

FROM THE CATHEDRAL'S PROJECT DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR – CANON JOHN SADLER



Welcome to the fifth issue of our Cathedral Development News – it comes wishing you all the very best for 2015.

I have been working as the Cathedral's Project Development Coordinator for a little over fifteen months now – and I have learned so much!

Although I had been working in the diocese for nearly 30 years, I confess I knew so little about the Cathedral. I had no idea how old it was, the treasures it has within its walls, what potential it has as a focus for the diocese, or what possibilities exist for some really exciting new developments that will position the Cathedral as an increasingly important spiritual and cultural powerhouse for the twenty-first century. This all helps me to have a much deeper understanding of those from our parishes who, over the past 6 months, prior to coming, had always felt that the Cathedral and its staff were rather distant and had nothing to do with them.

Now all this is changing – which is one of the bits of good news in this newsletter. There's lots of other good news too!

Find the latest on the Thomlinson Library roof, news about the increasingly good relationships between ourselves and the Castle, and acknowledgements for all the time our supporters spend working with us and helping us. There's the latest on the chairs and, of course, there's an update on the application we're making to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the support needed to bring about the second phase of the Cathedral's development, entitled "Common Ground in Sacred Space".

Before any of that, the one thing these last fifteen months has taught me is what a significant and exciting place Newcastle's Anglican Cathedral is.



THE CATHEDRAL AND THE PARISHES ARE ALL PART OF THE SAME FAMILY!

The Cathedral is the Mother Church of the diocese and when people from parishes from around the diocese come to Newcastle – and to the Cathedral – they do not come as visitors! The Cathedral is their place and in coming to the Cathedral they are coming home!

This is the message we are trying to get across to an increasing number of people who are coming from around the diocese to spend a bit of time here – being introduced to the Cathedral and its rich heritage, talking together about all the possibilities for the future and the ways in which parishes and deaneries might use the Cathedral to enhance the spiritual lives of their own communities, to eat together and to worship together.

And the feedback we are receiving is overwhelming! *'We always thought of the Cathedral as being rather distant and nothing to do with us, but now we see it in a totally different light'; 'I had no idea how old the Cathedral was and how extraordinarily interesting the building and its heritage is'; 'I so appreciated worshipping together in this spiritual powerhouse'; 'The Cathedral is so exciting – it's like a graphic novel!'*

These opportunities for relationship building and exploration are already being further



Parish Groups being introduced to the Cathedral

developed – and our hope is that the connection between the Cathedral and parishes will become closer and closer.

THE THOMLINSON LIBRARY

The eighteenth-century Palladian-style wing attached to the south side of the Cathedral, built to house a large number of books donated to the Cathedral by a Dr Robert Thomlinson who was Rector of Whickham, is in need of repair. The books were moved to the Central Library some time ago but the building now contains the Cathedral's Vestry and the Song School – and the roof is in poor shape. We are delighted, however, that we have received a grant of over £150,000 from The First World War Centenary Cathedral Repairs Fund to renew the roof and stonework, and also protect the stained glass windows on the south side of the nave. Work will start in the spring.



Cathedral and Castle

CASTLE AND CATHEDRAL

Our HLF 'Illuminating Stories' project, all part of Phase One of the Cathedral's development, is ongoing and due to be completed by autumn this year. In order to end this project in a blaze of glory, and set up the partnership working with the Castle required for our Phase Two development (Common Ground in Sacred Space), we are already beginning to work



more closely together. This will include using their expertise to finish the Illuminating Stories project successfully as well as sharing our resources to ensure that visitors coming to the Castle and the Cathedral will be able to appreciate the connections between them, and have a much more 'joined up' experience as they explore the history and the stories of the town of Newcastle from the eleventh century onwards.



PHASE TWO OF OUR DEVELOPMENT AND THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND

There were details in our last Cathedral Development News about how our 'Common Ground in Sacred Space' HLF Phase Two project was developing. Since then many crucial things have taken and are taking place, all of which will contribute to the HLF Stage One application. Our Audience Development Plan is all but complete – helping us to see who our most important 'audience' is and who we are missing. A review of the Cathedral as an organisation is ongoing and we are preparing a Business Plan. Anne Fletcher – a nationally known expert, who helped York Minster and Lambeth Palace, just to name two landmark buildings, with their Interpretation Strategies, is helping us with the same. And we are determined, as reported above, to ensure

that all our targets are met in the HLF Phase One 'Illuminating Stories' Project. All of these must be in place – or clear and evidence-based plans for completion in place – before we can submit our Stage One application to HLF. To do this too early would be foolish because there would be little chance of success – so we are trying to be patient. But hopefully everything will be in place to enable us to submit this crucial application by late spring or early summer this year.

SO MANY FRIENDS AND SUCH SUPPORT!

We are so fortunate with the many people who see themselves as very much part of us – and who support us in so many valuable ways. The generous way in which some individuals and trusts contribute to the work and development of the Cathedral has often been referred to before but our appreciation is ongoing, and without them we would have no chance of readying the Cathedral for the important role it will continue to have into the twenty-first century. There are so many people, too, who are so generous with their time. People who are part of the Cathedral Council and Cathedral Trust who often give of their time to come to meetings – meetings in which their wisdom is much appreciated. And then, of course, there are the many, many volunteers, without whom the Cathedral could not be the sanctuary which for so many people, it is. Thanks!



OUR NEW CHAIRS PROGRESS REPORT:

All being well we will have forty new chairs in the Cathedral by the spring!

Even with the existing pews there are numerous occasions when it becomes necessary to put extra chairs out in the nave to accommodate all those expected to come on those special occasions and major festivals which happen through the year.

For some time now, those extra chairs have been less-than-ideal plastic ones – but our idea is to gradually replace these with new chairs and benches, chairs which will also, eventually, replace the pews.

As many will already know, this plan is giving the Cathedral community and our supporters an opportunity to sponsor a chair or a bench, which can have a plaque added celebrating the life of a loved one or to commemorate a special event or anniversary.

The good news is that we have already received enough sponsorship from a number of generous donors to purchase an initial forty chairs, and they have now been ordered.

If anyone reading this would like further details of this sponsoring opportunity please contact the Cathedral on 0191 2321939 and ask for Pauline or John – or email cathedral.trust@stnicholascathedral.co.uk



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