

THE CHAPTER LETTER



23 October to 5 November 2011

Philip Buckler, Dean Gavin Kirk, Precentor Mark Hocknull, Chancellor Alan Nugent, Subdean

Perhaps Mina Daniel will be remembered in years to come in the lists of saints and martyrs of the Christian Church. If so, he and his fellow martyrs will be remembered on 9th October, for that was the day, a week past Sunday, on which they were killed. Mina was only 20 when he died.

A student, bearded and with somewhat unkempt hair, Mina could be taken for a Che Guevara lookalike. Yet Mina's protest was genuine, standing against real oppression. Mina Daniel was a Coptic Orthodox Christian. His protest was against how his community is being treated in Egypt today.

Mina like many of his contemporaries joined the anti-Mubarak struggle earlier in the year and was wounded twice with plastic bullets. He believed passionately in the unity of faiths in the new Egypt and sang songs promoting Muslim – Christian unity.

It was said of him; 'Mina was a very kind and righteous person and he dreamt of Egypt becoming like Europe, where young people don't have to travel to live their dreams.'

On Sunday 9th October Mina was among a small crowd of Coptic demonstrators who were attacked in Cairo as they protested against the destruction of a Coptic Church in southern Egypt by Islamist radicals. Over the past few months several Coptic Churches have been torched or attacked. Coptic Orthodox Christians, tracing their faith back to the earliest days of the Church, have been attacked and persecuted.

The 9th October protest was peaceful; yet protest had to be made against all the evidences of flagrant persecution of Christians. Suddenly those involved were attacked; caught between Islamist thugs and the police and military who should have been protecting them. Twenty five Coptic Christians were killed, several hundred injured. Some were shot, some were deliberately run over by armoured cars, some were knifed. The Christians were caught between implacable enemies. Mina Daniel was one of those killed; with a bullet to his chest.

Let us pray for our persecuted fellow-Christians, especially the Coptic Orthodox community in Egypt.

During the 20th Century there were more Christian martyrs than in the previous 19 centuries added together. There is real cause for fear that in the 21st century that salutary statistic will be superseded. I am not persuaded that the clash of civilizations is a falsity; there is too much evidence to the contrary. Mina Daniel is a young Christian martyr.

Alan Nugent, Subdean

Medieval Mathematics, due to take place on Wed. 26th Oct. in the Chapter House, has been cancelled.

At Evensong on Sunday 30th October the new set of copes presented by the Friends in honour of their seventy-fifth anniversary will be dedicated. We pay tribute to the outstanding workmanship of our dedicated team of embroideresses.

The Education Officer writes: There are only one or two tickets remaining for the Gesualdo *Tenebrae* music and readings in Lincoln Cathedral's Wren Library, on Tuesday 1 November, presented by members of English Touring Opera. This is part of ETO's Baroque Festival, including three operas at Lincoln Theatre Royal: Purcell's *Fairy Queen* on Saturday 29 October; Handel's *Flavio*, a period production of an 18th-century tale of star-crossed lovers on Sunday 30 October; and Handel's *Xerxes*, which includes some of Handel's most celebrated music, on Monday 31 October. All performances start at 7.30 p.m. Tickets for the Gesualdo concert are £7.50, and for the operas the range is from £18 to £25. Contact Lincoln Theatre Royal for tickets for all four events (01522 519999; www.lincolntheatreroyal.com). For further information see www.englishtouringopera.org.uk.

Wednesday 2nd November is All Souls' Day, the day when the church remembers the faithful departed. There will be free entry to the Cathedral on this day up to 6 pm. for all who wish to light a candle in memory of a loved one and to inscribe their name in a book to be used throughout November. If you are intending to be present at the annual Requiem on the 6th November at 3.45 p.m., and would like the name to be read out at that service, please indicate this in the memorial book – otherwise the name will be remembered at one of the Eucharists in November.

Micky Philp writes: All Souls will be celebrated on 6 November and any donations for chrysanthemums will be gratefully received. Please give to Micky Philp, or one of the Vergers.

Organ Recitals: Three exciting recitals in November start with Marcus Stumpe from Germany on the 6th. On the 13th is Johannes Goetz, also from Germany and then Lincoln Cathedral's Assistant Organist, Claire Innes-Hopkins, gives her first recital in Lincoln on 20th. All start at 5.30pm and admission is £5 on the door.

Lincoln Minster Shops - Wednesday 9th November - CHRISTMAS PREVIEW EVENING

YOU ARE INVITED TO THIS POPULAR EVENING EVENT – PLEASE BRING A FRIEND

There will be a 15% discount on all our stock, including our brand new Christmas lines from 5pm.

Complete your evening with a complimentary drink and mince pie in the Cloister Refectory. If you are unable to attend in the evening, a 12% discount will be given during the day. Please produce this invitation to claim the offer. The Shop will be open from 9.30 am – 8.30 pm.

The Friends of Lincoln Cathedral invite all to "**A Feast for St Hugh**" on 17th November following their attendance at the Collegiate Eucharist at twelve noon in the Cathedral. The lunch will be held in the Assembly Rooms, Bailgate. After lunch "Scenes from the Life of St Hugh" compiled by Linda Tilbury will be presented by John Davies, Micky Philp and Keith Jones. Tickets £15 for a three course meal (menu on Friends' Notice Board) available from The Friends' Office or after the 9.30 Sunday Eucharist.

A date for your diaries: Choral Scholar Bozidar Smiljanic and Charles Harrison will perform Schubert's song cycle 'Winterreise' on 28 January 2012 at 7.30 pm in the Recital Hall at Lincoln Minster School (Upper Lindum Street). Tickets £7, or £1 for students of Lincoln Minster School.

The Lincoln Julian Group is now meeting in St Mary Magdalene in the Bail on the last Monday at 6.15 pm for 6.30 pm. The aim is to spend some time together in silence contemplating God and his love for us. We would like to welcome anyone who would like to join us.

The Bishop Grosseteste Lecture on Global Water Security on 7 October raised £290.12 for the Water Aid charity.

The County Harvest Festival service takes place today (23 October) at 3.00 pm. This replaces Evensong.

The Subdean's Farewell Service will be held on 30 October at 10.30 and will replace the normal Sung Eucharist and Mattins services.

Lincoln Cathedral Remembrance Day Service will take place on Sunday 13 November at 10.40.

Bible Readings

Sunday 23 October

Sung Eucharist

Mattins

Harvest Festival Service 3pm

Last Sunday after Trinity

Leviticus 19.1-2, 15-18; 1 Thessalonians 2.1-8; Matthew 22.34-end

Isaiah 59.9-20; Luke 14.1-14

Genesis 1.26-31; 2 Corinthians 9.6-12

Sunday 30 October

Subdean's Farewell Service

Evensong

All Saints' Day

Revelation 7.9-end; 1 John 3.1-3; Matthew 5.1-12

Isaiah 65.17-end; Hebrews 11.32-12.2

Sunday 6 November

Sung Eucharist

Mattins

Evensong

3rd Sunday before Advent

Wisdom of Solomon 6.12-16; Cantic: Wisdom of Solomon 6.17-20;

1 Thessalonians 4.13-end; Matthew 25.1-13

Deuteronomy 17.14-end; 1 Timothy 2.1-7;

Judges 7.2-22; John 15.9-17