

# Winter Newsletter 2017



# A message from the Dean



This has, as usual, been an exciting and busy time in the Cathedral's life. The most important aspect of our life, the worship of Almighty God carries on unabated, and underpins all that we do. We had a wonderful Science Festival in May/June which saw a considerable number of new people come to the Cathedral, and opened up contacts with fresh networks, not least the science establishments in and around Cambridge.

This time last year I wrote about the Masterplanning process that we've been undertaking, and I hope that you are aware that at in its written form it is available on the website. This continues to be work in progress and as I have said on several occasions given the uncertain financial climate in which we find ourselves, and aware of the problems that have beset other Cathedrals, we are discerning the way ahead without overextending ourselves. If we are to approach the HLF for support there is a considerable amount of preparation work to be done, and we are investigating this.

One of the priorities within the Masterplan is the renewal of the Octagon altar and furnishings and I am delighted that this project is well underway using a legacy from the late Bishop and Mrs Peter Walker. Since worship is our primary purpose it is good that this is the first of the Masterplan projects to be undertaken. Alongside that I am very pleased to see how the Lantern Choristership has attracted a considerable number of regular donations. Our choirs are a critical part of what attracts people to worship at the Cathedral, and the Order's support for the choral tradition is greatly appreciated.

This has been the 25th anniversary year of the founding of the Order, and I hope that you will also be able to support the campaign to raise money towards re-landscaping the East Lawn, including a rose garden. At the Order Annual Meeting this year this was proposed as a fitting 25th Anniversary project for the Order.

Do come and join us for worship over the Christmas period, it is an extraordinarily special time of year as we celebrate the miracle that is 'God with us', the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

A very Happy Christmas to you all.

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Mark Bonney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line underneath.

The Very Revd Mark Bonney

# A faithful and wise steward

The name - Ely Cathedral Trust - describes prosaically and yet precisely its role and status. Its title lacks the sheer charisma, imagination and emotional connectivity of the Trust's brilliantly branded membership group, The Order of St Etheldreda. The Order, its members and activities rightly take centre stage in highlighting the need to generate funds - funds needed to maintain and enhance the fabric and facilities of our Cathedral, and ensure that our choirs and the beauty of our musical offering enrich our worship, attracting pilgrims and visitors alike.

The Trust does what it says on the tin. It seeks to safeguard membership fees, donations and legacies; it invests these funds, approving the investment strategy of our multi million pound capital base and monitors the performance of our selected fund manager; it receives and considers Chapter's annual requests for funding; and especially ensures that funds are allocated strictly in accordance with donors' wishes. The Trust has charitable status, is subject to independent annual audit and submits its Report and Accounts to the Charity Commission. Trustees have experience in senior roles in business or the professions in the public, private and voluntary sectors.



The benefit of the Trust for our Cathedral is that it represents a significant source of funds for Chapter, and an additional bank providing a cash flow safety net in the event of the need for urgent repairs or other unexpected requirements. Trustees are informed of the Cathedral's monthly operating results, understand the activity and pressures of running a complex operation in such an historic building, and appreciate the constructive and open way of working together.

While avoiding specific financial numbers which are, of course, available to Order members on request or by accessing the website, the Trust has, in the breathless prose of Accountants, 'enjoyed satisfactory returns' over the last few years (a doubling of the funds under investment) and 'met Chapter's requests' (a tripling of the value of grants awarded annually). The generosity of Order members with some sizable legacies, grants from other charitable trusts, the splendid work of the Development and Finance teams and the collegial atmosphere, certainly make the work of trustees rewarding.

Nothing, however, is more rewarding than knowing that we, as trustees, are part of a long history of people who loved and cared for this place. Hopefully, we can fulfil a similar role to Ovin for (the Order of) St Etheldreda - 'a faithful and wise steward'.

Richard Slogrove  
Chairman of Ely Cathedral Trust

# The Order and Development Year

This year has been pivotal as we have given a great deal of focus strategically to what sort of place we want Ely Cathedral to be in ten or even fifty years time, how much it will all cost, and what we need to do to get there.

Highlights of 2017 started with Candlemas on 2 February, when the Cathedral glowed in the light of 7,000 candles. 500 guests enjoyed glorious music from our Choir, with reflections from Fr Timothy Radcliffe O.P. We had hoped to adorn St Etheldreda's shrine with snowdrops, the 'Candlemas flower', but they failed to bloom in time. However our resourceful Flower Guild provided a beautiful display of white hyacinths instead.

At Easter, our Holy Week film series significantly outperformed our Christmas 2016 campaign. You can read more on the digital front from George Reynolds on page 5.

100 guests attended the Annual Gathering on 2 May, Sir Hugh Duberly's last event as Chairman of the Order, following his retirement as Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire. Sir Hugh's skilful steering of the Order since 2003 has been enormously appreciated: his presence at Order events and his incomparable finesse in encouraging, thanking, and at times gently admonishing Order members in the matter of stepping up with donations and recruiting new members will certainly be remembered.



In June 22 Order members and guests attended a private tour of Westminster Abbey led by the Dean of Westminster, enjoying Evensong and a reception in the Deanery Drawing Room. Those of us who thought they knew the Abbey already were in for many surprises, summed up by one of the many comments we received – "Absorbing and illuminating tour – and serious history lesson!"

Some members have responded energetically to the injunction to recruit their friends...

On 6 July Order members and guests relaxed over Pimms and canapés at the Summer Drinks Party in the beautiful setting of Emmanuel College gardens, beside the lake. The on 10 September Chorister Benefactors including the new Lantern Fund donors were invited to a Service of Thanksgiving, with a reception in the Lady Chapel. 54 benefactors and guests attended, and feedback was very positive.



A standout for autumn was, 'Music for the Queen of Heaven', a concert presented by Order member Martin Gent with John Maddison on 21 October. Soloist Emma Kirkby, conductor Howard Williams, Ely Consort, the Etheldreda Singers, and Cadenza, took us on a journey in time and physical space, from the Presbytery to the Lady Chapel, from Hildegard de Bingen in the 12th century to Gorecki in the 20th. The concert raised over £12,000 for Ely Cathedral's Music Fund. We are grateful to Order members who made this result possible through their sponsorship.

Helen Bright  
Director of Development

# Developing our digital frontiers

## Film campaigns

We are always seeking to enlarge our community of donors and Cathedral supporters, but we know we can't meet and talk to everybody face to face! We have to meet people where they are – which these days means online, and on social media. Creating videos for our Youtube and Facebook channels, as we have done since Candlemas 2016, is also a part of fostering the Cathedral's wider mission of worship and outreach, so it is a multi-layered activity.

Earlier this year, working with the Diocese of Ely, we developed an online campaign called **#LiveHolyWeek**, which launched on Palm Sunday and reached over one million people. This campaign invited people to take part in worship during Holy Week. The campaign showcased our Choirs – boys, girls and men - and some of the beautiful music written for Holy Week. We were delighted that some of these films were shared by ClassicFM. The Youtube videos also incorporated a 'soft' fundraising ask for our **Lantern Choristership Fund**, with a direct link to our website online donation pages.

We are still in the early stages of the Lantern Fund appeal, which was established especially for those who can't fund the full annual cost of a Choristership (over £11,000) but can contribute smaller sums monthly or annually, or make a one off gift. A brochure on how to give is now available, and what makes this attractive to many donors is that people can join the appeal hassle free through our website at [www.elycathedral.org/the-lantern-choristership](http://www.elycathedral.org/the-lantern-choristership) and give by Direct Debit, which is the standard for most national charities. After only a few months from launch the Lantern Fund has acquired 54 new regular donors, adding £8,000 per year to the Fund. One off gifts total to date over £6,000. If you would like to find out more about the Lantern Fund, please do contact me at [g.reynolds@elycathedral.org](mailto:g.reynolds@elycathedral.org) or call 01353 660365.

## #aChristmasMiracle

For Advent 2017 we have joined up once again with the Diocese of Ely to tell the Christmas story to our digital fans and pilgrims across the world. Entitled **#aChristmasMiracle**, our campaign launches on Advent Sunday (Sunday 3 December) and features a central film telling the story of the original Christmas miracle, the Nativity of Christ. Supporting this film will be two discussion films which explore the themes of both Advent and Christmas. We are also delighted that the campaign will include films featuring our Boy & Girl Choristers, as well as guest performances from The Gesualdo Six. All films will be available to watch free of charge on the Cathedral's Facebook page and YouTube channel.

## Tap to Give: Contactless giving

The major charity Cancer Research UK first trialled this, as did the Royal British Legion for the Poppy Appeal. Research from Mastercard shows that the average Briton keeps less than £5 in their purse or wallet at a time, while The UK Cards Association reported that one in four payments are now contactless. All of which has prompted the Church of England to partner with the company Goodbox to initiate a three month trial of contactless giving in churches. Ely Cathedral is one of a dozen cathedrals being included. You will see the new Tap to Give box in the Cathedral soon.

George Reynolds  
Development Executive



# Fabric report

This year has seen completion of one major project funded by the First World War Centenary Cathedral Repairs Fund, and another one begun. In the spring we finished work on the urgent rewiring of the South side of the Cathedral, while in August we began the re-roofing of the South Nave Aisle (above the Stained Glass Museum) plus high level stonework and glazing repairs. This project will take us up until the first quarter of 2018 to complete. We have been working around minimising disruption to the Stained Glass Museum, to major Cathedral events, especially over Christmas, and to accommodate the filming of *The Royals*. To date, inspection of the roof timbers has been undertaken from below, and removal of the lead covering has begun. Stone cleaning and repairs have also been progressed, and much careful recording and scheduling undertaken.

By the late summer of this year, the work of renovation and refurbishment of the new Grace Building on the High Street was finalised, another project which has only been possible with the help of a most generous benefactor. We, and they, are more than pleased with the results.

I am glad to report that our measures against the increased pigeon population around the Galilee Porch, and the West Tower turret, begun last year, seem to have been effective, with netting preventing entry and roosting. We continue to review all areas and plan to address the North choir triforium roof next; unfortunately another favourite spot for the pigeons.

The failing wall plaster on the internal south wall of the South Transept has been carefully removed, exposing the masonry beneath. We hope that people have savoured the rare opportunity to see this, as it is due to be covered up again in the New Year. A little more plaster will be removed above this area, including the cement grout stains visible above, before lime plaster is reinstated here

Looking ahead, planning permission is now imminent for works to the North Range, and is in place for the paving of the Processional Way courtyard and for the Cross Green and Fire Engine hardstanding areas. We would like to progress these to see the works undertaken in 2018, and also the re-landscaping of the East Lawn, starting with the eastern-most section, which has been granted approval by the CFCE.



In the Nave aisles and North Transept the floor stones have been degrading badly, and there will be a need to undertake repairs next year. This will involve careful recording of the floors in advance and production of a detailed repair schedule, again working around Cathedral events to achieve the necessary results. New stone ramps in the choir aisles, replacing the current timber ones, are also planned for 2018; another very welcome improvement.

Vicki Roulinson  
Director of Works

As last year, Christmas started in October (!) for the cathedral choirs with recordings for Facebook and YouTube by request of The Development Office. This year all but one of the seven carols selected are arrangements made by Sarah MacDonald (for the girls and men) and by myself (for the boys and men) I write this having just looked at the first edits, and I feel confident that they will be well received this year.

Both choirs are pleased to have seasonal trips to London in the near future: the boys and men to sing a private concert for older people and their friends at HTB Onslow Square on Thursday, 7th December, and the girls to sing at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge on Tuesday 12th December. Programmes for these concerts, for Advent and for Christmas in Ely and, indeed, for Epiphany and Candlemas are currently in the last stage of planning. 2017 is a year when we have only the boy choristers in residence for the main Christmas period, but they will be joined by both The Ely Imps and (for the first time) by Ely Cathedral Octagon Singers for the main concert on Friday 22nd December. One work to feature both in that concert and in the two cathedral carol services will be "Missa Carolae" (Carol Mass) by James Whitbourn which is a modern equivalent of Charpentier's ever popular "Messe de Minuit" (Midnight Mass) in that the words of the mass are adapted to well known carol melodies. And the Charpentier piece will be sung at the appointed hour on 24th December to complete the picture.

Paul Trepte  
Director of Music

## The Rose Garden

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From spring to autumn the East Lawn is a much-visited space, offering open green lawns on which to relax, with spectacular views of the Cathedral. But there are problems. There is little of colour or interest at ground level. There are too few paths between the main access points, resulting in muddy 'desire lines' in the lawns because of people taking the quickest route. The perimeter hedges are neither beautiful nor useful. The few benches sit on ugly concrete plinths. In short, the East Lawn fails to do justice to the Cathedral. But there is great potential, which is why Chapter started looking into proposals for bringing the East Lawn area to life.

Under a new scheme, the hedges will be uprooted and replaced with colourful trees, with a new range of benches between them and paths in front. A new path will be added along the route of the north-south 'desire line', close to the Eastern face of the Cathedral where it will have maximum impact. And a highlight of this revitalised space will be a flower bed along the eastern edge of the semi-circular path bisecting the East Lawn. This will be planted with roses, including a fragrant new red rose acquired from Peter Beale Roses for which the name The Ely Cathedral Rose has been secured and registered.

As the Order of St Etheldreda embarks on its next 25 years, The Council of the Order invites Order members to consider helping towards a gift of £25,000 as a contribution to Chapter's costs. That sum will take care of a substantial proportion of the landscaping and planting costs, and will help to bring colour and beauty to this under-appreciated asset for many years to come.

# Contact us

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The Order of St Etheldreda

Patron: HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, KG KT

Vice Patrons: Sir Michael Marshall CBE DL, The Lord Fairhaven DL

Council Members: The Very Revd Mark Bonney, Mr Stephen Bourne, Sir Charles Chadwyck-Healey Bt DL, Dr Peter Dawe OBE, Mrs Sue Freestone, Mr Tom Green DL, Sir David Harrison CBE, Mr Charles Rawlinson MBE, Mr Robert Stopford, Mrs Walkinshaw DL

*Ely Cathedral Trust*  
*Registered Charity No: 264803*

## Order Events and Highlights for 2018

Candlemas  
Friday 2 February

Order Annual Dinner  
Tuesday 1 May

Ely Cathedral Flower Festival  
Preview Evening  
Wednesday 20 June

Ely Cathedral Flower Festival  
Thursday 21- Sunday 24 June

'I Was Glad' Festal Evensong  
Friday 5 October  
This special Evensong will  
commemorate the 100th  
anniversary of the death of Sir  
Hubert Parry. Evensong will  
feature a wide range of some of  
his most loved compositions.

Christmas Fair Preview Evening  
Thursday 15 November

Front and Inside Front & Page 6 Photographs  
taken by Timothy Selvage.

## The Order goes to Rome

As a Benedictine foundation we are naturally interested that the year 2020 marks the 800th anniversary of the canonisation of St Benedict. We had the idea of offering a short (around 5 nights) professionally led tour of key Benedictine sites for Order members and guests, taking a party of around 30, starting in Florence and ending in Rome, where we would also hope to hear a performance by Ely Cathedral Choir in a very special venue (yet to be disclosed!). At this stage we are seeking expressions of interest to see how many people would like to join us on the tour. If this appeals to you, just email [development@elycathedral.org](mailto:development@elycathedral.org) or drop us a line at the Development Office.

## Flower Festival 2018

Returning to the Cathedral next June 2018 will be the hugely popular Flower Festival – this time on a theme of 'Kaleidoscope of Life'. Over 50,000 blooms in breathtaking displays will be on view. The Festival's Creative Director is Chelsea gold Medal winner, Roger Woolnough, and the Festival will be launched at the preview evening on 20 June by garden designer Diarmuid Gavin, to which you are warmly invited. There is the opportunity to sponsor one of the magnificent displays, and if you are interested in supporting the Festival in this way, organiser Linda Joel would be delighted to hear from you. Contact her on [l.joel@elycathedral.org](mailto:l.joel@elycathedral.org) or phone 01353-660310.

