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# News

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**March 2012**



Prayer / Worship / Music / Arts / Education / Heritage / Welcoming



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# Lent for Everyone

- Mark - year B

By The Dean

Anyone seeking to get a quick understanding of the life and ministry of Jesus usually tends to read the Gospel of St Mark. This is because it is the shortest of the four gospels and can easily be read in a few sittings.

Reading and 'studying' this gospel off course is another matter and may take a lifetime for some people because of the amazing truths and interpretations that are waiting to be discovered. I have wanted to read again, and study, Mark's gospel for some time, and have decided to do so this Lent. My chief aid will be the book by Tom Wright entitled Lent for Everyone – Mark – year B. It follows the

daily readings from the lectionary (year B) from Ash Wednesday to Easter. It promises to be a wonderful treasure trove of spiritual gems and I am really thrilled to have this wonderful resource for my Lenten pilgrimage this year. My prayers and blessings for a good Lent and Easter joy!

Rogers Govender

## Help needed!

**Help us to reveal the history of Manchester and its Cathedral by becoming a welcomer or tour guide.**

The Cathedral is a beautiful medieval building rich in history; the role of a guide is to open people's eyes to all of this. Nearby we also have Chetham's School of Music, the world famous Chetham's Library and the 15th century Hanging Bridge, one of the oldest structures in Manchester, which are so often unexplored. Become part of

our guiding team and help introduce our visitors to all the stories these have to tell. Guiding and Welcoming slots are 10am-1pm and 1pm-4pm Monday to Saturday. No previous experience is required and full training will be given. The next recruitment days are 1st March and 29th March.

**If you'd like to find out more or book a place on our next info session please contact Lauren Bailey-Rhodes on 0161 833 2220 or email [lauren.bailey-rhodes@manchestercathedral.org](mailto:lauren.bailey-rhodes@manchestercathedral.org)**

# Glorious Giving

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By Mark Ashcroft

**When I was a teenager, I was told that there are some subjects that you just don't talk about at a polite dinner party; as when my parents had invited friends and acquaintances round for a meal. These taboo topics, I was told, were things like sex, money, politics, religion and death. Obviously all the really interesting topics of conversation were out of bounds! The same probably applies to some people's views about what should be spoken about in church – though we are allowed to talk about religion, and probably death if it is done discreetly.**

One of the advantages of being an Archdeacon is that I am allowed to talk about some of the taboo subjects, and

this month I want to talk about money. It is of course a topic that Jesus frequently talked about – in fact most of his teaching was on subjects that I was told were off limits at my parents' dinner parties!

I was reflecting that the depth of our Christian discipleship is only really tested when we come under pressure. It is easy to say we are a Christian in church, but less easy sometimes when those around us are hostile to faith and Christianity - perhaps at work or in the pub. The same applies to our giving. It is easy to be generous when times are good, but it is harder when we are all tightening our belts.

People have different views on giving but it has always been part of the life of faith. In the Old Testament, God's people were invited to give a tithe, that is, a tenth of their income; ideally this was the first tenth, the pick of the crop. And the book of Malachi chastises the people for their half hearted practice of giving God leftovers or damaged goods.

This tenth reminded God's people that all they possessed came from God. In a sense it all belongs to him. For, as David says in 1 Chronicles 29:

**“everything in heaven and earth is yours”.**

It was also part of their worship and provision for the Temple offerings and those who served in the Temple.

In the New Testament, giving a tithe is not mentioned as a practice to be observed; rather giving is taken to a new level of generosity and gratitude – our way of giving thanks for the inexpressible gift we have in Jesus Christ, the spiritual riches we have in him and the blessings that we receive at God's hand from our Christian fellowship.

It is also motivated by the difference we can make to people's lives, as when Christians in the early days of the Acts of the Apostles had everything in common so that there was not a needy person amongst them. This is why it can be such fun giving our money away, as we see things coming into being that otherwise would not happen, and lives being changed and blessed.

There is furthermore, the strand in Scripture which says that God honours

and blesses those who faithfully and generously give. I have certainly seen that; especially in Kenya, where incredibly poor people have been outstanding in their giving, but have seen God's powerful blessing in their lives.

For many Christians, giving a tithe is still the baseline for their giving. I was taught that half of that tenth goes to the church, and another half goes to mission and overseas aid and other good causes. John Wesley on the other hand lived on the same amount every year but as he got richer, simply gave more and more away – how cool is that?!

It is of course up to each of us with God to decide on our level of giving thoughtfully and prayerfully – but don't miss out on the blessing of giving!

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# Campaign Corner - *Be a Part of it*

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## The New Cathedral Volunteer Programme

Next month will see the launch of something really ambitious: the new Manchester Cathedral Volunteer programme. We've been building up to this for some time.

In 2009, Sir Howard Bernstein, the Chief Executive of Manchester City Council, commissioned a draft 'Masterplan' for this part of the city. Part of this 'Masterplan' was to create a vibrant new offer to tourists and other visitors. To underpin this, we are going to establish an imaginative Volunteer Programme, which will have a major element of helping people into paid employment. We will be running this programme in partnership with Jobcentre Plus, The Commission for the New Economy, Manchester City Council, CREATE and other key partners.

This is the first programme of its kind in the UK, ever, to run from a Cathedral.

We've done our research, and have worked closely, in particular, with the award winning Imperial War Museum 'In Touch' programme; to learn from their experience. The Manchester Arndale, Harvey Nichols and the Printworks have all committed themselves to offer guaranteed interviews and work

placements for 'graduates' of our programme. Working in collaboration with a wide range of partners such as Manchester College and The Broughton Trust, we will offer structured support for our new volunteers, to improve their skills, and hence their employment prospects.

We will seek to recruit new volunteers especially from priority neighborhoods across Greater Manchester. But the programme is open to anyone who wants to participate, from the Jobcentre Plus priority groups. Volunteers will work side by side with our paid staff and with already established volunteers in a variety of roles, learning from their experience and skills. And they will also have the opportunity to volunteer at a partner organisation (these include Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service, the Imperial War Museum, Manchester Museum, and Acorn) as well as accessing their training schemes if appropriate.

The Volunteer Programme Manager is Lauren Bailey-Rhodes, who brings expertise from the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) Future Jobs Fund, which has in the past delivered 8000 new jobs across Greater Manchester. With eight years of 'welfare to work' experience, Lauren previously worked for Connexions, ensuring 16-19 year olds had opportunities and support to engage with education, employment or training. Lauren's already existing links with Jobcentre Plus and with partners across Greater Manchester will hopefully be very helpful in ensuring the success of the programme.

I hope to be a position next month to confirm the outcome of a major application for further funding to support this scheme!

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Anthony O'Connor

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# The Scargill Community

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**As enthusiastic readers of Cathedral News, you will know by now that we are organizing a mission at the Cathedral in May this year, 8th - 13th, and that this will be led by the Scargill community and by Bishop Chris Edmondson, the Bishop of Bolton. We would like to tell you a little about the Scargill community.**

Scargill House is situated in beautiful countryside at Kettlewell, in the Yorkshire Dales. It has meeting rooms and spaces, many bedrooms for residents and guests, fields, a chapel, and stunning views. It is the home of an international, ecumenical Christian community. The former Scargill community became weakened by adverse circumstances but a new Scargill movement was recently launched with widespread support. The Archbishop of York, the Most Reverend Dr John Sentamu writes;

*“By an amazing chain of events stemming from faith, vision and determination, and backed by the prayers and gifts of many well-wishers, the new Scargill Movement has been born. I am delighted to see Scargill reborn and reinvigorated.”*

With previous experience as warden of Lee Abbey under his belt, Bishop Chris was asked to oversee and steer this re-launch and the new Scargill movement and the community is now led by Reverend Phil Stone. Phil preached in our Cathedral in February as part of a lead up to the mission.

There are around 25 people in the community, each of whom have made a commitment to give a certain number of years' work to Scargill and offer their skills and experience to develop the ministry. They are a praying community and host conferences and holidays, retreats and events at the House. They are also a missionary community and are very enthusiastic about coming to Manchester Cathedral in May this year.

They have a strong commitment to hospitality and warmly welcome visitors and guests. They also welcome practical support, hands-on or financial, and of course your prayers. The community is not just those who are resident, and people support Scargill from all over the country, some travelling long distances to work in the grounds or in other practical ways. Maybe you would be interested in this? Hospitality is both a gospel imperative, and also a central theme of our cathedral mission in May this year, more details of which will be published soon. Scargill hosts a rich programme of residential events and the website will give the latest details. In fact, the website is well worth a visit for more information about the Scargill movement, the house and the community. The address is <http://www.scargillmovement.org/>

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Tony Hardy

# Two Poems

Rachel Mann



## Kenosis

*'Let this avail, just, dreadful, mighty God  
This not all be in vain' 'St Simeon Stylites', Tennyson*

Who would not  
stretch an arm up  
above their head  
pushing tiptoe high -  
precarious as a dancing girl -  
reaching for the belly of a cloud?

Who would not  
rip their tongue  
tear open their lips to try  
hawk song? Locust talk?

I have tried only to understand  
the voice which insists we must  
go up to go further in.

Up here all things fall away  
the flower blooms the flower dies.

The desert dreams.

## Punctured

All our lives we've lived as if forgiveness was in our gift; as if we too  
were like the Emperor Trajan who, bored with the pressing of empire,  
sought out a condemned man and stroked his arm,  
touched him and set him free.

We walk so easily, so tall, forgetting  
that single wound which would be enough to empty us;  
we walk so easily, so tall as if our words were pure,  
our words as guileless as a child caught with her hands tight  
around her brother's neck, edging his face closer and closer  
towards the surface of a pond

as guileless as this child who looks up and smiles  
whose simple eyes ask *could it ever be otherwise?*

We've lived like this all our lives. So we're never prepared  
when the blow comes and busts open our store of comfortable words,  
our breath escaping as soundlessly as a leaf falling in the heart  
of a forest; as impossibly slow as a leaf falling, and the tiny scratch  
when it lands. That single wound draining all we thought we had.

# Dickensian Manchester

By Michael Powell

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On the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens, it is interesting to note that one of Manchester's most 'Dickensian' areas - a part of the city, in fact, that Dickens himself visited - is within the Cathedral parish and a five-minute walk from its door. Angel Meadow is located on the south side of the river Irk, bounded by Rochdale Road, Miller Street, Cheetham Hill Road, and Gould Street, and in the middle years of the nineteenth century was one of the most notorious areas of Manchester.



In *The Condition of the Working Class in England in 1844*, Friedrich Engels struggled 'to convey a true impression of the filth, ruin, and uninhabitableness, the defiance of all considerations of cleanliness, ventilation, and health which characterise the construction of this single district, containing at least twenty to thirty thousand inhabitants.'

Most of those living in Angel Meadow were of Irish extraction, who had fled the famine only to find themselves trapped in the squalor of some of Manchester's worst slums. Angus Reach, a journalist writing five years after Engels, described it as 'the lowest, most filthy, most unhealthy and most wicked locality in Manchester... It is full of cellars and inhabited by prostitutes, their bullies, thieves, cadgers, vagrants, tramps'. It was in Angel Meadow that many of the victims of the cholera epidemic of 1832 were to be found.

At the heart of this area was the church of St Michael's, built in 1788 for wealthy Mancunians. Within a few years, however, the middle class had moved out, leaving the church - widely regarded as one of the town's ugliest churches - marooned in one of the most crowded and deprived parts of Manchester.

From the first, the graveyard at St Michael's provided an extension for the overcrowded burial ground around the Collegiate Church, and over the next three decades almost 40,000 burials took place here. Most were pauper burials, the bodies thrown into a mass grave, with coffins simply piled next to and on top one another. Elizabeth Gaskell's *Mary Barton* (1848), a novel praised by Dickens, describes such a burial. A wooden cover 'was easily raised in a very few minutes, and below was the grave in which pauper bodies were piled until within a foot or two of the surface; when

the soil was shovelled over, and stamped down, and the wooden cover went to do temporary duty over another hole.' When not in use the pit was closed and locked down at night to prevent vermin from digging up the bodies. Vermin were not the only problem, and the Churchwardens accounts in the Cathedral archive contain payment for a dog for the burial ground to guard against body-snatchers.

By 1816 the graveyard was full and a new parish graveyard was built on the other side of the Irk at Walker's Croft, now covered by Victoria Railway Station. But the graveyard of St Michael's was still a concern. In the 1820s and 30s soil was dug up and sold as manure, and the open space was used for bare-knuckle fighting, cock fighting and gambling. Finally in 1867, some fifty years after the burial ground had closed, the graveyard was covered with flagstones and the ground fenced. St Michael's graveyard became St Michael's Flags.

In recent years the area has been regenerated, largely due to the work of a group of volunteers with support from the Countryside Agency, the Heritage Lottery Fund and some commercial backing, and an urban lung has been created in the centre of the city. It remains, however, well off the tourist trail. Although the Church has long gone (it was demolished in 1935), and only a few gravestones remain, it still retains an almost Dickensian quality. Dickens himself is said to have taken inspiration from the area for the workhouse in *Hard Times*, and there are still a few historic buildings to be seen, including two former Ragged Schools and a number of factories and warehouses. It is an area that is well worth a visit, not least because of its long association with the Cathedral, but be quick, before the new Co-op headquarters and the proposed re-routing of the inner ring road change the area out of all recognition.



# Saint of the Month

8th March [1883-1929]

Geoffrey Anketell Studdert Kennedy M.C.  
Priest and Poet.

**Anketell was his mother's maiden name. But for his habit of handing out Woodbine cigarettes to soldiers in WWI, along with pastoral care and spiritual help, he was known affectionately as Woodbine Willie. When he died thousands lined the streets and threw packets of Woodbines on to the hearse.**

His father was a vicar in Leeds and he was the seventh of nine children. He was educated at Leeds Grammar School and Trinity College Dublin, where he studied classics and divinity. In 1914, he became vicar of St Paul's, Worcester.

When war broke out that year he volunteered as a chaplain on the western front. In 1917 he won the Military Cross, running into no-man's land to rescue the wounded in the attack on Messines Ridge. Kennedy was no pacifist at first, but supported troop morale by touring with a bayonet training group and giving inspirational speeches. Later, as the war ceased to be an adventure and its mass slaughter became plain, he became a pacifist.

It is, however, as a poet with a common touch that Kennedy is mostly remembered today. Certainly, when I was growing up in 1940s and

50s, he was still the most frequently quoted poet in sermons, going out of fashion only in the early 60s.

His first collection, *Rough Rhymes of a Padre*, was published in 1918. The second collection, *More Rough Rhymes*, appeared the following year. During the war Kennedy also became a Christian Socialist. His 1921 book, *Democracy and the Dog Collar*, had a chapter entitled, 'Capitalism is Nothing but Greed, Grab and Profit Mongering'. Another chapter was entitled, 'So Called Religious Education, Worse than Useless'.

His disillusionment reflected the widespread experience, especially of working men, that in an intensely patriotic war their faith had been betrayed and exploited by forces which were in no sense authentically Christian.

Archbishop William Temple said he was 'the finest priest I have ever known.' Kennedy was not a great poet, but his voice was direct, powerful, moving and quotable, born of a deep Christian faith and terrible wartime experience. Try googling for instance his poem, *Indifference*.

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Albert Radcliffe

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# Be a Chorister for a Day

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throughout the event

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for more information

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Victoria Street,  
M3 1SX

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## Spring 2012

# Coffee Concerts



Saturday 21 January 2012 at 11am

James Cairns (flute)

*James Cairns performs by kind permission of the RNCM*

A programme of music for flute including CPE Bach's 'Solo Partita in A minor'  
and Debussy's 'The Syrinx'.

Saturday 18 February 2012 at 11am

Saffron Jones (soprano) and Tim Allan (baritone)

*Saffron Jones and Tim Allan perform by kind permission of the RNCM*

A performance of operatic works from, amongst others, Wagner's 'Tannhauser'  
and Verdi's 'Macbeth'.

Saturday 17 March 2012 at 11am

Laurie Ashworth (soprano) and Jeffrey Makinson (piano)

A performance of 'Les Angelus' by Louis Vierne and a selection of English songs.

All concerts take place at Manchester Cathedral

Tea, coffee and cake will be available

Admission is free; there will be a retiring collection for Cathedral music

Victoria Street, M3 1SX [www.manchestercathedral.org](http://www.manchestercathedral.org)



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# St John Passion

**J S Bach**

Manchester Cathedral Choir  
with Manchester Baroque  
directed by Christopher Stokes

**Sunday 25 March 2012**

**7.30 pm**

Doors open at 6.30 pm

Tickets £20, £15, £11  
(concessions available)

Available from  
Cathedral Office: 0161 833 2220

See Tickets: 0844 871 8819

[www.alt-tickets.co.uk](http://www.alt-tickets.co.uk)

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# The Diary - March

## Tuesday 1st March

7.00pm Quiz Night and Pie & Peas Supper. Tickets £8.50 available from Edwyn Pym: 07867 595 285, Revd Robert Whybom: revrob8@aol.com or by emailing beingpartofit@manchestercathedral.org

## Sunday 4th March

Services as usual

## Tuesday 6th March

7.00pm Lambchop and special guest Courtney Tidwell concert. Tickets available from [www.alt-tickets.co.uk](http://www.alt-tickets.co.uk)

## Thursday 8th March

12 noon Mothers' Union Thursday Prayer

## Friday 9th March

7.30pm Charity Concert for Flood Victims in Pakistan

## Saturday 10th March

12 noon 'Be a Chorister for a Day'. For boys and girls aged 7+ Places are limited and need to be booked in advance. Contact Katy Leese on Tel: 0161 833 2220 ext. 238 or email [katy.leese@manchestercathedral.org](mailto:katy.leese@manchestercathedral.org)

## Sunday 11th March

12.15pm AGM & Easter Vestry Meeting

## Monday 12th March

9.30am - 4.30pm Diocesan Formation Day

## Tuesday 13th March

1.10pm Chetham's School of Music Lunchtime Concert  
12.30pm Julian Prayer Group

## Wednesday 14th March

12.45pm Turning of the Leaves

## Thursday 15th March

7.30pm Sinead O'Connor concert. Tickets available from [www.alt-tickets.co.uk](http://www.alt-tickets.co.uk)

## Saturday 17th March

11.00am Coffee Concert by Laurie Ashworth and Jeffrey Makinson. A performance of 'Les Angelus' by Louis Vierne and a selection of English songs. Tea, coffee and cake will be available.

## Sunday 18th March

9.00am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion  
10.30am Choral Matins  
12 noon Common Worship Eucharist (said)  
5.30pm Choral Evensong

## Thursday 22nd March

10.00am Schools Music Association Singing Festival

## Sunday 25th March

5.30pm Evening Prayer  
7.30pm St John Passion.  
Tickets £20, £15, £11 available from 0161 833 2220, 0844 871 8819 and [www.alt-tickets.co.uk](http://www.alt-tickets.co.uk)

## Monday 26th March

5.30pm Sung Eucharist - Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary

## Wednesday 28th March

12.45pm Turning of the Leaves

## Friday 30th March

5.30pm Evensong with the Queen Elizabeth Humanities College Choir

## Saturday 31st March

11.00am Chetham's School of Music Founder's Day Service

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You can also subscribe via the website to Cathedral e-news, the Development Newsletter and the Events for schools Newsletter.

## EXHIBITION

12th - 26th March 2012 Manchester Photographic Society Exhibition

## Looking ahead - April 2012

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### Sunday 1st April - Palm Sunday

10.30am Palm Sunday  
Eucharist and Procession  
4.30pm Evening Prayer  
5.30pm *The Crucifixion* by John Stainer  
sung by The Cathedral Voluntary Choir

### Monday 2nd April

10.30am *Diocesan Service of Renewal  
of Vows and Blessing of Oils*

### Tuesday 3rd April

11.30am *Chrism Mass -  
The Bishop of Beverley*

### Wednesday 4th April

7.30pm *'Portrait of faith' by the  
Manchester Camerata. Tickets from  
£10 available from 0161 907 9000  
and www.ticketmaster.co.uk*

### Thursday 5th April - Maundy Thursday

5.30pm *Sung Eucharist with Stripping of  
the Sanctuary, followed by The Watch*

### Friday 6th April - Good Friday

12noon *Way of the Cross*  
7.30pm *Sequence of Music &  
Readings for Good Friday*

### Saturday 7th April

7.30pm *Easter Liturgy with  
Baptism and Confirmation*

### Sunday 8th April - Easter Day

7.00am *Matins*  
8.10am *BBC transmission:  
The People's Passion*  
9.00am *Holy Communion*  
10.30am *Easter Day Eucharist  
with Baptism*  
5.30pm *Festal Evensong and Procession*

### Tuesday 10th April

12.30pm *Julian Prayer Group*

### Wednesday 11th April

12.45pm *Turning of the Leaves*

### Thursday 12th April

12noon *Mothers' Union Thursday Prayer*

### Sunday 15th April

1.30pm *'A Gift of Life' - 25th  
Anniversary of Organ Transplantation*

### Tuesday 17th April

1.30pm *Retired Clergy  
Association Meeting*  
7.00pm *'St George: Hero, Martyr  
and Myth' by Samantha Riches. A  
Manchester Theological Society Lecture*

### Friday 20th April

7.00pm *Paco Pena Flamenco Mass.  
Tickets available from bandonthewall.org*

### Saturday 21st April

11.00am *Coffee Concerts*

### Sunday 22nd April - St George's Day

5.30pm *Festal Evensong and Procession*

### Tuesday 24th April

1.10pm *Chetham's School of Music  
Lunchtime Concert*

### Wednesday 25th April

12.45pm *Turning of the Leaves*

### Saturday 28th April

12noon *'Be a Chorister for a Day'.  
For boys and girls aged 7+. Places  
are limited and need to be booked in  
advance. Contact Katy Leese on  
Tel: 0161 833 2220 ext. 238 or email  
katy.leese@manchestercathedral.org*

### Sunday 29th April

*Services as usual*

## Looking further ahead - May 2012

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### Monday 14th May

7.30pm *Archdeacons' Visitations 2012 for the  
Admission of Churchwardens, Sideswomen  
and Sidesmen and for the Presentation of  
Deputy Wardens and PCC members*

### Sunday 20th May

10.30am *Civic Service*

### Tuesday 22nd May

7.00pm *'The Politics of Discipleship:  
Becoming Postmodern Citizens' by  
Graham Ward. The Wickham Lecture*

### Sunday 27th May

2.30pm *Church Lads & Church Regimental Parade*

### Thursday 31st May

7.00pm *'Mystical Theology' by Maggie Ross.  
A Manchester Theological Society lecture*

## Midweek services

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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	Tue/Wed/Thu
	3.30pm	Saturday

## Sunday Services

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

\*9th March - 13th April,  
Evening Prayer will be said.

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## 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, [cathedralinfo@talktalk.net](mailto:cathedralinfo@talktalk.net)*  
Archives: [archives@manchestercathedral.org](mailto: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*

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