of Love, the last line is 'How tenderly you swell my heart with love.' [pg.294] To John this is our participation in the life of the Word made flesh and of the Holy Spirit. As we now journey through Advent towards Christmas, how may God 'swell' your 'heart with love', for God, your self, and for others?

# *In our thoughts & prayers*

We give thanks for the **Ecumenical Service of Healing** in December,  
and for all who attended

We remember with thanksgiving those who have passed away recently,  
praying for those who mourn their loss, especially the families and friends of  
**Rosemary Bickersteth** and **Phil Harris**

At this season of **Advent and Christmas**, we pray for a thoughtful preparation  
and a grateful celebration.

We remember those for whom Christmas is a sad or lonely time,  
praying especially for the families and friends of those **servicing in Afghanistan**

## *We pray for:*

Those who are ill or in need, especially

**Celia Lockett, Ken Joplin, Eve Rowbottom, Alan Terry, Michael Davies,  
Vera Roberts, Doreen Davies, Colette Thornborough, George Quarless,  
Sara Doyle, George Keen, Henry Hollinshead, Steve Henshall, Stephen Anderson,  
David Yudain, Muriel Jones, Ethel Turner, Ruby Jones, and Sam Hesketh**

Those attending the **Alpha Course** in the Cathedral on Monday evenings

**Matthew Bowes**, to be baptised in January

All the many **Carol services**, Concerts and School events being held in the Cathedral

The **charities** being supported by the Cathedral during this month:-

**St George's Church in Baghdad**,

supporting several thousand Iraqi Christians of all denominations;

the Anglican Parish of **Goma** in eastern **Congo**,

giving hope by training local leaders in reconciliation;

**Henshaws Society for Blind People**, based here in Liverpool;

and **Macmillan Cancer Support**, particularly in its work locally

*The Labyrinth* in the Well after Christmas,

that bit may be a source of discovery and deepening for all who use it

The *Icons in Transformation* exhibition, arriving at the end of January

# Dates for your Diary

## January

- 3rd 10:30am** Cathedral Eucharist for the Epiphany  
**3pm** *God in Man Made Manifest* - Carols on the feast of Epiphany
- 10th 10:30am** Cathedral Eucharist with the Star Carrier & Kings from Cologne
- 17th 10:30am** Cathedral Eucharist with Ministry of Healing
- 18th 7:30pm** *Embracing Hope* Service
- 24th 7pm** Cathedral Eucharist for *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* and Farewell to Canon Jeremy Duff  
**3pm** Choral Evensong. Preacher: The Rev Canon Jamie Calloway, Trinity Church, Wall Street, New York
- 24th 10:30am** Cathedral Eucharist for Candlemas
- 23/29 2 - 10pm** *Building an Ethical Economy*  
Webcast conference from Trinity Wall Street, Hosted by Justin Welby

## February

- 1st 10:30am** All Saints Day Eucharist
- 17th 8:30am** Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday  
**12:05pm** Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday  
**5:30pm** Cathedral Eucharist for Ash Wednesday  
Preacher: Baroness Perry of Southwark  
**7:30pm** *The World Today ...through the eyes of Jesus*  
First in a series for Lent led by Bishop James  
(see page 12 for details)
- 22nd 7-8pm** The Utility Force: *The Art of War in the Modern World*  
General Sir Rupert Smith KCB, DSO & Bar, OBE, QGM
- 26th & 27th** *Food for the Journey* - a lenten pilgrimage in the Cathedral  
Led by Rev Judy Hurst

## March

- 12th 7-8pm** *Will they Ever Learn?*  
the role of the international community in the Balkans & the possibility of peace building. Lecture by Rev Donald Reeves MBE



# Icons in Transformation

a unique, unmissable exhibition

February 1st - March 18th, 2010



"Icons have a spiritual power,  
you see the eyes and you're hypnotised"

Ludmila Pawlowska

# Cathedral Services

**Sunday** 8:30am Morning Prayer and Holy Communion  
10:30am The Cathedral Eucharist  
3:00pm Choral Evensong  
4:00pm Holy Communion

**Monday** 8:30am Morning Prayer  
to 12:05pm Holy Communion  
**Friday** 5:30pm Choral Evensong (said on Wednesdays)

**Saturday** 8:30am Morning Prayer and Holy Communion  
12:05pm Holy Communion  
3:00pm Choral Evensong

## Other Sunday Services

~~10:30am~~ Concert Room *St. Andrews, Church of Scotland.* Contact John Henderson for more info: 0151 652 8368 or hendeja@yahoo.co.uk

~~12:15pm~~ Concert Room *Liverpool Iranian Church*

~~5pm~~ Lady Chapel *All-age Dream*, 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month

~~7:30pm~~ Lady Chapel *Dream*, Last Sunday of the month

