

Issue 25
Summer 2019



THE BUTTRESS

PRESERVING BRISTOL CATHEDRAL

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BREAKING NEWS

Since I first wrote my report, our Dean, the Very Revd Dr David Hoyle, has been appointed as the new Dean of Westminster, succeeding the Very Revd John Hall, who retires in November 2019.

Now that really is Breaking news! Dean David is an exceptional Dean and we have been very fortunate to have him as our Dean of Bristol for the past nine years.

In that time in a strong partnership between the Trust and the Chapter so much has been achieved from the mundane to the marvellous!

- We now have a fit for purpose Cathedral heating system.
- We have refurbished loos that we can invite Cathedral visitors to use with confidence.
- Thanks to a donation we have a restored our Rose Window.
- We have raised much of the funding for the restoration of our Rhenatus Harris Organ.

Westminster's gain is obviously Bristol's loss, but we are delighted that our Dean has been appointed to this prestigious and important post. In the past 22 years Bristol has been a fertile nursery for Deans of Westminster.

Dr Wesley Carr became the Dean of Westminster in 1997 after ten years as Dean of Bristol, and since then other Bristol Cathedral colleagues have followed the same path; Andrew Tremlett (now Dean of Durham), our Head Verger (Martin Castledean) and Verger (Andrew Campbell).



The Very Revd Dr David Hoyle
Dean of Bristol



David's last service in the Cathedral will be on Sunday 29 September and he will take up his new post in November.

I have worked alongside David on the Choral Foundation, as a Trustee of the Cathedral School Trust, as a member of Bristol Cathedral Trust, as Dean of Bristol and latterly in the Affiliation Board of HMS Prince of Wales. It has been a great pleasure to work with him and his formidable intellect always kept me on my toes! →

KEEPING THE FABRIC



Jon Cannon
Canon – Keeper of the Fabric

Churchill said ‘We shape our buildings, and afterwards our buildings shape us’. We talk a lot in Cathedral land about keeping the fabric and we often mean boilers and dusting, but keeping the fabric is also about people.

No building is looked after unless there is someone to care about the way it’s been shaped, and the way it’s shaped us. At Bristol we have been particularly fortunate that our ‘Keeper of the Fabric’ – Canon Jon Cannon – has both the expert knowledge to help us do our work, but also a particular love for this place of worship.

As some of you know may already know – Jon has had to step back from Chapter due to illness. He has successfully come through a major operation, but will be having more treatment in the coming months. There has been a fundraising campaign to support Jon’s family at this difficult time. If you would like to donate then please send a cheque or

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Yet with that intellect comes great compassion and understanding. Dean David has made a real difference to Bristol Cathedral and it has been a privilege and pleasure to work with him.

Much of the progress made has been because of the work of the Trust and the contribution that the Fitzhardinge Society has made to our fundraising. The Dean and I are both deeply grateful for all your support.

payment to Wendy Pradalie made payable to ‘Bristol Cathedral’ (College Green, Bristol, BS1 5TJ) and we will pass it on to the family.

On a lighter note – Jon is particularly keen to inventory our loose pieces of stone that reside in various far flung parts of the Cathedral. He and Kevin Blockley, our Archaeologist, will be on site in June seeing what they can find – though someone else will be doing the heavy lifting.

It has also been good to welcome new people to our task – our HLF team have started work on the inventory and archives. I hope you enjoy reading about their progress and our care for this place.

Wendy Matthews
Chapter Clerk

The Crown will make the appointment of a new Dean of Bristol in 2020 and we look forward to welcoming them to the Cathedral next year.

If you would like to contribute to his leaving collection please send a cheque or contact **Wendy Pradalie on 0117 946 8184 – wendy.pradalie@bristol-cathedral.co.uk**

FROM THE CANON CHANCELLOR

I blame my wife. When I told her that Bristol Cathedral was looking for a new canon, she said very firmly she would love to live in Bristol. I also blame my late grandfather. He loved being a priest here even though he arrived, as vicar of Christchurch in the city, during the bombing in 1941. After he died, I read his hair-raising war diaries and it made me decide to be a priest. These two factors, together with a need for a new challenge in a fascinating city, led me to apply. Perhaps I also ought to blame the Dean, who, as I am sure you are aware, is very persuasive.

On arrival the Dean has asked me, amongst other things to review how approachable we are as a cathedral. So here I am, a couple of months in, sitting at the desk welcoming bank holiday visitors. Most of our visitors are from abroad today. Large numbers are from France, (all a little shocked about Notre Dame) many visitors from Italy and Spain and eastern Europe, South Korea and South Africa. All are delighted to find the cathedral open and free. I have been experimenting with different ways of saying hello, making people feel at home and encouraging contributions. We have, as you will have heard, 400,000 visitors a year so this is a place of serious encounter with the public.



Michael Roden
Canon Chancellor

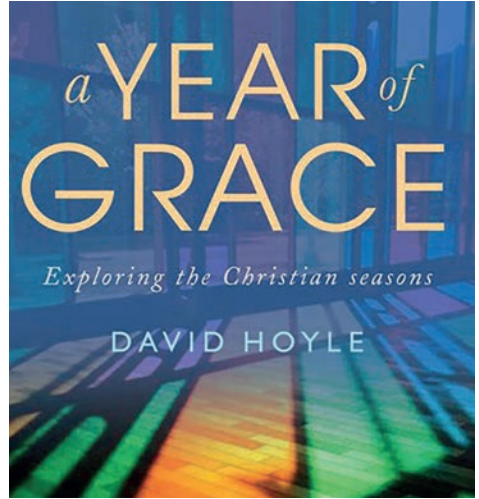
I hear from the Dean that you, dear reader, have been instrumental in keeping this place thriving through your tireless efforts. I look forward to meeting up, thanking you and hearing your ideas.

Our French visitors reminded us of something that we already knew, that cathedrals are buildings that get through to people. They are part of us and our hopes. Even for the hardened cynic, they are expressions of our highest aspirations and search for meaning. Standing at the door I understood what the psalmist meant when he describes himself as a doorkeeper in the house of the Lord, and reflected that *a single day in your courts is better than a thousand anywhere else.*

Michael Roden
Canon Chancellor

CHAPTER CLERK PS

A YEAR OF GRACE



Fortunately, there were no lives lost in Paris, but it is a sad and sharp reminder of why fire prevention and fire safety work matters so much.

At the end of last year our Cathedral Architect completed her quinquennial report on the fabric and our fixed wiring test. In August we completed a new fire safety risk assessment and our staff have recently attended a training day held by our insurers to make sure we keep up to date with good practice. We also have regular visits from the Avon and Somerset Fire Brigade. We do however need to replace the fire alarm and will be scoping a new system this year. If you would like to contribute please use the gift aid envelope enclosed. Any help will be gratefully received.

We are proud to announce that the Canterbury Press will shortly be publishing the Dean's new book – 'A Year of Grace' – in July 2019.

It is a journey through the Christian year which explores the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, why they matter, and why they make a difference. All members of the Fitzhardinges are invited to the book launch which will be held on 4 July at 6pm. In related news, the Rev Richard Greatrex has also recently published a book with Redemptorist Publications called 'Stations of the Resurrection'. Both books will be available from the Cathedral shop.

INVENTORY & ARCHIVES PROJECT UNDERWAY

We have received an 'Our Heritage' grant which will allow us to complete the cataloguing of the Cathedral's archives, and the translation of our paper based inventory of objects and treasures into new electronic software, which allow the public to see the collection online.

We will also assess anything in the collection that's in need of conservation. For outreach, we will have new kit for our education trails and an exhibition based on architectural drawings from the Cathedral's past. We hope to have opened up some hard-to-reach areas too – we're aiming to create a virtual tour up the Central Tower and onto the roof.

As part of this project we are beginning to uncover more about our Cathedral stories, which will inform our work on visitor experience and interpretation in future.

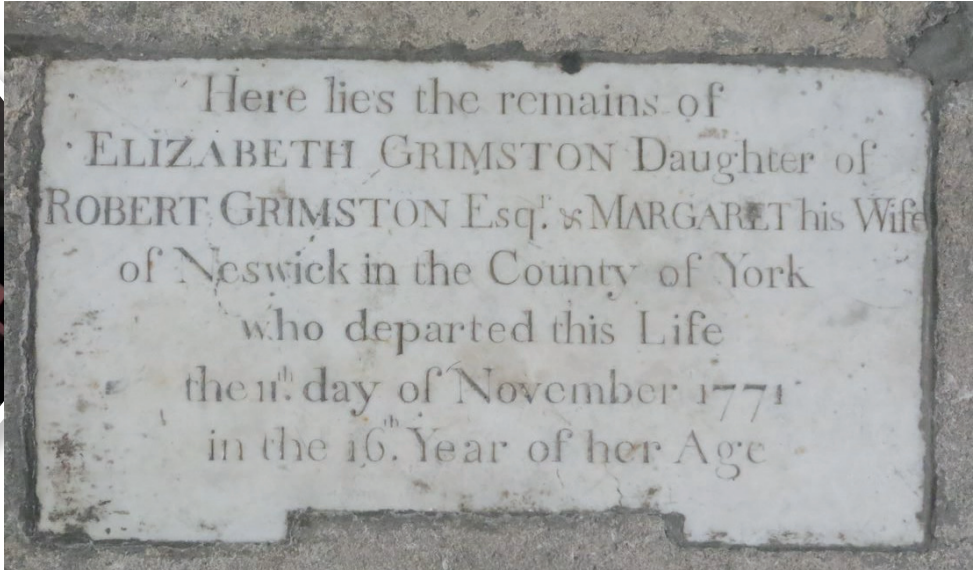
Cathedral Inventory

It is a requirement of the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England that all cathedrals have an inventory. The Bristol Cathedral inventory was started in the 1990s, under the guidance of volunteer Dr Michael Q. Smith. Many readers will also be familiar with his work on the Cathedral's stained glass. Sadly, he passed away around the time the work was finished. The Fabric committee have agreed that the inventory will be named after Dr Smith to honour his work on the project.



Our task now is to select new software, cleanse and check the existing data and input it into the new system, along with photographs. We will shortly purchase our preferred specialist software and volunteers will help Louise with the task of checking and photographing objects.





Cathedral Archives

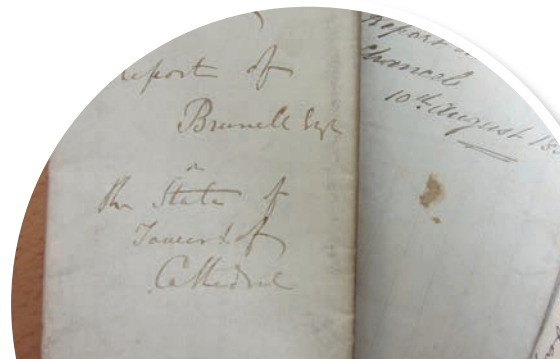
The archives of the Cathedral and the Diocese are held at Bristol Archives. The Dean and Chapter records were catalogued in the 1970s, but only included material up to c. 1850. Cataloguing the remaining records to c. 1980, will allow them to be made available to the public at Bristol Archives for the first time.

The late nineteenth to early twentieth century was a time of considerable change at the Cathedral, not least in the construction of the nave and west towers, and the archive is rich with material – architect's plans and sketches, correspondence, etc. – concerning this period. The Cathedral's daily routine is also well represented; documents regarding services, Chapter staff and clergy, administration and accounts are easily recognisable to those working at the Cathedral today.

We have found the letter which Brunel wrote to the Chapter, following his visit to the Cathedral in 1850, and also the organ minute book from

1907 – when the Dean convened a committee to raise money to extend the Vowles organ, so that it was large enough to fill the new nave. Walkers won the tender, with a successful bid of £2,984. The Chapter only had £1,000 initially, but were able to find the rest of the money. Run forward a hundred or so years and we are now repairing that Walker organ – at a projected cost of £1.5m. Needless to say, the Chapter Clerk prefers the original estimate!

Louise Anderson
Collections Project Coordinator
Anne Lovejoy
Project Archivist



‘WHEN I NEEDED A NEIGHBOUR...’

Whenever I meet a homeless person on the streets of Bristol I can often feel overwhelmed – it’s a deeply complex issue, and everyone’s story is different.

It is hard to know what can be done or where to begin. But being based at the Cathedral, as part of my ordination training, has given me an opportunity to learn more about the issue of homelessness and make a difference. The Cathedral’s Social Justice Group has various areas of social action, including prison ministry, to work with asylum seekers and refugees, but it is homelessness that has become a particular focus.

For the first time this year the Cathedral took part in the Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter, which is managed by Crisis Ministries and other partners. We were one of several churches across the city who provided a place for 12 homeless guests to sleep, a hot meal and breakfast the following morning one night a week. The aim is to make sure that there is a safe place to sleep during the coldest part of the year from January to March. Thanks to a fantastic team of volunteers (over 40 people in total) from the congregation, staff and local community groups, we were able to make this happen in the Chapter House. It was very special to be a part of it, with everyone playing a key role in offering warm hospitality to the guests that stayed – with one of our volunteers, a trained masseuse, even providing foot-washing for our guests!



JAMES’S STORY

James (not his real name) asked for an early morning call, as he had a job on a construction site. Chatting later over coffee he told us that we would probably not see him again at the shelter, as he was going to move into a new flat. He said that he was incredibly grateful for the shelter and all the volunteers for the kindness he had encountered here. He was thankful because it had given him the base and stability he needed to “get back on his feet.”

2,800 people are homeless in Bristol

If you are interested in joining the Social Justice Group or the Diocesan network – see our website for details:

bristol-cathedral.co.uk/social-justice/social-justice-group/

bristol-cathedral.co.uk/social-justice/social-justice-network/

**Sam Rylands
Ordinand**

LAY CLERK VESTRY

A psalm has recently been discovered on a scrap of parchment in the bowels of the Cathedral:

And lo, the clerkes lay and the scholars choral were wroth and laid low,
 For the affliction of water was upon them, and they were sore afraid.
 They found thereof a sea of water across the vestry paving,
 Which had flowed copiously down from heaven,
 Bursting the bounds of wood and concrete -
 Which did lap their robes and surplices.
 Their shoon floated on the tide and were seen no more.
 In their distress they cried piteously to the Dean and Chapter.
 And the Dean, having compassion on their distress said:
 'See - we will lay a new foundation -
 And capture the waters of the deep in the cisterns of the ungodly,
 And we will build green edifices high off the floor,
 A safe refuge for the robes and surplices,
 And the shoon of the clerkes lay and scholars choral.
 And they will be painted green and be of 3000 cubits in length and 350
 cubits in depth.
 And they will be decorated with metal.'
 And lo, it came to pass as the Dean had commanded.
 And the clerkes lay and the scholars choral rejoicéd, and were made glad.

They were also very grateful to the Choral Foundation who have also contributed to the cost of this project.



ORGAN UPDATE

May was an exciting month for the organ project. Having sent out the invitation to tender and specification of works to three companies in March, the bids were submitted in May.



A special panel, convened by the Chapter Clerk, reviewed the bids and this will be followed up by a visit to examples of work before a recommendation is made to the Organ project board, Fabric Advisory Committee, and Chapter. Once a preferred bidder has been identified we will then ask the Cathedral Fabric Commission for England for permission to deliver the programme of work. We should be able to announce the preferred firm in the autumn.

We are very grateful for the Trust's efforts in fundraising. We have raised £1.38m in total, but need to continue our efforts. If you would like to support this project contact Wendy Matthews on wendy.matthews@bristol-cathedral.co.uk or send a donation to Wendy Pradalie wendy.pradalie@bristol-cathedral.co.uk or ring 0117 946 8184

DOORS, DOORS, DOORS



Knock, and the doors will be opened unto you – courtesy of our new electronic closers!

In February we completed the installation of our new glass doors in the cloister which will exclude draughts, but also importantly make access easier for wheelchair users, carers with buggies and people carrying stuff. We have also put an electronic mechanism on the door in the main porch. Like most things in the Cathedral, they do have a mind of their own, but fortunately the Vergers know the location of the off switch. We owe a debt of thanks to Tracey Sheppard, the glass artist who engraved the bible verse from Micah on the nave door, and to John Plyer of Nero Designs who manufactured and installed our doors – a real bespoke job.

BRISTOL CHORAL SOCIETY

On 16 November we will welcome Bristol Choral Society back for a concert featuring Cecilia McDowall's *A Time for all Seasons*, a cantata based on the well-known text from Ecclesiastes – 'to everything there is a season', interwoven with a modern re-working of the verses from award-winning poet Kevin Crossley-Holland.

They will also perform Bob Chilcott's *Songs and Cries of London Town* with the Bristol Youth Choir – a popular cantata evoking London in different moods. Tickets will be available soon – see

[www.bristolchoral.co.uk/
event/a-time-for-all-seasons](http://www.bristolchoral.co.uk/event/a-time-for-all-seasons)



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

7 September

A talk on art on the Cathedral in art with expert Francis Greenacre – 2pm in the nave.

1 October

An opportunity to visit Bristol Archives and see some of the new records that have been catalogued – with Anne Lovejoy at 10am

18 October

Fitzhardinge Dinner in the Chapter House.

To book any event please contact Wendy Pradalie wendy.pradalie@bristol-cathedral.co.uk or ring 0117 946 8184





VISIT US

All are welcome. Admission is free. Donations are gratefully received and support the life and work of the Cathedral.

Finding us

Bristol Cathedral, College Green, Bristol, BS1 5TJ
T: 0117 926 4879



/bristolcathedral



@BristolCathedra



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bristol-cathedral.co.uk

The Cathedral is open to visitors
Monday-Friday 8am – 5pm
Saturday-Sunday 8am – 3pm

Occasionally there are special services and events which mean opening times change. Please check the website for more detailed information about what is happening.

Loyalty Cards

Your exclusive loyalty Card gives you access to discounts throughout the year in both the Cathedral Café and shop.

The Cathedral Café and Garden

Monday to Saturday, 10am - 4.30pm

You can find the Café at the end of the Cloister, past the Chapter House. It offers a menu of refreshments, light meals and snacks, together with homemade scones, pastries and cakes. The Café is breast-feeding-friendly and highchairs are available. Our beautiful, award-winning Cathedral Garden has a courtyard eating area which is popular in fine weather.

The Cathedral Shop

Monday to Saturday, 10am – 4pm
and after the Sunday morning service at 11.30am.

You are very welcome to browse our range of gifts, books and Fairtrade products including:

- Bristol Cathedral souvenirs - guidebook, postcards, mugs, notebooks and tea towels
- CDs - recordings by the Cathedral Choir and other organ and choral music
- Bristol Blue Glass and products from local artists
- Children's gifts - games, traditional wooden toys and story books
- Bibles, religious publications and local interest books

Facilities

- Toilets: female, male, accessible (gender neutral) and baby change.
- There are no storage facilities for holding baggage whilst visiting the Cathedral. You must keep your personal belongings with you at all times.