

Cathedral in Touch

A Newsletter for our Community

23 June 2024 | 4th Sunday after Trinity



Leicester **Cathedral**
A beating heart for City and County



Making the familiar strange

Unsurprisingly, my recent trip to Amsterdam included a considerable time spent mooching around in museums and art galleries. All the Van Gogh legacy blew me away in that I found myself looking at both his art and that of others with a different eye. Beginning to not only appreciate the huge spectrum of his work and styles but also entering into his perspective.

But, even so, it was also some of the contemporary art which particularly grabbed me, causing me to reflect upon some familiar human attitudes and behaviours. There was, for example, a simple stone human head and shoulders with the shape of a smartphone in place of a face (*front image*). And a Buddha statue facing a webcam linked to a small screen – the inert Buddha seemingly contemplating himself (*next page*).

There is a long history of anthropologists and sociologists talking about making the familiar strange. Put simply, this is a practice of stopping to think about aspects of our living which we take for granted. Contrasting our practices with those of other cultures can enable us to critique our understandings and behaviours. Which I suggest we do not routinely do enough of.

How self-critical are we really in terms of the way our society and its sub-communities operates? Yes, there is stuff we rightly call out but there is also considerable unself-critical shouting. Listening to the media of late, I find myself wondering how many of the many voices we currently hear proclaiming

and pronouncing stuff really hear or see themselves as others do. And, asking that, I am compelled to ask the same question of myself and of our beloved Cathedral. Which we must do if we are truly wanting to become the Cathedral for everyone in our City and County.

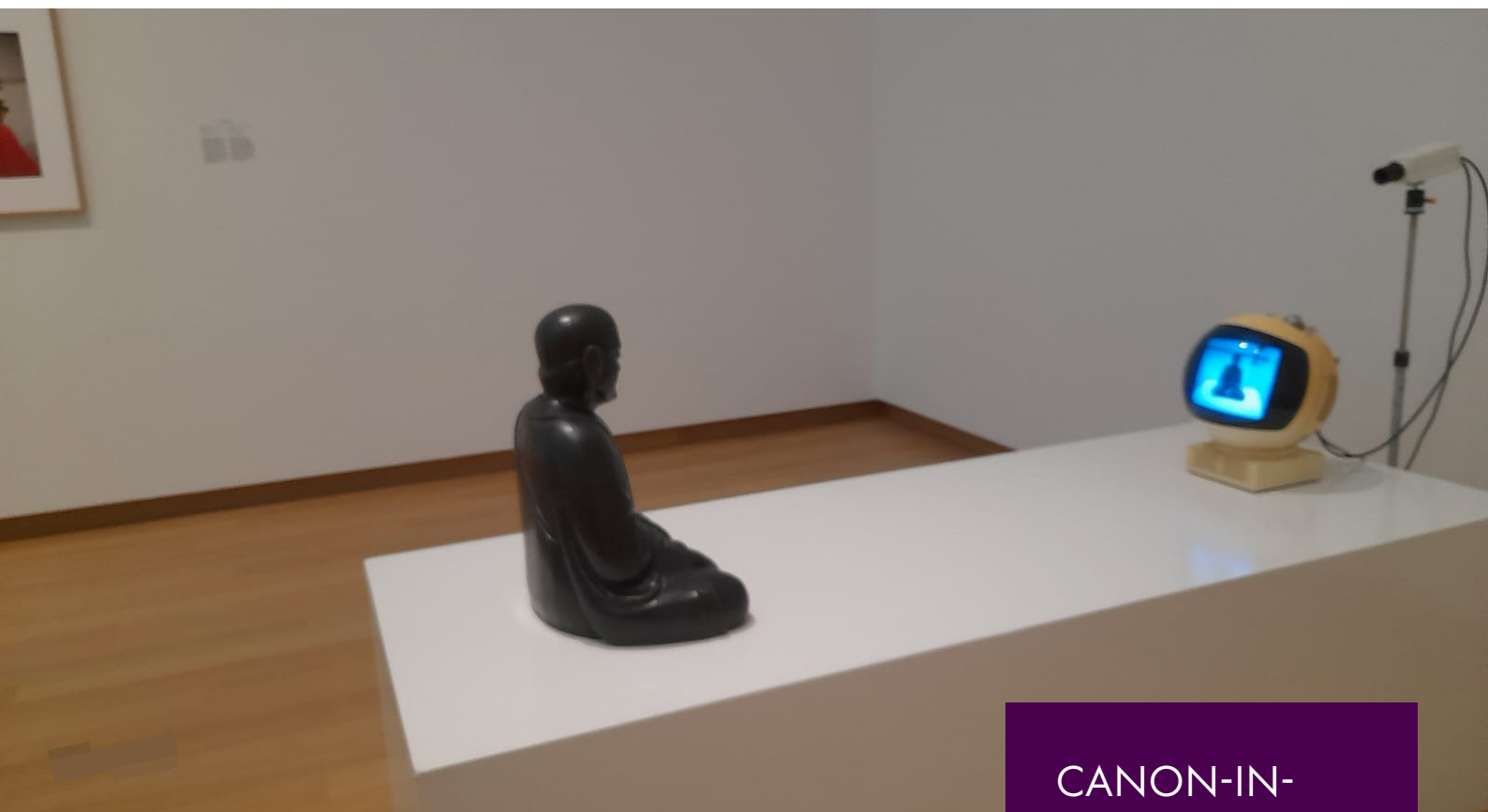
This week some of us attended Safeguarding training for senior leaders. The ability to render the familiar strange is surely a key component in changing culture to embed healthy safeguarding practices in our institutions. A key component of harmful behaviour going unchecked occurs when the behaviour is widely perceived as normal, in the sense that this is just how things happen. One example would be the sexist behaviour towards women at Westminster, increasingly labelled as 'toxic'.

How can we ensure that we don't, as community and in our personal lives, allow poor, hurtful, and damaging behaviours to be normalised? And how can we learn, not just from high profile public examples but from our own past to challenge and thus enable different more wholesome behaviours to emerge?

Just asking that question is a key milestone in the journey. Together with asking questions of those around us, especially those whose voices we don't hear so much from. Asking, 'What does it feel like? How does this affect you?' Among others, children's voices can be critical here. And also exploring how others do things, even, or perhaps most particularly, if those others are very different from us.

We can look at art and see what is there in front of us to see. The subject matter, the immediate narrative. But we can also look into and behind to glimpse a back story and to make wider connections. In so doing, we may ask a myriad of questions which take us way beyond our starting point. Curiosity is one of our key Cathedral values, alongside care and collaboration. Those three together, exercised wisely and generously, should ensure that we not only keep one another safe, but that we continuously co-create a joyous, creative and loving community where all feel included and welcome. A huge treasure in an increasingly polarised world. A beating heart.

Alison Adams
Canon Pastor



CANON-IN-RESIDENCE

ONE OF the clergy always holds this phone. Do feel able to contact us if you need but please be aware we cannot receive texts.

07399 523 330

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News & Updates

Community Garden Party

We are having a Tea Party on Saturday 6 July 2024, in the garden of verger Les Mitchelmore from 2.00–5.00pm.

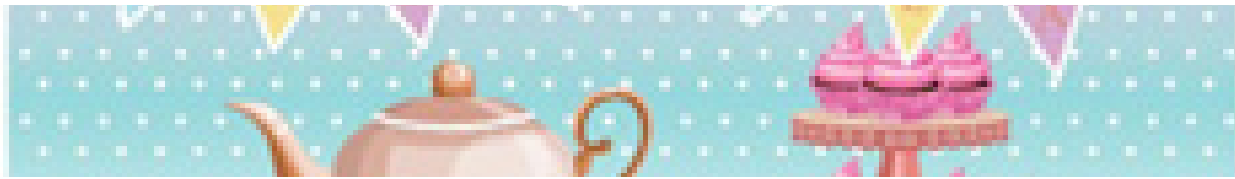
All are welcome to join in and spend a lovely afternoon with our Cathedral Family!

Please sign up if you would like to attend, so that we know the rough numbers: the form will be on the refreshment table after the Sunday Eucharist.

If you require a lift please say this next to your name so we can arrange one for you.

Come and enjoy sandwiches and cakes in a social atmosphere.

If any more information is needed please email nathanmorley82@hotmail.com



Artist Commission for Journeys Festival International

For their Journeys Festival International in 2024, ArtReach have an exciting partnership with the newly refurbished Leicester Cathedral and are seeking

artistic submissions for an exhibition within the Cathedral around the theme of *Play: the art, joy and need of it!* Exploring traditional play within

different cultures and how play is a universal right and need. The piece could also explore what is lost without play. For more info, click [here](#).



Funeral Service for Graham Wright

The Funeral Service for Graham Wright will be held on Friday 12 July at 10.00am. All are welcome.

Graham, a faithful member of our Cathedral community for decades, held different roles over the years, serving as a

Songman, Warden, Guide, and more latterly as a volunteer Welcomer. We shall miss Graham. May he rest in peace.

Services this week

SUNDAY 23 JUNE

TRINITY 4

- 10.30am Cathedral Eucharist
- 3.30pm Choral Evensong
- 6.30pm Eucharist at St Nicholas Church

MONDAY 24 JUNE

BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

- 8.30am Morning Eucharist
- 12.30pm Lunchtime Recital: Osnabrueck Youth Choir
- 5.30pm Choral Evensong

TUESDAY 25 JUNE

- 8.30am Morning Prayer
- 12.30pm Lunchtime Eucharist
- 5.30pm Choral Evensong

WEDNESDAY 26 JUNE

- 8.30am Morning Prayer
- 12.30pm Lunchtime Eucharist
- 5.30pm Evening Prayer

THURSDAY 27 JUNE

- 8.30am Morning Prayer
- 12.30pm Lunchtime Eucharist
- 5.30pm Choral Evensong

FRIDAY 28 JUNE

- 8.30am Morning Prayer
- 12.30pm Lunchtime Eucharist
- 5.30pm Evening Prayer

SATURDAY 29 JUNE

PETER THE APOSTLE

- 9.30am Morning Prayer
- 11.00am Armed Forces Day in the City
Service in Jubilee Square c.11.20am
- 4.00pm Eucharist with Ordination of Priests

SUNDAY 30 JUNE

TRINITY 5

- 10.30am Eucharist with Ordination of Deacons
- 3.30pm Choral Evensong
- 6.30pm Eucharist at St Nicholas Church

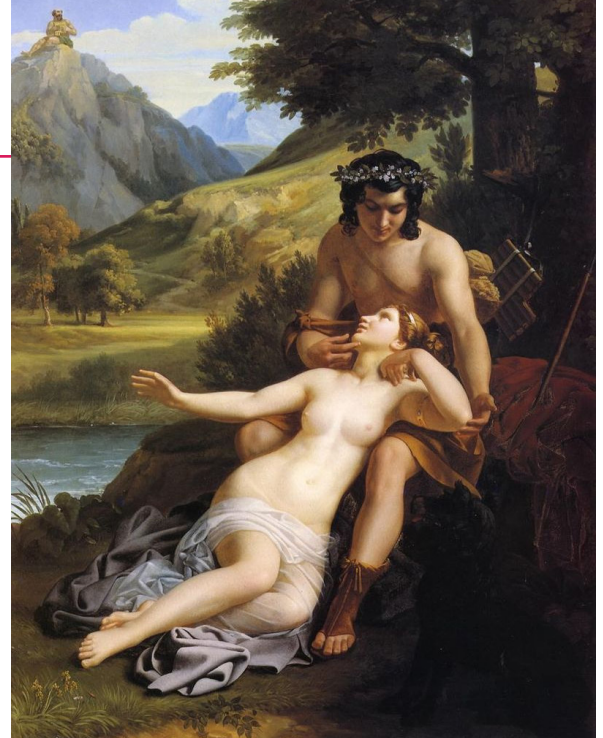
O the pleasure of the plains!

How music and nature combines to create a timeless tale

It goes with everything. From drinking or dying, dancing, warring, seducing, religion or civic pageantry, there are very few human activities that don't take place without musical accompaniment. There is something about it. As Martin mentions later in his Prayer Reflection, music has the capacity to affect us beyond the ways that even other art forms can. Style, politics, fashion, religion – all aspects of life are encoded in its shifting forms and functions in a sonic snapshot of the age.

Among the most effective metaphors can be found in the marriage of music and nature. In all its styles, nature can match the many forms of music – from pure free vistas punctuated by trees and rivers, to the stylised aesthetic of highly architectural gardens characterised by balance and form, by geometry and perspective.

No better example can be found than in Handel's **Acis and Galatea**, first performed in 1718 in the grounds of Cannons House, the dwelling of the Duke of Chandos, and what is now London's Canons Park. It is a little pastoral opera, a courtly entertainment about the simplicity of rural life, telling the Greek myth of the beautiful nymph Galatea and her lover the shepherd Acis, their happiness threatened when the brutal cyclops Polyphemus fancies the beautiful nymph for himself.



The Loves of Acis and Galatea by Alexandre-Charles Guillemot, 1827

Right off the bat, the [opening chorus](#) depicts the natural ideal in a playful, dancing setting:

*O the pleasure of the plains!
Happy nymphs and happy swains!
Harmless, merry, free and gay,
dance and sport the hours away.
For us the Zephyr blows,
for us distils the dew,
for us unfolds the rose,
and flow'rs display their hue,
for us the winters rain,
for us the summers shine,
spring swells for us the grain,
and autumn bleeds the vine.*

Galatea continues, exclaiming that not even the beauty of nature can trump her love for Acis through the most evocative imagery:

*Ye verdant plains and woody mountains,
purling streams and bubbling fountains,
ye painted glories of the field,
vain are the pleasures which ye yield;
too thin the shadow of the grove,
too faint the gales, to cool my love.*

The first half of the work continues in this vein, with Acis and Galatea expressing

their love through various conventional forms, until Polyphemus breaks through into the arcadian paradise. Acis and Galatea now becomes a work where two musical worlds collide: the high-brow pastoral of the title characters and the low-brow parody of Polyphemus. This culminates in a trio that I would argue is (when staged) one of the most powerful moments in musical drama: [The flocks shall leave the mountains.](#)

While Galatea and Acis croon a beautiful ode to the purity of their love, Polyphemus' counterpoint is as basic as it is real. His words aren't poetry but cries from the heart: *"Torture! fury! rage! despair! I cannot, cannot bear!"* His music isn't melody but a loose succession of emotive intervals, climaxing in the brutal murder of Acis by Polyphemus. Together, the sum is much larger than its parts. It's the work of a dramatic genius.

Most responsible for the opera's timelessness is its sheer emotional power. Over the course of the 90 or so minutes, Handel draws out the base elements of human nature – intense love, intense jealousy, intense rage, and intense grief.

The characters' arias and the instrumental melodies subtly

build upon the stage directions to convey the atmosphere of the story and the defining moods and personalities of each character – the fall of voices as they sing the final chorus create flowing notes that evoke the bubbling sound of the river.

The music, story, and performers work together to create an absorbing experience that captures the attention, from first-time opera goers to seasoned veterans – the full emotional scale of life, and the most basic elements of the human condition that have stayed the same over eternity.

After Galatea bemoans the loss of her love, she uses her divinity to transform Acis's body into a beautiful fountain of water – a natural wonder that, as sung in the [final chorus](#), inspires the world both mortal and divine forever more:

*Hail! thou gentle
murm'ring stream,
shepherds' pleasure,
muses' theme!
Through the plains
still joy to rove,
murm'ring still
thy gentle love.*

Handel leaves us with a compelling question: how far are we willing to go for the people we love?

Andrew Radford





Summer at Leicester Cathedral

This summer we will have exciting opportunities to explore and enjoy stories of Leicester, of faith, and of culture, as we celebrate the new life our cathedral building is bringing.

Treat yourself to the beauty of Choral Evensong and recitals by talented young musicians. Laugh at local Paul Gosling's *Dr Watson* comedy show. Explore the city's lost medieval churches with world-renowned archaeologist [Mathew Morris](#). Learn about the community [food-growing and environmental project](#) in the heart of Leicester.

It will be great to see you!

See all events and services on our [website](#)

**Pick
up a
booklet!**



Summer Holiday Craft at the Cathedral

Come and join us for FREE family craft activities every Tuesday (1.30–3.30pm) and Thursday (10.00am–12.00pm) throughout the summer holidays. Suitable for children aged 4+. From 16 July to 22 August.

Family Archaeology Days

**Wednesdays 17 and 24 July
10.00am – 4.00pm**

Calling all budding archaeologists (or those that just love digging and making things)!

Join us for this special drop-in event, to make a mosaic, excavate a dig box, design your own Roman altar, and more!

In partnership with University of Leicester Archaeological Services.

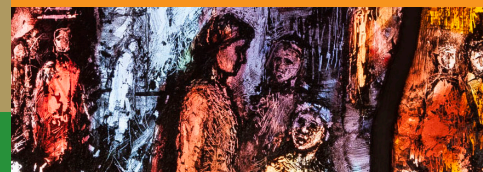
Following Christ: 'aCross Culture'

Saturday 13 July

What is intercultural discipleship, and what does it mean to disciple people across different cultures?

Join us for workshops, guest speakers, reflection, networking and worship as we practically explore how we can more inclusively journey in faith together.

Register on [Eventbrite](#).



Lunchtime Recitals

Summer Season 2024



**12.30pm | Free admission,
donations encouraged**

Monday 13 May
Ellis Thomas Piano*

Monday 27 May
Philip Millward Organ

Monday 10 June
Anna Crawford Cello (+ Duet partner)*

Monday 24 June
Osnabruck Youth Choir

Monday 8 July
Leicestershire Music Strings Ensemble

Students aged 13–18, the LMSE performs a varied programme of summer chamber music including well-known quartets and octets. Directed by Phil Houghton.

Philharmonia

* with the **Philharmonia Fellowship Scheme**

The Philharmonia is a world-class symphony orchestra – based in London at Southbank Centre’s Royal Festival Hall, resident in cities and at festivals across England, and streaming online, the Philharmonia creates thrilling performances for a global audience.

Here at Leicester Cathedral, we’re thrilled to welcome Philharmonia Orchestra Instrumental Fellows for a series of recitals in a new partnership with this acclaimed orchestra.



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www.leicestercathedral.org

Leicester Cathedral presents



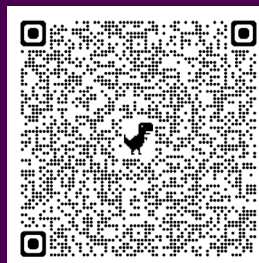
A Talk on **Saffron Acres**

the community food growing
and environmental project

**Join us for a talk about the
award-winning project in the
centre of Leicester's Saffron
Lane estate**

Saffron Acres is an award-winning open space in the centre of the Saffron Lane estate, managed by Saffron Lane Neighbourhood Council for the benefit of local people.

Disused land was taken over in 2006 and quickly revitalised to provide funded work placements and volunteering opportunities, enabling local people to learn how to live more sustainably; grow their own produce, generate green energy, and live healthier lifestyles.



Thursday 27 June 2024
6.30pm

Tickets
£3.50–5.50 available
from **Eventbrite**



SoundCafe Choir

Songs From

Around the world



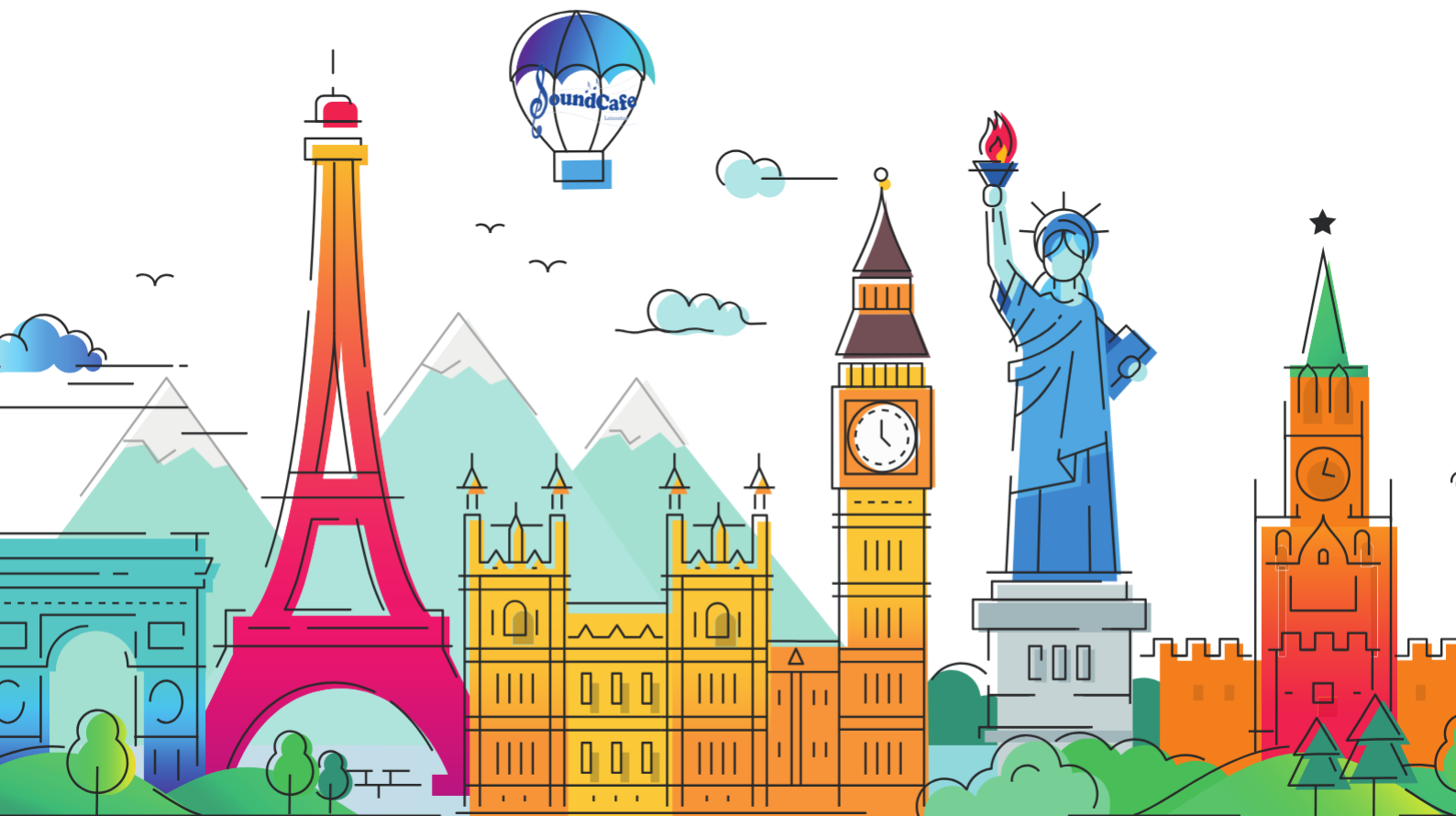
Monday 8th July 2024

St Mary de Castro Church

Castle View

2-3pm

Everyone Welcome!





Martin Dyer

As water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart.

Proverbs 27.19

Prayer Thoughts

Hello, hello, hello!
Hope everyone is as well as can possibly be after the long period of cold, COLD, wet, and windy weather. I am just about ok with the rain, but the cold is neither right nor fair. Our old house does not retain the heat at the very best of times, so I am having to type wearing fingerless gloves! IN JUNE!!

I just know I have never known a summer like this in the UK, although at the end of the month the statisticians will probably say that it wasn't exceptional at all; and they will be right as always since the memory does indeed play many devious and extraordinary tricks on us all. **1**

I am glad to be home though and to be back at the Cathedral and the liturgy; these words are so powerful and bring life, especially when spoken communally. Last Sunday was a celebration of music in the Cathedral. We are very fortunate to have such excellent musicians among us! The Mass setting was *The Bells of St Martin's* by our own Charles Patterson, which is truly lovely. **2** And then for the Voluntary, a wonderful Bach *Fugue BWV531* from David Cowen (never a day without JSB!). But tucked in between was *The Call*, one of five mystical



songs by Ralph Vaughan Williams, words by George Herbert. This is one of my very favourite pieces and one I should like played at my funeral. The combination of the words and the music is simply outstanding, and inevitably bowls me over. On this occasion, I was totally unprepared and the tears rolled down my cheeks.

Music has the capacity to touch me deeply in a way that no other art form can. The Renoir currently on display in New Walk Museum is ok-ish but I really wouldn't be concerned were it to disappear! In contrast there is always some tune or other going round my brain and the quotation right from an author called Georgia Cates (found in a window on Regent Road) sums up my relationship with music of pretty much any kind (ask the long-suffering Sally Ann). Music contains an inherent spirituality, an inherent life, which I personally find largely missing in the visual arts.

Footnotes

1 *Being Wrong: Adventures in the Margin of Error*, by Kathryn Schulz, Portobello Books, 2010. Fascinating!

2 Yes I know it is a CD but it is our own Leicester Cathedral CD – available from [Amazon!](#)

3 Richard Rohr meditation November 2014

The Five Mystical Songs are certainly in my top ten and "The Call" my favourite of the five. Why? It is the sublime combination of simple words and fabulous stirring music. I find it impossible to believe that Vaughan Williams was an atheist when he wrote the music for these songs. Look here and meditate on these words:

*Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
such a Way, as gives us breath:
such a Truth, as ends all strife:
such a Life, as killeth death.*

*Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
such a Light, as shows a feast:
such a Feast, as mends in length:
such a Strength, as makes his guest.*

*Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
such a Joy, as none can move:
such a Love, as none can part:
such a Heart, as joyes in love.*

This is an intensely emotional love poem, reflecting Herbert's desire to be in the direct presence of his Saviour, his Friend and his Lover. Look at the words Herbert uses; my Way, my Truth, my Life, my Light, my Feast, my Strength, my Joy, my Love, My Heart. And listen to the music that Vaughan Williams employs; the first two verses are full of deep, deep yearning, but then for the "killer" third verse (which reduces me), there is such a dramatic change in key and a crescendo of joy (and note that *The Call* should be immediately followed by the most joyous *Antiphon!*). It is praise and worship of the highest level!

And by some Deep Magic, to complete the morning's joy, Emma Davies preached on 2 Corinthians 4.16–18:

"So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed every day. For this slight momentary affliction is



preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, because we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."

Paul had the same vision as Herbert.

As Emma put it:

"We are collectively God's building of living works of art, a moving, shifting, changing community revealing in our life the vibrant life of God, called to reveal God's life in the world. God's brush strokes and vibrant colours can be seen in us all. And from the perspective of heaven God can see the whole picture as it emerges, beautiful and beguiling."

We are loved. Love does not fail and does not come to an end. "Love is where we came from. And love is where we are going. When we live in love, we will not be afraid to die. We have built a bridge between worlds."³

Heaven is our HOME.

In this dark, dangerous, depressing and COLD world, may we shine with his Glory, and bring his Peace and Joy to those who are suffering.

Come Lord Jesus, come. Much love to you all. (And please may the weather change!)

[It seems, as of 21 June, your wish has been granted Martin! Ed.]

WAYS YOU CAN HELP LEICESTER CATHEDRAL

ONLINE GIVING

Donate online [here](#).

By TEXT

To donate £5, text PLATE to 70970

To donate £10, text PLATE to 70191

INTO OUR BANK ACCOUNT

Account Name: Leicester Cathedral Chapter

Account Number: 03807282 | Sort Code: 20-49-11

BY CHEQUE

Payable to: Leicester Cathedral Chapter

Address: St Martins House, 7 Peacock Lane,
Leicester, LE1 5PZ



SAFEGUARDING

THE DEAN and Chapter of the Cathedral are wholly committed to the safety, well-being and protection of everyone having contact with our community.

If you have concerns about the welfare or behaviour of an adult, young person or child, please speak to one of the **Residentiary Canons** or to Linda Green or Amanda Fitchcett, our **Safeguarding Co-ordinators**.

The Residentiary Canons can be approached in person or contacted on **07399 523 330**.

If you would prefer to talk to one of the Safeguarding Co-ordinators please either write to them at the Cathedral office, or give the office your details and one of the Co-ordinators will contact you. You do not need to explain the reason for your request.

All concerns will be responded to proportionately and with discretion.

