



# **Friends of Bradford Cathedral**

## **Newsletter Spring 2017**

# Letter from the Chairman

Dear Friends

Well, we should all be enjoying warm summer days now – and I'm preparing to go off on holiday in the not too distant future. By rights, we should all be feeling pleasantly relaxed, looking forward to a summer of walking, picnics with the family, swimming (my latest attempt at keeping fit) and generally enjoying God's generous gifts in creation.

But ...

I write this at the end of the week which saw twenty-two men, women and children killed in a cruel terrorist attack in Manchester. The shadow of this atrocity hangs heavy still, for many reasons, and much has been said and written about it.

I was in our Cathedral for other reasons on the Tuesday – we had had a good "Stitching the Cathedral" session and had planned a meeting of the Friends' Committee that evening. Instead, I was able to be a part of the very simple, but very moving, service held at 6.00pm. Led by Bishop Toby, it lasted half an hour. There were close to two hundred people there, of all faiths and none: politicians, civic leaders, men, women, children and babes in arms. Bishop Toby was supported by Canon Mandy and Canon Paul and by other faith leaders, and the choir sang beautifully. There were words of comfort and prayers for peace, prayers for the injured and the bereaved, for the emergency services and for those who had perpetrated such evil. At the end, we were invited to light candles: a simple act, but filled with many different meanings and representing many different prayers. There were tears and there were hugs – but running through it all was the sense of unity of purpose in what we were about and the knowledge that the only way that such hatred is conquered is by love. Perhaps symbolic of all that is that as I stood by the door with Canon Mandy to say thank you and farewell, I was hugged by people whom I did not know – a tangible sign of what had been so strongly felt as we prayed and wept.

This is what our Cathedral is for: it is a safe space, a sacred space and a welcoming space. The city and its people knew without question that there would be solace and someone to speak to – and so they came. It made me realise yet again what an important task we have “to support and encourage those responsible for the pastoral work of the Cathedral in City and Diocese and beyond”. Please can I urge you to continue to do your best to uphold the Cathedral and its staff and also to encourage others to join us in this vital task? Thank you for all you do.

In Friendship

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie Wajhr". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single blue stroke.

Chairman, Friends of Bradford Cathedral

## **Visit to St Stephen’s Church, Bowling and SHINE**

– Monica Slocombe writes;

For our parish visit this year we will be going to an inner city parish to see the amazing way they are working with their diverse community. Their journey is incredible and shows us the true spirit of living God’s word and all with the love of Jesus. If you would like to join us, the Friends will be visiting the parish on Thursday 29th June at 10 .30am. This has been changed from the previously published date of 15th June.

As parking is limited, we will be going by bus to St Stephen’s church, setting off from Bradford Interchange bus station. Please meet us at the interchange at 10.15am . We anticipate the visit will last about two hours and we hope to return back to Bradford centre by lunchtime.

If you intend to come or would like further details please contact Monica Slocombe on 0113 2574403, or email her on [monica@monicaslocombe.com](mailto:monica@monicaslocombe.com), so that we have a rough idea of numbers please.

## Next year's programme

We are already beginning to think about the programme for next year. The date of the AGM is fixed as Sunday May 13th, and I am very hopeful that we shan't have to alter that this time! My apologies to anyone who had the wrong date in their diary for this year: I know there were some of you.

We are also hoping to pay a visit to Leicester and another to Lincoln during 2018. We have been promised a warm welcome to Lincoln by John G. Campbell, BEM, who is presently Dean's Verger at the Cathedral. He was on the staff at Bradford for five years from 1978 to 1983 and has many happy memories of that time. We'll let you know the dates and details for these visits as soon as they are confirmed.

Those of you who joined us for our Annual Lunch last year will remember just how good it was! Such was the enjoyment of the venue that this year's event has been booked at the same place: the Rendezvous Hotel, just outside Skipton. The location of the dining room with a view along the canal, together with the quality of both the food and the service, made it a unanimous choice for this year's event. Please book Sunday 15th October in your diary now and be sure not to miss it!

Our final event of the year is the Friends' Day in the Cathedral. This has become a much enjoyed element of the Friends' year and I am really looking forward to what is on offer this time. The date is Wednesday 6th December; this is later than we've normally held it, but there is a reason! Previously, we have looked at the Cathedral's silver and at the textiles, as well as enjoying a quiet Eucharist and the Organ recital. This year, we shall just have heralded the beginning of Advent, and so we've asked Revd. Paul Booth to lead some quiet, more meditative sessions during the day.

### **'Wait for the Lord, whose day is near'**

Waiting can be a tedious old business! But we have an opportunity today to explore a little of what 'Advent waiting' might be about, in the beautiful surroundings of Bradford Cathedral. Advent waiting is really about paying attention to God, the One who promises to be ever-present, and Paul will help us explore this using a variety of practical resources.

## Paul Booth

Paul writes:



Although I had been aware of God at an earlier age, my world was different from the moment (at 16) when I sensed God promise to me that “I will be the father you long for; the father you lost” - my father had died when I was 13.

Starting work in the hotel trade as a waiter in Cornwall, then a porter in my home town of Cambridge, I had a variety of jobs before being ordained as an Anglican priest in Bradford in 1979. After 18 years of parish ministry in Yorkshire, I retired on health grounds, having contracted a serious paralysing illness.

I felt bereft and abandoned by God, but I marvel at the way new life emerged from what felt like the scrap heap. What has blossomed is a new awareness and appreciation of God, and new opportunities of ministry.

I found myself training and having pastoral responsibility for Anglican lay readers, and, more amazingly still for me, I ventured into what was then a foreign land to me - spiritual direction. Now ‘properly’ retired (or at least old enough to receive a state pension!), I work as a spiritual director and retreat leader.

I love to encourage others on their journeys with God, and help people ‘lift the stones’ of their experiences to see what life might be teeming there!

To relax I enjoy kite-flying, writing poetry, photography, cooking and walking. I also cycle a bit (but Yorkshire is VERY hilly!), and occasionally I dare to play with colour and acrylic paint!

Shalom  
Paul

## **AGM News**

Many thanks to those of you who were able to come to our Friends' Annual General Meeting early in April. I know these functions aren't the most enthralling way of spending a Sunday afternoon, but they are necessary and we do try to make them as entertaining as we can!

We heard from the Dean, who gave us a comprehensive update on the work of the Cathedral and plans for the future. We are already looking to 2019, which will be the Centenary celebration of St. Peter's church, Bradford, becoming the Cathedral for the then Diocese of Bradford.

Our Treasurer, Monica, brought us up to date with our financial state before we re-elected our Vice Presidents, Bishop Toby and Sir James. The Committee was re-elected, with the very welcome addition of Heather Chaudhary. We hope she enjoys the work as much as we do!

As always, we welcome new members; one gentleman approached me recently to ask who were the men on the Committee. When I told him we had but one, he was not impressed and I couldn't persuade him to improve the statistic!!

## **London September 4th–5th**

I expect that the next edition of this newsletter may be bursting with reports and photos of our London visit in September! The coach is booked and hotel rooms are reserved at the Marriott Hotel in Waltham Abbey. From there, we'll have an easy "hop" down to London on second day

We'll visit Hatfield House and gardens on the way down and, on the Tuesday, there's a bumper package awaiting us at St Paul's, including an exclusive tour, coffee with the Dean, a chance to see the Library with its 1526 Tyndale Bible and 1125 Psalter, the amazing Great Model, created by Wren to show his concept for the new building.

And the good news is that we have a couple of places still available! If you'd like to join us, do get in touch with Jill really quickly. The cost is £160 for Friends or £175 for others - but that includes a year's subscription to the Friends as well...

# Stitching the Cathedral

This project was the direct result of the “Friends in the Cathedral Day” in September 2015. If you remember, from that day emerged a plan to complete the kneelers for the main altar. This is the last part of the project to provide four seasonal altar frontals, with matching pulpit falls and clergy stoles.

A very faithful group has met regularly every two weeks, with very few exceptions, since January 2016. We have never been less than nine in number and on a couple of occasions have welcomed twenty-one!



We’ve also enjoyed some sessions on Saturday mornings; this means that those who work during the week are able to join us, as are choir children and their families. People come from all over the place! The majority belong to churches in the Bradford Area, but some are visitors and some are not “church people” at all, but simply enjoy the sewing and the company (and the cakes?).

Everyone who stitches is entered into “the book” and we are adding some photos as we go along. A couple of weeks ago, I did some fact based maths and I reckon we have chalked up at least eight hundred hours’ worth of sewing.

We are about half-way through, and the Dean wants to dedicate them during 2019!

If you’d like to sew, or simply to find out more, please contact Gill Davis in the first instance. ([gillian.davis@bradfordcathedral.org](mailto:gillian.davis@bradfordcathedral.org))

## **Events for 2017**

Alternate Tuesdays Stitching The Cathedral ("till 5th December)  
June 29th Visit to St Stephen's Church, Bowling  
September 4th/5th The "London Trip"  
October 15th Annual Lunch at Rendezvous in Skipton  
December 6th Friends' Day in the Cathedral  
May 13th 2018 Annual General Meeting  
2018 Visits to Lincoln and to Leicester

## **Contact the Friends!**

You can contact the Chair of the Friends by email or phone:  
jill@woodchipcomputers.co.uk 01535 634526

**[www.bradfordcathedralfriends.org.uk](http://www.bradfordcathedralfriends.org.uk)**

## **A Prayer for The Friends of Bradford Cathedral**

**God, our heavenly Father,  
we thank you for the presence and witness over many centuries of the  
Cathedral Church of St Peter, Bradford.**

**Give your grace and wisdom to those who serve and minister there  
to the congregation, the diocese, the city,  
and everyone who enters its walls day by day.**

**Bless all Friends of the Cathedral in our fellowship  
with the living Lord Jesus.**

**Inspire us by your Holy Spirit as we work and provide together  
in helping the building to speak of your harmony, truth and beauty.**

**May we ourselves, in word and act, tell the wonder of your power,  
to save and to transform,  
that others shall be led into the experience and joy  
of belonging to the Friends of your Kingdom.**

**This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen**