

Dean's Letter, 2019

Dear Cathedral family, brothers and sisters in Christ

Our scripture readings today present us with three different themes or “tracks”. In Genesis 45, Joseph is reconciled with his brothers, after a testing and difficult time - which is putting it mildly – during which his brothers wanted him dead and had sold him into slavery. He ends up in Egypt as a prisoner and slave, and then rises to the top as second only to Pharaoh. Our scripture reading finds Joseph as lord of all Egypt, having saved the people from the effects of a devastating drought and famine. His brothers have come to Egypt for food, for their very survival. There they find their brother Joseph, whom they had thought was dead, who now not only saves their lives, but also embraces them.

In 1 Corinthians 15, St Paul continues with his teaching and writing on the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and the implications of this for us all. And in the Gospel reading (Luke 6:27-38), we continue with the “Sermon on the Plain”: “love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you” (Luke 6:27).

We are three weeks away from our Annual Vestry Meeting, to be held on Sunday 17th March. There will be a single combined morning service on that day, at 8.30 a.m. (with the usual evening services at 5 p.m. and 6.30 p.m.) Vestry fulfils a number of important functions in the life of the Cathedral, as with all our parishes, particularly in the areas of good governance, accountability, transparency, and looking ahead. Various ministry reports, and the 2018 financial report, will be presented. The budget for the year ahead will be tabled. There will be elections for the positions of churchwarden, alternate churchwarden, and parish councillors.

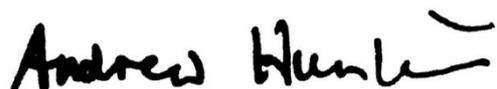
There will be a day of planning and visioning for our newly elected re-elected office-bearers (churchwardens, alternate, and PCC) on Saturday 23 March, and the Admission of Church Officers will take place on Sunday 24 March.

At Vestry, we shall also be electing the lay representatives who will attend Diocesan Synod on behalf of the Cathedral. The Cathedral is allowed to send two lay representatives. Synod dates are Wednesday 15th – Saturday 18th May 2019, and the venue will be St Alban's, East London.

A note about Synod: this is a time when the church gathers to hear and discern the mind of Christ on various matters which we face. Anyone in the diocese may request that a particular issue is addressed, by drafting and submitting motions for Synod. These can be matters of concern regarding the mission and life of the church, the challenges facing our communities, the state of the nation, the voice of God to us at this time. Please note that the deadline for motions to reach the Diocesan Administrator is Wednesday 27th March 2019.

We continue to pray for our community in this time of crisis; and let's also pray for Vestry and for Diocesan Synod.

My love to you all

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Hunt". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.