

From the Dean

The Choir really did us proud at the Advent Carol Service. But it helps that Advent provides such a rich diet of music from which to choose. I suspect it's one of those seasons that Christians most look forward to though it's a slightly strange season, more or less confined to the Church. For while we put on our purple vestments as a sign of penitence, the world is already celebrating Christmas. For weeks now we've been listening to carols as we trundle round the shops. Christmas parties are already happening. And Father Christmas has taken up residence in all the shops.

Commercialism requires that Christmas starts in mid-October, and probably draws to an undignified close in some drunken stupor on Boxing Day. But in church, we attempt to resist such pressures to rush straight into Christmas. John the Baptist spent his whole ministry encouraging us to prepare for the coming of the Lord, and Advent is the season in which to do it. We put so much effort into the practical preparations for Christmas: wrapping presents, writing cards, putting up the decorations, and so on. So what about spiritual preparation as well? The birth of my Goddaughter brought home to me how important it is to get ready. I visited her mother in hospital, and realized how terrifying it is having your life turned upside down by a baby. I knew I wouldn't cope. "No," replied Maria, "nor would we, if we hadn't had nine months to get used to the idea." Some of us are better at preparing than others, but the Church has given us the season of Advent in which to prepare to have our lives turned upside down by the babe of Bethlehem.



Of course it's not easy keeping Advent at the Cathedral. It's marvellous welcoming so many schools and groups into the building, but all the carol services and concerts provide us with a particular challenge if we are to take Advent seriously. So if you want some practical ideas about how to keep this season, let me recommend a little book: "Do nothing - Christmas is coming" by Bishop Stephen Cottrell, formerly of this diocese. You can get a copy from the Cathedral Bookshop, priced £4.99, and it provides a short practical suggestion for every day of Advent, to help us slow down and prepare for a joyful and Christ-centred Christmas. That surely is what we all hope our Christmas celebrations will be, and I for one am very grateful to the Bishop for his down to earth approach to our spiritual life.

Whether or not you use the book, may I take this opportunity on behalf of all of us at the Cathedral, to wish you a holy Christmas, and a very happy new year.

Jonathan Greener
Dean of Wakefield

"Let it shine" - Wakefield Cathedral Christmas Appeal - Please give generously to help us bring light and life to Wakefield all year long. Please put £1 into a collecting box when you come into the Cathedral this Christmas.

inside
this
issue

Page 2 -
Serving
News in Brief

Page 3 -
Events listings
New Precentor

Page 4 -
Helping others at
Christmas

Lay Ministry in the Cathedral

Articles focussing on different aspects of Lay Ministry offered in the Cathedral will feature over the next few issues of Cathedral News. This month Marlene Beresford, Head Server, writes about the role of Cathedral Server.

Jesus taught us that mutual service is a hallmark of an authentic Christian life. Jesus himself tells how he came not to be served, but to serve. At the Last Supper, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, much to their initial discomfort: a supreme act of service.

Being a Server at Wakefield Cathedral is a wonderful opportunity to play a different, sometimes demanding, role in worship and liturgy. It is a special kind of ministry. Yet it is a ministry accessible to all. Although servers are lay people, they stand alongside the priest at the Eucharist within the "Holy of Holies". They are a part of the liturgy at which they attend, in a ceremonial capacity.

A server is, as the name implies, a servant being present within worship to serve. Sometimes this service is low profile. Hopefully you don't notice the servers too much. Although they may lead a procession, carrying the cross or torches, or creating clouds of smoke with the thurible, servers are there to blend in to the background.

Have you got a sense of commitment? Are you adaptable? Could you work as part of a team, or on your own, leading others in worship by just being there? Our team of servers is very dedicated but it needs replenishment. On average, fifteen servers are required every Sunday. Would you like to serve? Serving is not difficult and there is plenty of

training available. Please have a word with Marlene, the Head Server, or speak to one of the clergy if you would like to explore the possibilities that this very valuable ministry has to offer.



News in Brief

Development Day: The Trustees of the Heritage Lottery Fund will be meeting in London on Tuesday 16 December to consider the bid from Wakefield Cathedral. All are invited to come to the Cathedral at 8am when special prayers will be offered at the Morning Liturgy. If you are unable to attend, please offer your own prayers for the future of the Cathedral on this day.

Cathedral Coffee Mornings: Volunteers will be required from January to help run coffee mornings on Fridays and Saturdays in Treacy Hall. Further details will be available from the New Year.

Stewardship: Thank you to the 61 members of the Cathedral congregations who responded to the recent Stewardship Campaign, pledging £34,302.96 over the coming 12 months. This has helped Chapter with the budget for 2009. If you would like to pledge your giving, please fill in a pledge card or speak to the Cathedral Administrator.

Victorian Market: Thank you to everyone who helped make the Cathedral's contribution to the Victorian Market a huge success. The total raised was £3,685.05.

East End Roof: Thanks to the diligent work of Norman & Underwood, the work on the East End Roof (pictured right) has been completed well ahead of schedule.

Opening hours: Cathedral Centre will be open as usual until 1200 on Christmas Eve then closed until 0900 Friday 2 January 2009.



Cathedral Diary

Saturday 6 December

1300 Shoppers Carols

Sunday 7 December

1400 Wakefield Hospice "Tree & of Lights" Service (entry by Ticket only)
1700

Monday 8 December

1915 Wakefield Hospice "Tree of Lights" Concert

Tuesday 9 December

1300 Lunchtime Concert

Wednesday 10 December

1230 Advent Talk & Lunch (Treacy Hall)

Saturday 13 December

1300 Shoppers Carols

1900 Friends of Pinderfields Hospital Concert (Ticket)

Tuesday 16 December

1300 Lunchtime Concert

Wednesday 17 December

1230 Advent Talk & Lunch (Treacy Hall)

Friday 19 December

1930 Carols by Candlelight (Ticket only)

Saturday 20 December

1300 Shoppers Carols
1930 Yorkshire Philharmonic Choir's Annual Christmas Concert (SOLD OUT)

Sunday 21 December

1600 Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

Wednesday 24 December

1600 Christingle
2300 Midnight Mass

Thursday 25 December

0800 Holy Communion
0915 Parish Eucharist
1100 Choral Eucharist

Saturday 3 January 2009

1730 MISSA

Sunday 11 January

1100 Junior Church Christmas Party (until 1400)

Sunday 18 January

1600 Epiphanytide Carol Service

Wednesday 21 January

1915 Meal with Roman Catholic Church

Saturday 31 January

1730 MISSA

New Precentor

As most of you will know by now, Canon John Lees is retiring from Wakefield on 31 January. He and Jane are going to live in Wolverhampton, where Jane has been appointed as a lecturer at the University. We are very grateful for all that they have contributed to Cathedral life here in Wakefield, and shall have a chance to bid them farewell on Sunday 11 January at the 0915 and 1100 eucharists.

We have already begun the process of finding a successor to John. Some people around the diocese may wonder why, at this time of proposed clergy cuts, we don't consider reducing a post at the Cathedral. However, we, like every Cathedral in the country, receive statutory funding for the Dean and two full-time Canons directly from the Church Commissioners. The Commissioners have no discretion over whether to make this payment, and therefore this appointment makes no impact on diocesan numbers and funding. We do hope, however, that the new Precentor will be able to continue to expand and develop the liturgical and musical support that the Cathedral offers to parishes throughout the diocese.

Jonathan Greener

Service Times

Sunday:	0800	Holy Communion (said)
	0915	Eucharist & Junior Church (choral)
	1100	Eucharist (choral)
	1600	Choral Evensong
Monday to Saturday:	0800	Morning Liturgy
	1030	Eucharist (Wednesday & Saturday)
	1230	Eucharist (Monday & Friday)
	1230	Prayers for Peace (Thursday)
	1530	Evening Prayer (Saturday)
	1630	Evening Prayer (Monday & Friday)
	1700	Choral Evensong (Tuesday)*
	1800	Choral Evensong (Wednesday)*
	1830	Choral Evensong (Thursday)*

*Outside choir term time Evening Prayer is said at 1630.

Sponsors

Marta Smith - Reflexologist
T: 01924 255629
M: 07952 275448

Ian Pickup & Co
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors
T: 0113 2583343

Dixon Coles and Gill
Diocesan Registrars
Solicitors & Notaries
T: 01924 373467

Wakefield Funeral Services
Personal Service & Advice
T: 01924 372260 (24 hrs)

STOP PRESS - Congratulations to Jonathan Bielby who is to receive the honorary award of Fellow of the Royal School of Church Music for his distinguished contribution to music and worship as England's longest serving cathedral organist.

Wakefield Rent Deposit Scheme

Wakefield Rent Deposit Scheme (WRDS) lies at the heart of the Cathedral's mission in helping the homeless of Wakefield. Last month you read about the Scheme and the appeal to donate toiletries to its Service Users.



Wakefield Rent Deposit Scheme

A set of basic toiletries may seem an incidental expense to most of us soap and water, a toothbrush and toothpaste slip into our weekly shopping basket without a thought. But for those moving from homelessness and into a settled life, expenses quickly mount and it is hard to keep up to everything. Moving home is a stressful time, and moving out of homelessness is no less so. Anything WRDS can do to ease this transition is part of its work. WRDS would like to thank all those that helped with the Harvest Appeal for toiletries.

We all like to receive presents at Christmas and most of us have come to expect a few extra goodies, to see us through the Festive Season. Homeless people are just like the rest of us. They have the same feelings of hope and expectation at

Christmas, the difference being that these are rarely realised. WRDS works throughout the year to try and sustain its clients in a "normal" way of life, away from the chaos and isolation of homelessness. It wants clients to have the things that most of us take for granted: a roof over their heads and a bit of help and support when things get tough. It also wants them to have a bit of something extra at Christmas.

If you would like to help us provide Christmas Boxes this year, please donate to this Christmas appeal. The gifts together with our regular food packs cost us about £500 per year; they help out just when help is most needed.

If you could help us with this cost, your money will directly affect the lives of homeless people across

Wakefield at Christmas and over the next year. You can make a financial donation to "Wakefield Cathedral" and mark it for "WRDS Christmas Appeal". You can use the Cathedral Gift Aid envelope.

If you would prefer to offer your support by donating to our "Christmas Box Appeal" please leave your non-perishable food items or seasonal gifts with a Verger.

If you would like any information about Wakefield Rent Deposit Scheme, or the ways in which it supports about 100 homeless people in the district at any one time, please do not hesitate to contact them by email: info@wrds.org.uk or telephone: 01924 394575.

Friends of Marsh Way House

As in previous years, Friends of Marsh Way House are hoping to provide presents and cards for all the residents at Christmas.

Many of the Marsh Way House residents have no contact with family or friends and would be unlikely to receive Christmas presents or cards.

Any gift, however small, is most welcome (particularly toiletries, chocolates, socks etc.). Please wrap your gift, write a card and label whether it is for male or female.

Alan and Jill Calvert will be taking all gifts to Marsh Way House on Sunday 21 December. Thank you for your support.



Contact details

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E: admin@wakefield-cathedral.org.uk W: www.wakefield-cathedral.org.uk

Please recycle this newsletter after reading

The Cathedral is open daily from 0800.

For all enquiries please contact Cathedral Centre.