

Newsletter

January 2020



Diary

7th

1.30pm Knit and Natter group in Caedmon – all welcome.

8th

1.00pm Lunchtime Organ

Recital La Nativite (Messiaen) by John Robinson

9th

2.00pm Mothers' Union Meeting

with speaker, Rev'd Canon Fleur Green whose topic will be the ?? of Henry VIII. All welcome.

7.00pm Christian Basics Course

– contact the Canon Missioner for more details.

10th

1.00pm Bible Study Group –

contact the Canon Missioner for more details.

12th

12.00pm Blessing of the Sunday

School Cross after the Cathedral Eucharist.

14th

1.30pm Knit and Natter group in

Caedmon – all welcome.

15th

1.00pm Lunchtime Organ

Recital by Simon Hogan (Southwell Minster).

7.30pm Cathedral Focus

Session.

16th

11.00am Cathedral Focus

Session.

7.00pm Christian Basics

Course – contact the Canon Missioner for more details.

A New Year.....

A new Parliament, a new Archbishop,(and a new hip!)

The season of Epiphany....new hope for the whole world.

What better way to prepare for what is to come than to sing:

“God is working his purpose out, as year succeeds to year.....

Till the earth shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.”

But there are legitimate fears as we look ahead.

Will leaving the European union work well? Is there any chance that the environment crisis will be resolved. Will the new Archbishop of York be able to make an impact on our increasingly godless society? Perhaps most stressful of all, what is to be done about the huge numbers of desperate men, women and children seeking refuge from war and famine in peaceful and prosperous countries like ours?

These are heavy concerns indeed, and can weigh us down so much that we turn our backs on them and crumple up into a fearful and introspective ball.

But there is another side to the story, a different perspective. We need to balance the picture and recognise that there is so much that is encouraging about the way things are going. It will do us a power of good to ‘accentuate the positive’ and to thank God on a daily basis for all that is good in our church, our communities, our country and our world.

We fear war and terrorism. Yet the seven decades since the end of the Second World War have been the most peaceful in human history.

We worry about our health. Yet over the last 100 years, women have added 30 years to their life expectancy, men slightly fewer. And almost every day, we hear of the most amazing breakthroughs in the treatment of cancer and other diseases.

We deeply regret the decline in church attendance in the West: but in Africa and other countries, there is an explosion

17th

**7.30pm Sing Together
Teachers' Concert.**

18th

**10.30am Cathedral Focus
Session.**

**11.00am Young People's
Activities in the Crypt** (see below
for more details).

15.30 Choral Evensong with the
installation of the Canon Theologian
Jenn Swarbrick.

21st

1.30pm Knit and Natter group in
Caedmon – all welcome.

22nd

**1.00pm Lunchtime Organ
Recital** by Christopher Jones
(Bristol).

23rd

**7.00pm Christian Basics
Course** – contact the Canon
Missioner for more details.

28th

1.30pm Knit and Natter group in
Caedmon – all welcome.

29th

1.00pm Lunchtime Recital St
Christopher's CE High School,
Accrington.

30th

**Textile Exhibition in the Crypt.
Running to the 13th February.**
This will be open all day during
normal cathedral hours, but please be
mindful of services taking place at
various times and in various places
around the building.

**7.00pm Christian Basics
Course** – contact the Canon
Missioner for more details.

of Christian commitment. At the start of the last century, estimates say there were 9 million Christians in Africa. By its end there were 338 million.

And so we have every reason to sing:

“March we forth in the strength of God, with the banner
of Christ unfurled

That the light of the glorious gospel of truth may shine
throughout the world

Fight we the fight with sorrow and sin, to set their
captives free

That the earth may filled with the glory of God as the
waters cover the sea.”

I wish us all a happy and peaceful New Year: full of hope for
what is to come.

Canon Michael Wedgeworth

Young People's Events at the Cathedral

Poppin' Pizza Party

For all young people and children.
Saturday January 18th 12-2pm
In the Crypt.

Come along to meet new friends and find out what you all
do. There'll be a pizza competition, games, quizzes and fun.

Sunday School at the Cathedral Eucharist

10.30am

The Sunday School will be continue learning about Old
Testament characters during January and discovering the perils
they encountered, adventures they experienced and their
devotion to serving God.

We meet every Sunday in term time at 10.30 in the Sunday
School Room.

Please tell any neighbours and friends about the Sunday School
and invite these families to come and join it.

For further information please ask Diane Warner or Ruth
Watton.

Everything you ever wanted to know...

The New Year will see a number of Christian basics courses starting in the Cathedral: everything you ever wanted to know about the Christian faith, but were afraid to ask! There will be a four week course starting on Thursday 9th January at 7pm in Caedmon, to which all are welcome. It is primarily aimed at those who have not had much contact with Christianity before, but there is no shame in attending church every week for years but still having questions or aspects of faith you aren't sure about, so do still come along!

There will also be monthly sessions for specific groups, including one for choir parents/carers, starting on Saturday 11th January, and another for the Young People's Choir. These are designed to help us understand what we are really singing about in our services.

Our regular Bible study groups continue as normal. There are three, which cover the same material, and meet respectively on a Monday evening, a Tuesday evening and a Friday lunchtime, once a month. Over the coming months we will particularly be looking at passages to give us confidence in reading the Old Testament. Each session is 'stand alone', so anyone can join in at any time.

And now is also the time to start thinking about Confirmation. Confirmations will take place at the Easter Vigil on 11th April, and preparation will begin in February, so if you haven't yet been confirmed, and would like to be, or for any information about Christian basics, please contact:

missioner@blackburncathedral.co.uk

From the Diocese:

Rev. Professor Jenn Strawbridge to be Canon Theologian at Cathedral.

Rev Professor Jenn Strawbridge, Associate Professor in New Testament Studies at Oxford University, has been appointed Canon Theologian at Blackburn Cathedral.

Rt Rev. Julian Henderson, Bishop of Blackburn, said in October: "It is with great delight that I am able to announce the Rev. Professor Jenn Strawbridge (pictured) as Canon Theologian at Blackburn Cathedral.

"Jenn delivered three excellent Bible readings at our Diocesan conference 'The Mystery of Faith' last November which prompted a number in the Diocese to wonder whether she could be approached to be a Canon Theologian at our Cathedral.

"She has accepted my offer and will be installed as a Canon in the Cathedral and deliver an inaugural lecture on January 18, 2020.

"Jenn currently is Associate Professor in New Testament Studies at Oxford University based at Mansfield College and continues in that important role.

"The Diocese is very grateful that she is willing to hold this role for us and deliver an annual lecture in the Cathedral."

Regular Service Times

Sunday:

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.00am	Parish Communion
10.30am	Cathedral Eucharist
4.00pm	Evensong

Weekdays:

Morning Prayer - **8.40am** Monday to Friday

Holy Communion - Every day, but times may differ, please see the Cathedral Website or Weekly Bulletin for details.

Evening Prayer/Evensong - **5.15pm** Monday to Friday please see weekly bulletin or music list for details of sung services.

Saturday:

9.00am	Morning Prayer
9.30am	Holy Communion
5.15pm	Evening Prayer (Except when Evensong is scheduled which will be at 3.30pm – please see Weekly Bulletin or Website for details)

Contacts

Blackburn Cathedral
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The Dean: The Very Rev'd Peter Howell-Jones

Vice Dean & Canon The Rev'd Canon Dr Rowena Pailing

Missioner:

Canon Pastor: The Rev'd Canon Andrew Horsfall

Acting Canon Sacrist: The Rev'd Canon Colin Williams

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Cathedral Opening Times

The Cathedral is open Monday to Saturday from 8.00am until after the last service of the day.

On Sundays we are open from 7.45am until after the last service of the day.

Focus on Stewardship

'Stewardship', in other words being committed to appropriate use of money and resources, is part of the Christian faith, but we aren't always very good at talking about it! Quite simply, if we are to sustain the work of the Cathedral, we need to invest financially in it. There will be three sessions in January taking a look at why and what we might consider giving. These will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15th January; 11am on Thursday 16th January and 10.30am on Saturday 18th January. Each session covers the same material, so you only need to sign up for one on them!

Easy Fund Raising for Blackburn Cathedral.

Easyfundraising.org.uk enables you to raise funds for the Cathedral whilst shopping online. Just go to the website, search for Blackburn Cathedral and follow the simple instructions. The retailers you buy from will then make a small donation to the work of the Cathedral on your behalf.