

FREE

Manchester
Cathedral



News

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Dec/Jan 2012



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With joy you
will draw water

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'Holy Night' at the Cathedral

Canon Andrew Shanks



How beautiful the 15th century musician angels are, in our nave ceiling! String instruments along the south, wind instruments along the north. All except the last ones, above the quire screen: they're the wrong way round, an organ on the south and a clavichord on the north.

How did that happen? I picture a terrible 'oops!' moment. The Victorian restorers, exhausted, having just finished the extremely tricky work of putting the angels back, are leaning against their ladders. They look up ...

Well, perfection is for God alone.

I think, also, of the numerous cases of failed proof-reading in editions of the Bible. For example: the 'Wicked Bible' of 1631, in which there's a really

most unfortunate error in the Ten Commandments. The crucial word 'not' is omitted from Exodus 20: 14, making the 7th Commandment read, 'Thou shalt commit adultery!' All copies were hastily recalled. But eleven still survive. (See the Wikipedia article on 'Bible errata' for other entertaining errors of the same general kind.)

Anyhow, what I'm leading up to is the little error that may well be spotted on our Cathedral Christmas cards this year. Alas! These (highly desirable) cards feature a fine painting by Amos Millington of the 'Holy Night' sculpture in the Cathedral, by Josefina de Vasconcellos. But somehow, on the back, the 'V' at the beginning of the artist's name has got scrunched up into a 'Y'. We spotted the error too late. And we can't afford to recall them. So, by way of penance, let me here pay homage to the half-Brazilian, half-English artist whose name we've so mangled.

Josefina Alys Hermes de Vasconcellos was 87 when she carved our statue, which was installed in 1992. Based in the Lake District, she continued carving well into her 90s – actually completing her last major sculpture at the age of 97. And she lived to be 100.

Besides her artistic work, she helped establish charities providing adventurous outdoor holidays in Cumbria for disadvantaged boys, and for disabled children.

Although raised as a child in a household where all talk of religion was banned, with a fiercely atheistic father, she eventually married the painter Delmar Banner, who was also an Anglican lay preacher.

Much of her work is religious. It is to be found in cathedrals and other churches throughout Britain. Other casts of her 'Holy Night', in particular, are to be found in Liverpool and Gloucester Cathedrals. The one here has become a central part of our annual Christmas celebration.

The Dean has been on sabbatical



'Holy Night' sculpture by Josefina de Vasconcellos

Our new Precentor

We're delighted to announce the appointment of our new Canon Precentor, Philip Barratt, who is being installed in the 10.30 morning service on Advent Sunday, 2 December. There are a

number of invited guests and some seating will be reserved, but the service is not ticketed and all are welcome to attend. We'll let Philip introduce himself more fully in a future issue.

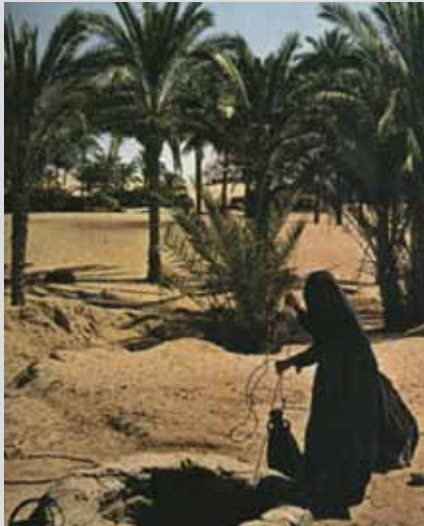
Pure Joy

Canon Mark Ashcroft

I am one of those weird people who look forward to Monday mornings. The reason is not that, as one parishioner put it, “Sunday is your busy day, Vicar” and I put up my feet on Mondays. Nor is it because it’s bacon butty day at the Cathedral – that’s Friday.

No, the reason is strange but true: on Mondays in Common Worship there is a line in the Canticle for that day which brings a lightness to my spirit and a smile to my eyes. It says, “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation”. In my imagination I see a traveller going through a dry and hot landscape and coming excitedly across a deep well. As they draw the fresh cool soothing water from the depths of the well, there is pure joy! It resonates with me as I come back to the Lord on a new day and seek the Spirit’s refreshment and grace.

The Christmas message and the Christian Gospel is one that is big on joy. “I bring you news of great joy for all people”. And it is brilliant news that we celebrate: that God, in generous love, comes into our beautiful but broken world to bring us life and hope, forgiveness and peace. And this is not just for the favoured few, not just for the specially selected, but for all people, whoever we are. The birth of



any baby brings joy to the world, but the birth of Jesus is brimful of joy.

Of course that first Christmas was not easy. Pregnant Mary with Joseph travel miles through sometimes dangerous countryside; no room is found for the holy family in the guesthouse; Herod’s bullies later bring havoc and slaughter to Bethlehem.

Likewise, Christmas for many people today is a hard time, tinged with the sadness of loss, loneliness and no sense of being at home. That’s why we need to draw with joy from the wells of salvation. Our joy is not first of all in the food, the gifts, the family, and friends, though it’s great to have such celebrations.

Our joy goes deeper and transcends our circumstances. For it has its focus on Jesus the Saviour of the world – it’s a joy that can be shared with anyone and everyone, a joy that is multiplied when it is shared. May we all have a joy-filled Christmas!

Alex Jacob

‘The Case for Enlargement Theology’
on the relationship between
Christianity and Judaism



**Tuesday 22 January 2013
7.00pm in the Cathedral**

contact Canon Andrew Shanks
canon.shanks@manchestercathedral.org
0161 833 2220 for more details

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Two poems by our Cathedral Poet, *Rachel Mann*

WASSAIL

in memoriam Christmas Massacres, Congo 2008

'And when ye spread forth your hands
I will hide my eyes from you' Isaiah 1

Afterwards they gathered the teeth,
hung them from trees,
as if then the Word might speak,
illuminate what they had done.

Hoping perhaps to reach back
before the beginning,
when the first bodies writhed
reached tongue for tongue
gave birth to joy.

Now ash drifts like snow.
Pyres die. The feast is made.

BLESSING

It begins a long way back.
Back before forbidden trees
and grass crushed by anxious feet.
Before a mouth, sore with shaping
new sounds, opened and closed,
failed to speak.

Snow falls, concealing the worn
grain of tracks you have made.
Flake by flake earth recedes,
stepping away, sound throwing off
its weight like seeds.



Write the Cathedral

One of the remarkable things about Manchester Cathedral is its participation in the city's thriving poetry scene. Not only does the Cathedral run one of, if not, the most respected religious poetry prizes in the world, but it took the bold step three years ago of inviting me to act as poet-in-residence. While I am conscious that, due to a number of reasons good and ill, I have not been as active in this role as I might have been, I am delighted how the Cathedral has become ever more connected with Manchester Literature Festival. It has been a privilege to play a part in setting up events like The Manchester Sermon. If Manchester is at the very least – after London - the UK's second city for poetry, there is a real sense in which the Cathedral is taking its place in promoting literature and taking poetry seriously.

As part of the on-going development of the Cathedral's poetry work, I'm delighted to announce a new project which has emerged out of the 'Dig The City' fringe 'poetry' event, 'Write The City'. Provisionally entitled 'Write The Cathedral' this project will bring together poets based in and around Manchester to write a series of poems for and about the Cathedral. Rachel Davies, a Manchester poet who is co-leading this project, and I, hope to unveil the poems before the Cathedral shuts for refurbishment next year. Once the Cathedral is up and running again we hope the poems will be available both to read in booklet form, but also at various points around the cathedral. There will also be a new media option – colleagues from the NW Sound Archive have offered, free of charge, to record the poets reading their poems and make them available for download. Hopefully the poems will also be accessible via the Cathedral website. I look forward to updating you all about this project as it develops.

Rachel Mann

Community Art Project: 'Finding God in the Detail'

Waiting to retrieve your baggage from the carousel after a long flight can be a tiresome and tedious experience. However if you happen to be doing just that in Manchester Terminal 1, in the near future, you'll be in for a rather special treat.

The Cathedral Education department are delighted to bring you news of their latest collaborative project, with Manchester Airport and their Artist-in-Residence, Andy Leigh. We plan to showcase Manchester Cathedral to international travellers as a key cultural and spiritual attraction within the city, whilst also fostering links with schools from some of the poorest areas in Greater Manchester: schools for whom, without initiatives such as this, valuable visits and experiences are difficult to fund. As a result of this collaboration, we hope to welcome many more international tourists, Wythenshawe schoolchildren and their teachers and parents to the Cathedral over the coming years.

We have invited over 175 pupils, from schools in each of the five wards of Wythenshawe, to Manchester Cathedral to participate in hands-on ceramic workshops, considering the tiny details which make the Cathedral unique. These workshops will culminate in the unveiling of a collective Manchester

Cathedral artwork, to be displayed at Manchester Airport and Wythenshawe Art Gallery next year.

But there's more to it than that. The value of experiential visits, like those offered through the Cathedral Education Department, cannot be underestimated. The National Curriculum places great importance upon learning outside of the classroom. Many inner-city schoolchildren won't have had the opportunity to travel beyond their own locality. It may be a rare opportunity for them to experience a sacred place: the unique surroundings of the Cathedral allow visiting pupils the space to reflect, and explore their spirituality as well as their shared cultural heritage. To know that their artwork will be showcased to 20 million international travellers will be a valuable boost to their self-esteem. We, at the Cathedral and Manchester Airport, are very excited by the new potential that this project will unleash.

So when you return from exploring new parts of the world, look out for the story of new worlds opening up to these students right here in Manchester. Perhaps your next wait at the baggage carousel won't be quite as mundane as you might expect!

Hannah Currin



Family Carols

Manchester Cathedral Voluntary Choir
The Phoenix Brass Quintet
Directed by Jeffrey Makinson
Christopher Stokes - organ

Saturday 15 December 2012
7.30 pm

Tickets: £10 (£8)
available from
0161 833 2220



Manchester
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Christmas

at Manchester Cathedral

Christmas Carol Sing-along

Monday 17 December 2012
12.15 pm - 1.45 pm

Drop in to the Cathedral to sing some Christmas carols;
stay for as long or as short amount of time as you like.
Very informal; everyone welcome!

Victoria Street, Manchester, M3 1SX
www.manchestercathedral.org

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Campaign Corner - *Be a Part of it* Manchester Cathedral Development Project

Anthony O'Connor



AWARD FOR 'DIG THE CITY'

The Royal Horticultural Society 'It's Your Neighbourhood' awards took place this Autumn. The 'Dig the City' flower festival, which took place earlier in the year, occupying the Cathedral and much of the surrounding area, won

a RHS North West in Bloom Level 4 award. The award was collected, on behalf of all the festival partners, by Darrell Wilson of BDP, who designed the master-plan for the external gardens.

Julie Hyslop and Mark Knight, of Groundwork, who were responsible for the Victoria Street element of 'Dig the City', at the RHS Awards

THE OFFICIAL 2012 MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL Christmas Cards

are now on sale at St Denys Bookshop, which is located on the basement floor of the Cathedral Visitor Centre.

Specially commissioned illustration, by Amos Millington: 'The Holy Night' (Josefina de Vasconcellos, 1904 -2005). The card inner reads 'Happy Christmas'.



£5.99 per pack of 10

You can purchase cards at the counter, or telephone the bookshop on 0161 835 1069

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The Julian Prayer Group



A Julian Meeting is usually 6-15 people of various denominations, or none, both lay people and clergy, who meet regularly in a house, church or chapel. The Manchester Cathedral Julian Prayer Group meets in the Cathedral Quire.

We have a short meditation and a brief prayer, which leads into about 30 minutes of silent, contemplative prayer. This is followed by a time for tea/coffee and conversation.

Julian Meetings vary, but are centred on contemplative prayer in the Christian tradition and welcome people of every (or no) denomination, and those seeking a place for silent prayer.

Contemplative prayer has been described as 'listening to God'. Prayer

involves listening as well as speaking, but so often we do all the talking and God doesn't get a chance! Simply 'being with God' like this is a very natural way of praying and it may be the only way we can pray when we are tired or ill.

If we feel that we need to learn how to be 'still' with God, we might look to the methods that others have found helpful. Belonging to a group of people who meet regularly in silent contemplation can be a great help and encouragement. Each week, a member is invited to introduce a theme for silent meditation.

After the prayer meeting, refreshments are taken in the Bishop Wickham Library. Meetings take place in the Quire at 12.30 pm, every third Tuesday as follows:

27 November 2012

18 December 2012

8 January 2013

29 January 2013

19 February 2013

12 March 2013

2 April 2013

23 April 2013

Further dates will be confirmed in due course. From 23 April 2013, for the duration of the proposed works to the Cathedral floor, the meetings will be transferred to the Unitarian Chapel on Cross Street.

Julian of Norwich (c. 1342—c. 1416) was one of the greatest mediaeval theologians of the spiritual life. Very little is known of her life, apart from what we learn from her great book *Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love*. This is the first ever book written in the English language by a woman. It describes a series of visions Julian experienced in the course of an illness that brought her close to death. And it is an astonishingly beautiful work!

Christmas

at Manchester Cathedral

Messiah by G F Handel

Saturday 8 December 2012, 7 pm

Tickets £25 (€23), £20 (€18), £13 (€11), £9 (€7)

<http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/manchestercathedral>

Family Carols Concert

Saturday 15 December 2012, 7.30 pm

Tickets £10 (€8), call 0161 833 2220

Christmas Carol Sing-along

Monday 17 December 2012

12.15 pm - 1.45 pm

(informal - just turn up and stay as long as you like)

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Saturday 22 December 2012, 7.30 pm

Blessing of the Crib with Children's Nativity
Christmas Eve, 12 noon

The First Communion of Christmas
Christmas Eve, 11.30 pm

Christmas Day Sung Eucharist

Christmas Day, 10.30 am

Incense will be used at this service

Manchester
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The Diary December

Saturday 1 December

11.00 am Age UK Star for Christmas
4.15 pm Choristers to perform at
Manchester Arndale

Sunday 2 December

10.30 am Sung Eucharist with
Installation of Canon Precentor
3.00 pm St John Ambulance County
Carol Service
5.30 pm Advent Carol Service

Monday 3 December

11.30 am Greater Manchester
Chamber of Commerce and
Industry Carol Concert

Tuesday 4 December

6.15 pm Christmas Tree Lights
Switch-On
7.30 pm MedEquip4Kids
Carol Concert

Wednesday 5 December

12.45 pm Turning of the Leaves
7.30 pm Action for Children Carol
Concert

Thursday 6 December

12.00 noon Joint Staff Eucharist
7.30 pm Children's Society Carol
Service

Friday 7 December

7.30 pm Sing Live Ltd Christmas
Concert

Saturday 8 December

7.00 pm Messiah (G F Handel)

Sunday 9 December

1.00 pm - 5.00 pm
Light up a Life: St Ann's
Hospice Services*

Tuesday 11 December

7.30 pm North West Air
Ambulance Charity Carol Concert

Wednesday 12 December

7.00 pm Henshaws Carols by
Candlelight

Thursday 13 December

12.00 pm Mothers' Union
Thursday Prayer
7.30 pm Greater Manchester
Police Carol Concert

Saturday 15 December

7.30 pm Family Carols

Monday 17 December

12.15 pm Christmas Carol
Sing-Along
7.00 pm NSPCC Carol Concert

Tuesday 18 December

12.30 pm Julian Prayer Group

Wednesday 19 December

12.45 pm Turning of the Leaves
7.30 pm Trinity High School
Carol Service

Friday 21 December

11.00 am MEN Carol Concert
2.15 pm MEN Carol Concert

Saturday 22 December

7.30 pm A Festival of Nine
Lessons and Carols

Sunday 23 December

7.00pm Manchester Show Choir
Carol Concert

Monday 24 December

12.00 noon Blessing of the Crib
and Children's Nativity
11.30 pm First Communion of
Christmas

Tuesday 25 December

8.45 am Matins
9.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Christmas Day Eucharist.
Incense will be used.
12.00 noon Evening Prayer

Wednesday 26 December

11.00 am Morning Prayer and
Holy Communion
1.10 pm No Holy Communion
4.30 pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 27 December

9.00 am Morning Prayer & Holy
Communion
1.10 pm No Holy Communion
4.30 pm Evening Prayer

Friday 28 December

9.00 am Morning Prayer &
Holy Communion
1.10 pm No Holy Communion
5.30 pm No Evening Prayer

Sunday 30 December

8.45 am Matins
9.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Eucharist
4.30 pm Evening Prayer

Monday 31 December

9.00 am Morning Prayer & Holy
Communion
1.10 pm No Holy Communion
4.30 pm No Evening Prayer

* Unfortunately, due to the large numbers of invited guests, these services will not be open to the public.

Midweek services

Morning Prayer	9.00am	Mon-Sat
Holy Communion	1.10pm	Mon-Fri
Holy Communion	9.15am	Sat
Evening Prayer	5.30pm	Mon & Fri
Evensong	5.30pm	Tues-Thurs
	3.30pm	Saturday

Sunday Services

Matins	8.45am
Holy Communion (1662)	9.00am
Sung Eucharist	10.30am
Evensong	5.30pm

Further information regarding Christmas services and concerts, including ticketing, are available at

www.manchestercathedral.org

Looking ahead - January 2013

Tuesday 1 January 2013

9.00 am Morning Prayer
1.10 pm No Holy Communion
4.30 pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday 2 January

12.45 pm Turning of the Leaves

Sunday 6 January

10.30 am Sung Eucharist for Epiphany - incense will be used at this service
4.00 pm Epiphany Procession and Evensong with St Ann's Church - begins at St Ann's at 4.00 pm

Tuesday 8 January

12.30 pm Julian Prayer Group

Sunday 13 January

5.30 pm Evensong with Installation of Honorary Canons

Wednesday 16 January

12.45 pm Turning of the Leaves

Thursday 17 January

1.10 pm Chetham's School of Music Lunchtime Concert

Friday 18 January

7.00 pm Peter Hook & the Light Concert - performing New Order's 'Movement' and 'Power, Corruption and Lies'

Saturday 19 January

11.00 am Coffee Concert
12.00 noon - 3.30 pm Be a Chorister for a Day

Tuesday 22 January

7.00 pm Manchester Theological Society: Alex Jacob, 'The Case for Enlargement Theology' (Christianity and Judaism)

Sunday 27 January

3.00 pm Resonate

Tuesday 29 January

12.30 pm Julian Prayer Group

Wednesday 30 January

12.45 pm Turning of the Leaves
7.30 pm Commissioning of Mothers' Union Diocesan President and Trustees

Looking further ahead

Saturday 2 February

5.30 pm Sung Eucharist for Candlemas
7.00 pm Olivier Messiaen's 'La Nativité du Seigneur'

Tuesday 5 February

7.00 pm Manchester Theological Society: Terry Biddington, 'Shared Religious Spaces'

Thursday 7 February

1.10 pm Chetham's School of Music Lunchtime Concert

Saturday 9 February

7.30 pm Brahms German Requiem

Wednesday 13 February

12.45 pm Turning of the Leaves
4.30 pm Evening Prayer
5.30 pm Sung Eucharist (BCP) - incense will be used

Saturday 16 February

11.00 am Coffee Concert

Sunday 17 February

3.00 pm Resonate

Monday 18 February

5.30 pm Evensong sung by Chetham's School of Music and the Cathedral Choir

Tuesday 19 February

12.30 pm Julian Prayer Group
7.30 pm Britten 100 Concert: Choristers of Manchester Cathedral, Chetham's School of Music Sinfonia and Ensembles and guest young musicians - see www.chethams.com for tickets and further info

Saturday 23 February

1.45 pm Britten 100: Noye's Fludde Concert - see www.chethams.com for tickets and further info
5.30 pm Britten 100: Noye's Fludde Concert - see www.chethams.com for tickets and further info

Wednesday 27 February

12.45 pm Turning of the Leaves

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Back Copies are available to view on our website, under 'Publications'. Go to:

www.manchestercathedral.org

You can also subscribe online to the Development Projects Newsletter and Events for Schools Newsletter.

Contacts

The Clergy

The Dean:

The Very Revd Rogers Govender
dean@manchestercathedral.org

Canon Theologian:

Canon Andrew Shanks
canon.shanks@manchestercathedral.org

Archdeacon of Manchester:

The Venerable Mark Ashcroft
archdeaconmanchester@manchester.anglican.org

Canon Evangelist:

Canon Tony Hardy
canon.evangelist@manchestercathedral.org

Canon Precentor:

Canon Philip Barratt
precentor@manchestercathedral.org

Cathedral Curate

Revd Rhiannon Jones
curate@manchestercathedral.org

Chapter Lay Canons:

David Howe, Jennifer Curtis, Mike Evans, Barrie Cheshire

Cathedral Chaplains:

Revd Peter Bellamy-Knights (Retired)
peter.bellamyknights@manchestercathedral.org

Canon Adrian Rhodes

office@manchestercathedral.org

Congregation

The following people can be contacted via the Cathedral Office on **0161 833 2220**:

Churchwardens & Stewards:

Church Wardens and Stewards details are posted in the welcome area, or by email, wardens@manchestercathedral.org

Archives: archives@manchestercathedral.org

Flowers: Helen Bamping

Friends of Manchester Cathedral: Pauline Dimond

Captain of the Bell Tower: Roland Eccles

Also:

Chetham's School of Music: 0161 834 9644

National Rail Enquiries (24hr): 0845 748 4950

(Nearest station is Victoria)

Mantax (Taxi Service): 0161 230 3333

Taxifone (Taxi Service): 0161 236 2322



Staff

Cathedral Administrator: *Position Vacant*

Dean's PA: *Alison Rowland*

alison.rowland@manchestercathedral.org

Cathedral Administrative Secretary:

Joanne Hooper

joanne.hooper@manchestercathedral.org

Cathedral Office Assistant: *Grace Timperley*

grace.timperley@manchestercathedral.org

Junior Office Assistant: *Jade Newbury*

jade.newbury@manchestercathedral.org

Finance Assistant: *Joanne Hodkin*

joanne.hodkin@manchestercathedral.org

Organist & Master of the Choristers:

Christopher Stokes

christopher.stokes@manchestercathedral.org

Sub Organist: *Jeffrey Makinson*

jeffrey.makinson@manchestercathedral.org

Worship & Music Administrator: *Katy Leese*

worship-music.admin@manchestercathedral.org

Director of Fundraising & Development:

Anthony O'Connor

anthony.o'connor@manchestercathedral.org

Logistics Officer: *Peter Mellor*

peter.mellor@manchestercathedral.org

Senior Verger: *Derrick May*

derrick.may@manchestercathedral.org

Vergers:

Martin Taylor

martin.taylor@manchestercathedral.org

Gareth Screeton

gareth.screeton@manchestercathedral.org

Education Officer: *Pam Elliott*

pam.elliott@manchestercathedral.org

Volunteer Programme Manager:

Lauren Bailey-Rhodes

lauren.bailey-rhodes@manchestercathedral.org

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A truly traditional Christmas treat

Manchester 
Cathedral

G F Handel

Messiah

Manchester Cathedral Choir and
Manchester Camerata
Directed by Christopher Stokes

Tickets £25 (£23), £20 (£18), £13 (£11), £9 (£7)

Available from

www.manchestercathedral.ticketsource.co.uk


or telephone 0161 833 2220

Saturday 8 December 2012

7.00 pm Please note the
early start time

at Manchester Cathedral
Victoria Street, M3 1SX

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