

# Cathedral news



March 2009

## “Gethsemane” - the Lent 2009 Exhibition in the Cathedral

Matthew Askey, local artist and Ordinand at the College of the Resurrection Mirfield, will be displaying an exhibition of 15 narrative ‘prayer paintings’ on the theme of Gethsemane.

In a recent discussion on his work, Matthew Askey said, “Prayer is by nature an optimistic act I think. Even when all seems lost the actual act of praying, and of making a painting, is a hopeful and reconciling one in itself – it is making that step towards goodness and belief in life.

“Some of the subject matter is dark, or difficult, because life is difficult and these are the very things that need the most prayer. A prayer about torture is an act of solidarity and identification with the victim, and a great hope for healing and goodness in the face of such terror. This is what I mean when I talk about the drama of the light and the darkness in the paintings. It is something Francis Bacon also had as a central theme in much of his work – the light bulb and the switch cord within reach (easy to turn the light off and extinguish the image/painting). The darkness can be all around and the fact we are alive – the goodness of life – is only enabled by virtue of the light. It is a moral drama also in this way. The light enables us to see, and enables us to see the life we have been given; all depends upon it. This is the central metaphor and theme of the Prayer Paintings.



“These paintings have really been great gifts in parity with my cultural context now. I have walked away from the ‘art market/art world’ context and brought my work directly to God through the church. It is my hope that these works will be used in prayer and worship by Churches and Cathedrals around the world, in this way they are a part of my priestly ministry too – facilitating prayer and thought. I can then give back what I have been given.”



Have you visited the Cathedral website recently? There have been a few changes. It is now up to date and much easier to navigate. Feedback and pictures (especially of people) are very welcome.

The exhibition runs from 25 February throughout Lent in Wakefield Cathedral and is open daily during normal Cathedral opening times (except services). Entry is free.

[www.wakefield-cathedral.org.uk](http://www.wakefield-cathedral.org.uk)

# The Friends of Chantry Chapel

Kate Taylor gives an insight into the history of one of Wakefield's most important landmarks and the work of the Friends.

Since they were formed in 1990 the Friends have spent more than £100,000 on the chapel including repairs to, or renewal of, the stonework and the installation of new heating and lighting. Their present aim is to build up a capital endowment of a further £100,000 so that future repairs can be financed from the income from the investment.

This year will see open days on 13 April, 25 May, 31 August and 13 September when Friends will staff the chapel from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm. On 18 July there will be a 'party on the bridge' with the Chantry open from 10.00 am until 3.30 pm and with stalls and entertainments on the bridge itself and talks, and a service at 12 noon, in the chapel. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Friends are always happy to host group visits at other times.

The original Chantry was built in the mid-fourteenth century as an integral part of Wakefield's ambitious new stone bridge (replacing a vulnerable wooden one) across the Calder. After the Reformation and the subsequent dissolution of the Chantries in the sixteenth century, the chapel served a range of secular uses for almost 300 years. On the initiative of the then Vicar of Wakefield, Samuel Sharp, it was restored as a place of worship in the 1840s when all except the medieval crypt was rebuilt to the design of George Gilbert Scott. Scott's choice of stone from Caen and Bath was unfortunate. Unlike the crypt and the bridge itself, both of local stone, Scott's work is prone to erosion. Major restoration was needed in the 1880s and again in the 1930s, when Scott's front was replaced by the present one,

designed by Sir Charles Nicholson.

From 1844, when the new parish was created, until 1966, the Chantry lay within the boundary of the parish of St Mary. Slum clearance and the dispersal of its population then led to St Mary's being merged with St Andrew's parish. A reluctant PCC found itself faced with a further major restoration almost immediately.

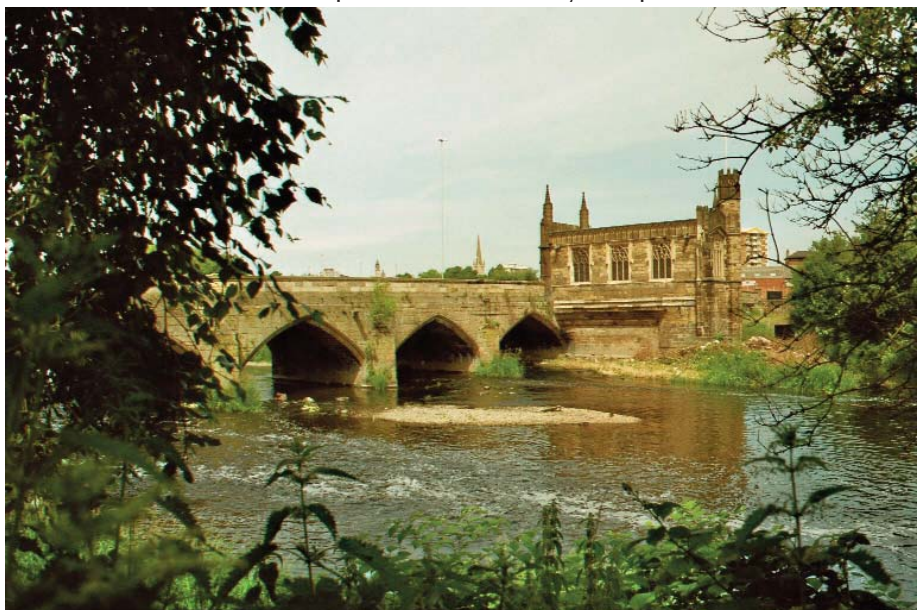
It was when yet more extensive repairs became necessary in the late 1980s that the body of Friends was formed, promising to ensure that the Chantry was made good again and from then on kept in good repair. Following the theft of all the lead from the roof and the serious damage done by thieves to the parapet in October 2007, the Friends, true to their word, made up the difference between the sums paid by the insurers and the full cost of the work.

Since 2000, when the parish boundaries were subtly changed, the Chantry has been under the care of the Dean and Chapter of

Wakefield Cathedral. There is a communion service there at 4.30 pm on the first Sunday of each month.

More Friends are always needed. For an annual subscription of £10 they receive several newsletters a year, advance notice of events, and the knowledge that they are preserving one of Wakefield's most significant landmarks as well as a very beautiful place of worship. Enquiries can be made to the Hon Treasurer, Harry Livesey, Junction 41 Business Court, Thorpe Road, East Ardsley, Wakefield WF3 2AB.

The Friends of Wakefield Chantry Chapel have arranged their first event of 2009 for 28 March when the Doncaster Wheatsheaf singers will present a programme of light popular choral music including songs from the shows, pop classics, and ballads in the historic bridge chapel. Tickets at £5 are available from Kate Taylor, 19 Pinder's Grove, Wakefield WF1 4AH. Cheques should be made payable to "The Friends of Wakefield Chantry Chapel".



Chantry Chapel sits on a bridge over the Calder. The Cathedral spire can be seen in the background.

# Wakefield Rent Deposit Scheme

I was invited to Cathedral Live early in February, when the snow was on the ground, and the temperature had plummeted to -4°C. As I drove into Wakefield I was, of course, thinking about the fate of that group of homeless people, who are not only homeless, but are also roofless - the people that end up sleeping on our streets in all weathers.

Some of our work with rough sleepers currently centres on the "Cold Weather provision" that is open on the coldest nights at Wakefield Baptist Church. They offer 15 bed spaces on cold nights, warm food, some company and information about housing advice services. Nicola, our Rough Sleeper Worker, works with the rough sleepers, supporting them and trying to find them somewhere to live. Over the last 5 weeks Nicola has found homes for six rough sleepers, three more are in the pipeline.

Nicola first met Michael before Christmas, when he knew he might become homeless. By the time she met him again he had lost his home, was sleeping on the streets, his mental health had deteriorated, his drug support work was at risk and his Probation Officer was concerned about his future. He was sleeping in a tent, and Nicola helped him out with provisions of food, bedding and clothing. As the weather deteriorated, he moved in with a friend, but soon became homeless again. He used the "Cold Weather provision", and Nicola helped to sort out benefits. With financial support from WRDS, she identified a private rented property for him to rent. He received a "Starter Pack" of food and domestic provisions from WRDS, and will occasionally be offered further packs from WRDS. Michael is now maintaining his tenancy, he is working at stabilising his lifestyle. His drug support is going well, his Probation Officer's concerns have abated, and he is attending training to get back into work.

The work of WRDS with homeless people across Wakefield District is directly supported by contributions that enable us to offer food and other provisions to our service users. We would like to thank all those who helped us to provide Christmas presents last year, and remind you that our work continues throughout the year.

You will be able to find out more about WRDS when our website is launched. More details to follow soon.

**Julie Burnham**  
Scheme Manager

## Sponsors of Cathedral news

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

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

Wakefield Funeral Services T: 01924 372260

## Diary highlights

Events for International Women's Week will take place from 2 - 7 March. More details are available on the Cathedral website.

Lent Talks with lunch will be held in Treacy Hall from 12.30 - 1.30 pm each Wednesday in Lent from 4 March. Further details from the Lent leaflet, available from the back of the Cathedral or on the website.

Exhibitions:

March - Gethsemane by Matthew Askey (see page 1)  
17 - 28 March Art Exhibition by Janet Flynn  
28 March Art Exhibition by Vince Flaherty

The next Cathedral Live with Roger Grainger will be on Wednesday 4 March.

Please see the weekly sheet or the web for other events.

### Service times

Sunday:	0800	Holy Communion (said)
	0915	Eucharist & Junior Church (choral)
	1100	Eucharist (choral)
	1600	Choral Evensong
Monday to	0800	Morning Liturgy
Saturday:	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.

# Lent and Holy Week 2009

Lent will soon be upon us – the forty days given by God to provide time for our annual spiritual makeover. The traditional Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving are all designed with this in mind. So while, for some people, Lent simply means giving things up, much more important is to consider how to use this season to deepen our relationship with God. What might I find time for that gets squeezed out the rest of the year?

The Cathedral has a number of things planned to support our Lenten pilgrimage. A series of Lent talks on Wednesdays at 12.30 pm will allow us to consider the role of the Church engaging with society. And please join us in the Treacy Hall for a Lent lunch before or after the talk: all profits will be divided between the Church Urban Fund and funding for the provision of water pumps for wells in Mara.

Lent Groups will meet at different times and venues: we shall be using the material provided by the diocese as part of the Transforming Lives programme. This year, groups will have a chance to review Cathedral life as part of their discussions, and we hope will feed into the strategic plan that Chapter is currently in the process of producing for the next five years. We shall tell you more about this plan when we gather for the Annual Meeting on Sunday 29 March.

The Cathedral clergy will preach a series of sermons in Lent based on the themes of welcome and hospitality. Receiving people in the name of Christ is such an important part of our role and mission as a Cathedral; and we want constantly to find ways of improving the welcome we provide to our city and diocese, as well as the many casual visitors who come through our doors.

The climax of our Lenten journey is of course Holy Week, and we are delighted this year to welcome as our preacher Dr Gavin Ashenden, Chaplain to Sussex University. I've heard Gavin speak many times, and he is always entertaining, creative, and challenging. Even if it's not been your practice in the past, please try to give some priority to joining our Holy Week worship: I know you'll find it immensely rewarding.

More details about all our Lenten plans are set out in a leaflet you can pick up at the Cathedral (or view on the Cathedral website). Whatever you decide to do this Lent, I pray that God will bless this time, and encourage you in your faith and daily life.

**Jonathan Greener**

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## News in brief

**A big thank you to Margaret Carr:** After over 20 years dedicated service to the Cathedral community Margaret has now retired as organiser of the weekly giving envelope scheme. We are indebted to Margaret for the many hours of dedicated work behind the scenes that have ensured that the giving scheme has worked smoothly and efficiently. Enquiries regarding the scheme should now be directed to John Courtney.

**For all the Saints!** At the Cathedral we have a great affinity and devotion to the saints. From March we will be starting a series of Evensong sermons about the saints, beginning with the saints dedicated in our Quire stalls. Come along and learn a little more about our spiritual heritage.

**Drama of the Rite:** a new book by local author Roger Grainger discusses the characteristics of the liturgical experience. This highly recommended title is available from the Cathedral Bookshop priced £12.99.

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## Contact details

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