

The Chapter Letter

Baptism of Christ Sunday 13th January 2019



Welcome

A very warm welcome to worship at the Cathedral, with a particular greeting to those who are newcomers or visitors. It is a delight to welcome you.

Today is ***the feast of the Baptism of Christ***: in this Epiphany season, as we give thanks for the revelation of God's glory in Christ, today we give thanks for the revelation of Christ's divine and glorious nature at his baptism.

As is the January custom here, ***the chairs in the Nave*** have been removed (but with plastic chairs being in place for Sunday services in the Nave). The cleared Nave gives visitors a chance to take in the full glory of the space: the Virgers can clean the floor and upper parts more easily: and Promenade concerts allow concert-goers to move about and explore the building bathed in music.

Details of the Promenade concerts this month and how to buy tickets can now be found here on the Wells Cathedral Website:
www.wellscathedral.org.uk/?s=promenade

This afternoon at Evensong we give thanks for one of the greatest Bishops of this diocese, Thomas Bekynton. In the mid 15th Century he added many of the buildings and gates around the Cathedral, but most famously of all he let the water from the wells in the Bishop's Palace gardens and moat flow freely into the City of Wells. The annual commemoration of this distinguished Bishop has become a moment of civic and civil engagement for the Cathedral: The City Council is invited, and also many of the local organisations of this community. Tea follows the service of Evensong. All readers of the Chapter Letter are invited for this special occasion, which binds Cathedral and the local community together.

John Davies, Dean

Seasonal Produce Stall: After the Cathedral Eucharist this morning will be our first opportunity to buy seasonal produce from 'Root Connections' (the market garden allied to the Connect Centre in Wells).

The stall will be located at the west end of the nave, between the west door and the north-west door. At the moment purchases will be cash only, but I will be happy to accept IOUs this first week (and underwrite any debts!). Do come and see what is on offer. All profits will go directly to 'Root Connections', a Community Interest Company working to improve the lives of some of the most disadvantaged in our local community.

Chris Day

Paul Williams RIP: A Thanksgiving Service for Paul Williams will be held in the Quire of the cathedral on Monday 14th January at 2pm. The family will then proceed to the Camery Garden for the Burial of Ashes. All are warmly invited to the service, and to refreshments afterwards which will be served in the south transept.

The Revd David Wilcox, Priest Vicar

Come to a party! Last year's Cathedral party in the cleared Nave of January drew many people from right across the Cathedral's life – staff, volunteers, worshippers, Chapter, Clergy, Bishops, Friends. Clearly there was an expectation that such an Epiphanytide party would become an annual fixture. So, do come! 15th January 2019, 6:30-8pm. Please bring a bottle (or half bottle) of vino or juice. Nibbles provided! **There is a sign-up list in the North Transept.**

Jackie Croft, Administrator

Children's Festival 2019 – 'The Wonder of God': Earth, Moon and Stars: Saturday 19th January 10.30am – 3pm. The Annual Children's Festival is a fun day for 4 to 11 year olds with numerous activities. The day involves an opening and closing act of worship, and a carousel of workshops in different Cathedral spaces. This year's line-up includes: Worship – with a youth band, Space Odyssey Planetarium, Games and Crafts, Stories, Labyrinth and real animals. Bring your picnic lunch which will be eaten communally part-way through. Come as a group or come as a family! Places need to be pre-booked. Groups: Please make one booking to ensure you are together for event activities. Tickets available from Eventbrite at £1.90 per person incl. VAT www.eventbrite.co.uk

Miranda Young, Head of Outreach and Learning

Christmas past: On behalf of the Chapter thanks have been sent to all our staff and volunteers – it was a hugely busy and successful Christmas, and its organization took a lot of effort. Thousands of people were here for a variety of services and concerts before Christmas, and then it came to Christmas Eve and the day itself. I'm delighted to be able to report that numbers attending Christmas worship on these two days grew from 3,150 in 2017 to 3,302 in 2018. Growth in attendance at the Crib services and at the Midnight Eucharist was most noticeable.

I repeat a word of thanks from Chapter to all who helped it happen, and happen so well.

John Davies, Dean

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins on Friday, and Choral Vespers will be sung that day by the monks and Schola Cantorum of Downside Abbey.

Next Sunday's Cathedral Eucharist will celebrate the work of the Children's Society and the 50th anniversary of the first Christingle service – a hugely popular symbol of the Society's work. After the service we hope there will be a chance to hear informally about the Society's work.

Music in Wells 2019: The Music in Wells 2019 leaflet, which has details of concerts and recitals taking place in Wells Cathedral in 2019, is now available in the Cathedral. You may also download it by visiting the website.

Wells Angels: launched in recent weeks. Wells Cathedral Chorister Trust was set up to raise a fund large enough to ensure that children from a variety of backgrounds are not denied the life-changing chance of being in the Cathedral Choir. With the support of its Royal Patron, HRH The Countess of Wessex, the Trust is determined that no child with musical talent should miss out on these opportunities for financial reasons.

If you would like to consider joining the newly launched regular donor scheme, **Wells Angels**, please visit our website www.wcct.co.uk/wells-angels or contact the Trust's administrator on 01749 834281 to find out more. You could help to transform the life of a talented child.

Jenny Kingston, Chair of WCCT

Lent 2019: Next week's Chapter Letter will have details of the Lent programme to be offered here at the Cathedral.

Wake Up Wells is a movement designed to lift and develop the community life of the City of Wells. One of its strategies is to open up so many of the different organisations in the City. Hence a “fair” being offered in the Cathedral Nave on Saturday 26th January 10am-4pm. The Dean will offer a welcome at 10am. We are delighted that this community event is happening in the Cathedral. Naturally, all are welcome.

Volunteer Shop Assistants required to assist the Cathedral Shop staff: Greeting and helping customers, using the tills and stocking shelves. We are looking for volunteers who would be happy to offer 2 or 3 hours at a time to help cover lunch breaks. If you, or maybe a friend or neighbour, might be interested please contact Ruth at the Cathedral Office 01749 674483 ruth.clacee-rowe@wellscathedral.uk.net for information.

Ruth Clacee-Rowe, GDPR Coordinator

Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi, June 2019: Canon Nicholas Jepson-Biddle, the Precentor, is planning a pilgrimage tour to Rome and Assisi next year. Details and booking forms are available from the Cathedral Office and should be returned to Paula Denyer in the Cathedral Office. **PAX Travel are just about to open this trip up to the public. If you do wish to come, please get your forms in asap.**

Readings for next Sunday’s Cathedral Eucharist, 3rd Sunday of Epiphany:

Isaiah 62.1-5 and John 2.1-11

OF SPECIAL NOTE FOR THIS WEEK

<i>Every day at 8am, Morning Liturgy, Lady Chapel</i>			
Mon	14	2pm 5:15pm	Thanksgiving Service for Paul Williams RIP - Quire Evensong
Tue	15	12:25pm 5:15pm 6:15pm	Holy Communion - Lady Chapel Evensong Epiphany Party - Nave
Wed	16	9:30am 5:15pm	Holy Communion – Lady Chapel Evensong
Thur	17	11:30am 5:15pm	Mothers’ Union Prayers – Lady Chapel Evensong
Fri	18	5:15pm 7pm	<i>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18th-25th January</i> Choral Vespers: Sung by the monks and Schola Cantorum of Downside Abbey Promenade Concert: Tallis Voices - Nave
Sat	19	10:30am-3pm 5:15pm	Children’s Festival Evensong