



CARLISLE CATHEDRAL

April 2020

Dear Friend,

A letter to all those who support the Cathedral

Every year about this time the Chapter writes to all those who support the Cathedral financially to thank you for your continuing support. It is this generous response to our supremely generous God which allows the Cathedral to sustain its mission and ministry. The 'Thank you' this letter brings is a very sincere one. But this year, of course, we find we are sending this letter at a time when everyone is facing unprecedented challenges and you may be wondering what they could mean for the Cathedral.

It is important to say that the Chapter has already given careful thought to the inevitable questions that arise when important income streams are interrupted. We are continuing to do so. Collections at services held in the Cathedral, visitor donations and the fees that we charge to groups who use our buildings for their events, all make significant contributions to the Cathedral's income each year. All these had been made an integral part in our cash flow projections and our financial planning for 2020 as you would expect.

Now all these sources of income have come to an end for an unknown length of time. Like other organisations we have been hearing about in these extraordinary times, this poses a huge challenge to the Cathedral. Fixed running costs such as insurance, utilities and maintenance contracts, as well as staff costs, mean that expenditure will soon exceed available resources. We are responding to all the initiatives that the government and the national church have offered which may help us. All but a handful of staff are now on furlough under the government's Job Retention Scheme.

The Chapter also recognises that many people across the county will find themselves in a changed and difficult financial situation during the coronavirus emergency and we fully understand if this has an impact on the support they are able to give. But for those who are able to continue giving, there are some ways which can help us at a time like this.

- Regular donations by Bankers Order or Direct Debit are always very helpful to us and the Chapter is grateful to those who support us in this way.
- Those who use the Cathedral's weekly envelope scheme could help by keeping up-to-date with their giving by sending a cheque (marked on the reverse 'Envelope giving'), payable to 'Carlisle Cathedral', by post marked: The Cathedral Office, 7 The Abbey, Carlisle CA3 8TZ. If you have on-line banking, a BACS payment can be made to Carlisle Cathedral Common Fund; Sort Code 16-15-47; account number 00141567.

We hope you know that we do not raise these matters for any other reason than the good of the Cathedral we love and that we all want to see flourish when more normal times return. Your prayers and your support are vital.

At a time that involves much heartache and distress, we hope you know that the Cathedral, in its praying, worshipping and caring, is there for you. Telephone calls and the internet are proving to be encouraging ways to keep in touch when we can't meet face-to-face.

Our life of prayer continues, unbroken, each day. **The Prayer Wall** we have established on the Cathedral website www.carlislecathedral.org.uk is an easy way for you to let us and others know what you would like to keep in our prayers each day.

If it is easier for you, a prayer request can be emailed to:

prayers@carlislecathedral.org.uk

Livestreaming of the Sunday Eucharist at 10.30am will continue from one or other of the Chapter homes throughout the lockdown period. The service will then remain available on the Cathedral website and Facebook page for you to join in. **A service paper** is being produced each week – which can be used on screen or printed out to help you take part.

The great Collect of Easter Sunday speaks to us at this time of uncertainty and anxiety and points us to the power of risen Lord Jesus Christ, present among us each day:

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin, and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. Amen.

We send our warm greetings for a holy Eastertide,

Mark Boyling, Dean; **Jan Kearton**, Canon Warden;
Michael Manley, Canon Missioner

James Westoll, **Bryan Gray** and **Alan Johnston**,
Lay Canons and Members of Chapter