



We finish this newsletter with an article from Alan Wilson, who has been instrumental in planning 'Journeys of Faith.'

An invitation to join our Easter Pilgrimage

(15 – 18 April 2019)

Over the centuries, pilgrims made their way across England to various places of worship, including Lincoln Cathedral, and today, these pilgrim routes are being rediscovered and reimagined.

The new "Journeys of Faith" series of pilgrimages to Lincoln Cathedral are set to themes of social justice and religious freedom and provide an opportunity for modern day pilgrims to step aside from the routine business of day-to-day living and make a conscious effort to reassess life, personal circumstances and ambitions.

We would like to invite you to join us on our next 'Journey' to the Cathedral, starting from St James' Church in the historic parish of Louth on 15 April 2019. So why would you want to spend 4 days walking 50 miles with a group of strangers? Here are some reasons why you might decide to join us:

Adventure

There's a personal challenge in walking for 4 days, mainly cross-country, in our unpredictable weather but there is also a sense of achievement, collecting 'Journeys' numbers in Pilgrim Passports from 15 churches along the way. Sleeping overnight in churches and village halls will also add to the adventure (although you won't have to carry your bedding on the pilgrimage)!

Camaraderie and friendship

There's something about walking that slows us all down and makes conversation much easier. Making new friends and sharing experiences is a natural consequence of the 'Journey'.

History

Lincolnshire has a fantastic, rich history; its people founded a monastery, negotiated the Magna Carta, marched in thousands against the dissolution of the monasteries, sailed across the Atlantic, and composed hundreds of hymns. The "Journeys of Faith" pilgrimages embrace much of that local history as we explore each of the churches on route.

Reflection

Pilgrimage offers time out for reflection and taking stock. Walking and chatting is fine for most people but walking a little behind the group at times allows for personal space and quiet.

Connection with Nature

There are both physical and mental health benefits from the exercise and social contacts on a pilgrimage and the beautiful Lincolnshire countryside assists in a general feeling of wellbeing.

Spiritual Encounter

A pilgrimage involves an outward physical expedition accompanied by an inner spiritual journey. It has the potential to be life changing and transformative, bringing a new perspective, a sense of healing or a moment of decision.

If you would like to know more about this low cost pilgrimage or would like to join us, please contact Alan Wilson, Journeys of Faith Team Leader, by email at rma@lincolncathedral.com or via the Friends' Office.





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Newsletter - Spring 2019

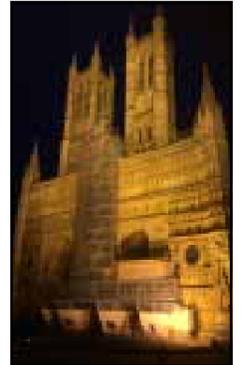
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What's happening to our Cathedral?

Welcome to this latest edition of the Friends' newsletter. As I write, the work on the new cathedral visitor centre, café, shop and other facilities, including a display centre, as part of the Lincoln Cathedral Connected project is well underway. The latest part of this is the excavation and restoration of the West Front Parvis and Exchequergate Arch. We can still just about manage to get into our office on the left, as you can see in the picture below!



Those of us who live locally have been getting used to the scaffolding and hoardings that have been appearing and there continues to be considerable interest both in the restoration work and in the ongoing discoveries of artefacts and in the archaeology. We were privileged to have as speakers (see page 3) at two of our events staff from the Cathedral Connected project who were able to give us small glimpses of what has been going on and the Friends will continue to take a keen interest in the project as it continues to unfold.



One sad consequence of this, as far as we are concerned, is that from later on this year the Cathedral Centre will be closing in its present form, which will have an impact on our meetings, talks and other activities. We do hope that somehow the Friends will be able to continue using such a convenient facility and that a suitable use will be found for it in the near future.



The mystery building on the left is, of course, the Old Deanery/Cathedral Choir school, which will form a major part of the new facilities. Peering through the fencing in the picture below right it is just about possible to make out the work that is being done around Dean's Green. When this is completed there will be a welcoming open space for all to enjoy. In conjunction with all these interesting and exciting developments there have been a number of Friends' events that have taken place since the last



newsletter. The Friends celebrated St Hugh's Feast Day with a most enjoyable lunch in the Cathedral Centre and of course the highlight of the year was our annual Carols by Candlelight concert (see page 3) This year we have also enjoyed three interesting teatime talks, (see page 3) which were well attended, and there is one more to come. Life is certainly not dull!



An article from our now not-so-new Chapter Clerk, Will Harrison.

I thought I knew Lincoln Cathedral well. I've been around, on and off, for more than 22 years, first arriving as an undergraduate Choral Scholar in 1996, while studying for a degree in Christian Studies at Bishop Grosseteste College (as it was then). I came back in 2005 as a Lay Vicar when I got a job at the Diocese of Lincoln, having previously spent several years working as a verger and as a Lay Clerk at Southwell Minster, and then later as a newspaper journalist based in Nottinghamshire.

On the basis that I thought I had a fair knowledge of the Cathedral, I thought I might stand at least a small chance of getting the job of Chapter Clerk. I was very fortunate indeed to be offered the job – one which, admittedly, I'd had my eye on for some years. Lincoln Cathedral is one of the most complex organisations of its size, and is going through perhaps the most significant period of change in anyone's memory. I'm still learning something about the Cathedral and its operation every single day, and I doubt that I will ever stop being surprised at some point each day I'm at work.

The strengths we have are many and include, first and foremost, a team of very hardworking and visionary people, some very new (including the majority of the residentiary clergy), and a large number of people who have been with us for more than 20 years, and who are at the stage where they're unsurprised by anything! Many people asked me, when I got the job, what it felt like to be so important, and I gave the same reply each time: I don't feel important, and I'm no more or less important than any other member of staff or volunteer in the Cathedral. The only difference between my role and some others' is the level of responsibility to guide and direct, and to see through the decisions of Chapter. That is made all the more easier by the Dean's very clear priorities and ambitions for the Cathedral, and the excitement for the future with which this fills my role.

We know that Lincoln is at a disadvantage by being off the beaten tourist track, but that is also one of its other great strengths. One of the country's largest and most physically-prominent medieval cathedrals also happens to be one of the country's greatest hidden gems, and that gives us an opportunity to allow many people to discover it anew, or for the first time. The facilities which will be provided as part of the *Lincoln Cathedral Connected* project ensure that a visit to Lincoln will be even more inspirational than ever before.

Cathedrals depend upon their friends. They are very complex, very demanding places, with Lincoln being, probably the most complex and demanding. Thankfully, Lincoln isn't difficult to love, and it is the support of the Friends, and the many other people who fall in love with the building and its worship, who ensure that we can sustain the building and worship to the glory of God, and bring a foretaste of heaven to earth.

With thanks to our Chapter Clerk for some interesting and revealing thoughts about his role. We continue to wish him well in it.



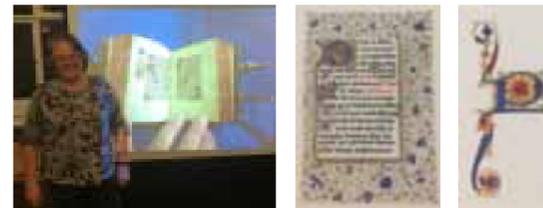
Membership

Paul Pinchbeck, the Friends' membership secretary, reports that since the Annual General Meeting last June there has been a steady increase in our membership, with twenty four new annual members and a further nine new life members.

Four members also upgraded to life membership. All this is encouraging for our association, although of course some memberships are not renewed, for varying reasons.

Included with this newsletter is a note to those whose membership has fallen due, inviting them to renew it if they so desire. The Association has also been remembered in a number of legacies, which will be received in due course, and we have been pleased to accept a number of donations of varying sizes, for which we are most grateful.

Teatime Talks As usual, a number of these events has been arranged. Two took place during last November, with one more earlier this February. The final talk, on the subject of the Lincoln Street Pastors' Organisation, will be taking place shortly. All have been most interesting and enjoyable occasions and have been well attended. The first, on the subject of Anne Askew, was given by Margaret and John Crompton. In 1545, this Lincolnshire woman read the Bible aloud illegally in Lincoln Cathedral and her peaceful protest ultimately led to her imprisonment, torture and death. The Cromptons shared a number of accounts of this shameful episode in our cathedral's history, and those of us who live locally will be interested to know that Margaret will be presenting her play about Anne Askew in the County Assembly Rooms in Lincoln on 23rd. May at 7.30 p.m.. The second talk, accompanied by some wonderful illustrations, was given



by Toni Watts, who has been manuscript Illuminator at the Cathedral since 2016. She shared many of the medieval techniques of illumination, some of which were decidedly unhealthy for the illuminator, but the results, as seen in the examples of her own work that she brought along,

were stunning. The most recent talk was given by Fern Dawson and Carol Bennett, from Lincoln Cathedral Connected, and was really an update on the progress of this project. Fern spoke of the archaeological finds while Carol concentrated on how different areas of the cathedral will be displayed and interpreted for visitors. We shall be inviting them back for further updates in the future.

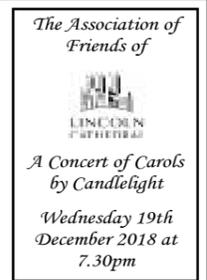
St Hugh's Day Feast

The Friends celebrated St Hugh's Day on Friday 16th November by having a most enjoyable lunch in the Cathedral Centre, following attendance at the 12.30 Holy Communion service. Jane Cowan, from the Cathedral Conservators' department, gave an interesting and informative after lunch talk on cathedral conservation developments, particularly with regard to the West Front and its specially designed scaffolding.



Carols by Candlelight

Once again, the Friends' annual concert took place last December, and the success of this event was down in no small way to the efforts of volunteers, as well as the wonderful singing from the cathedral choir. Funds raised from this sell-out event enable the Friends to support both the Music Appeal and sponsor a Choral Scholar. An amusing interlude provided by the Dean and the Curate, assisted by choir probationers, gave a chocolaty twist on the Christmas story!



Visit to Bletchley Park

On Tuesday 21st May we have arranged a visit to Bletchley Park, once the top-secret home of the World War Two Codebreakers, where wartime Enigma messages were decoded, using the Bombe machine designed by Alan Turing. It is also home to Colossus, the world's first semi-programmable electronic computer, used to break the complex Lorenz cipher machine. A booking form, with further details and cost of what will be a fascinating visit, is included with this newsletter. We have booked a 33 seater bus, so first come, first served!



Forthcoming Events

Wednesday	27th March	Friends' Council Meeting
Saturday	11th May	Welcome to New Members and possible Council Meeting
Tuesday	21st May	Visit to Bletchley Park
Saturday	22nd June	Annual General Meeting
Saturday	16th November	St Hugh's Feast Day
Wednesday	18th December	Carols by Candlelight concert