

The Chapter Letter



First Sunday of Lent Sunday 10th March 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.

Lent began last week on Ash Wednesday. There are subtle changes in worship during this season – plain vestments and altar frontals, no flowers, no Gloria, and a slightly more subdued tone. All this is so that there is a closer focus on Christ and his journey to the Cross. Human flummery fades at the self-sacrifice of Christ.

This afternoon at Evensong the Bishop of Bath and Wells will be here to begin our series of Lent addresses, speaking about ‘The Spiritual Vision of Jesus Christ’: arguably no question is more fundamental for Christian people – what vision inspired Christ, and can inspire us today? After Evensong there will be tea in the North Transept; and in the South Transept a display of some of the historic Bibles held in the Cathedral Library.

The Dean is preaching at St Thomas’ Wells this morning and returns for Evensong later today.

Root Connections Produce Stall: Produce from Root Connections will be on sale near the West Doors after the Cathedral Eucharist TODAY. Come and see what’s on offer!

Chris Day

With more than 30 people signed up, the **Lent Book Group** this year promises excitement and hopefully enjoyment. The four meetings, on Tuesdays 12, 19, 26 March and 2 April, will be held in the Chapter Room, to which access is through the door off Vicars’ Close - turn left past the stairs just beyond the arch. Each lasts one hour, from 6:15 to 7:15pm. Our book, *Knowing Jesus* by James Alison, is now available in the Cathedral Shop, and we will look at one chapter each week. Please try to read chapter 1 in time for this Tuesday. If you have not yet signed up, there is still time.

David Thomas, Canon Theologian

The Friends of Wells Cathedral: I do salute the Friends, not only for their generosity to the Cathedral but also for their inventiveness – the Friends weekend in June combines a dinner at the Swan with Terry Waite as guest speaker, a presentation on Saturday by the Dean of Westminster Abbey, and on the Sunday the Dean of Exeter will preach at the Cathedral Eucharist. If ever there was a time to join the Friends, this is surely it! Application forms are in the North Transept.

John Davies, Dean

For Lent: The Cathedral Shop has a range of books for Lent – including the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book, and *Knowing Jesus* which is being looked at by a book group. There are also postcards of the Stations of the Cross in the Nave, and much else besides!

John Davies, Dean

Stations of the Cross: It is the custom here in Lent to meet each Friday at 12:00 noon in the Nave in order to 'walk the way of the Cross', following the Stations of the Cross placed around the walls of the Nave. It is a moving devotion to look at each Station, painted beautifully by the Bulgarian artist Silvia Dimitrova in the style of an Orthodox icon. A short reading and prayer is used at each Station. This year we shall be joined by Fr. Philip Thomas from the Church of St. Joseph and St. Teresa in Wells together with members of that congregation, so it will be good to add this ecumenical dimension to the keeping of Lent. Each week will be led by a member of the Cathedral clergy and Fr. Philip. The service lasts about 30 minutes. Do come along if you have not experienced this way of praying before.

Nothing better: There is nothing better in the Cathedral surely than the sound of youngsters exploring the space and its ethos. And lots will be here for the Pilgrim Days this week.

Wells Cathedral School pupils are often here too of course. And this past week it was good to be with Year 11 pupils exploring fundamental theology as they prepare for their GCSE's.

I've also met the Diocesan Director of Education this past week, looking for as many overlappings as possible between his department and the Cathedral, a very useful hour. The next step is to offer him a tour of the Cathedral.

John Davies, Dean

Lunchtime Organ Recital: On Thursday 14th March at 1.05pm, the Senior Organ Scholar, Harrison Cole will give a lunchtime organ recital. Admission is free, with a retiring collection in aid of Wells Cathedral Music.

The next Friends' event is on Wednesday 20th March at 3:45pm: **Tea & Talk** will be with Veronica Howe, the Cathedral Archivist, who will talk about her work in cataloguing and referencing the Cathedral's records. Tickets are £5.50 each and can be purchased from the Friends' Office (Wednesdays 12-2pm) or by post to Friends' Office, West Cloister, Wells Cathedral, BA5 2PA (please enclose a stamped, addressed envelope)

William Newton Newey, Friends' Secretary

Becoming clearer and more intentional: Over coffee on a Sunday morning, at social occasions, at the margins of worship, and in lots of other settings a community life is established here. But how does the newcomer get easy access to the community?

The Chapter Clergy have been pondering these things, along with other colleagues, and we'll soon have some suggestions to share about easing the path of newcomers into the community life of the Cathedral...

John Davies, Dean

The Open Door Service which marks the opening of the 2019 visitor season is on Monday 18th March at 10:30am. All who have a share in the Ministry of Welcome, indeed all volunteers who wish, are invited. As is the custom, I'll offer some short reflections on the theme of welcome, together with some thoughts on what the Cathedral can offer its visitors and pilgrims. I'm going to speak from experience within my own family. After the service there are refreshments; and there is always a very warm atmosphere. Might you come along?

John Davies, Dean

Pastoral Care: Pastoral care is always available for all who worship at the Cathedral. If you would like to talk to someone, please feel free to speak informally over coffee after the Cathedral Eucharist to the Canon Pastor, Canon Rosalind Paul, or the Priest Vicars, the Revd Mary Bide and the Revd David Wilcox. You can also contact them by phoning the Cathedral Office on 01749 674483, or by emailing: Pastor@wellscathedral.uk.net

Early Music Wells Concert: On Thursday 21st March at 7:30pm, Jeremy Cole, Assistant Organist at Wells Cathedral, will give a concert of organ music for Lent, including the seasonal chorale preludes from J.S. Bach's *Orgelbüchlein* and extracts from his monumental *Clavier-Übung III*, along with works by Buxtehude and Pachelbel. Admission is free, with a retiring collection in aid of Wells Cathedral Music.

A Party: Just over sixty people came to the Shrove Tuesday pancake party, and thanks were offered to Janet Harvey and Heather Thomson for excellent pancakes and fruit salad; to Tim Jones for being the wine waiter; and to Kieron Rowley for spreading the news of a very happy event on social media. Why not 80 people next year? And how do we tempt along some more children and young families?

John Davies, Dean

Christian Aid Lent Lunches in Wells: Every Monday (11th March – 8th April) come and enjoy a soup and bread lunch at Seager Hall, Union Street 12-1:30pm. A suggested donation of £3.50 is invited to support Christian Aid.

Wells Eco Church Conference: God's Planet, our problem. This conference is being held on Saturday 30th March at St Thomas' Church from 9:30am to 3:30pm: For details of speakers and further information please see the website www.bathandwells.org.uk/event/gods-world

Readings for next Sunday's Cathedral Eucharist, 2nd Sunday of Lent:

Genesis 15.1-12,17-18 and Luke 13.31-end

OF SPECIAL NOTE FOR THIS WEEK

The Canon Pastor is in Residence

Every day at 8am, Morning Liturgy, Lady Chapel			
Mon	11	10am-4pm 5:15pm	Year 4 Pilgrim Day Evensong
Tue	12	10am-4pm 12:25pm 4:15pm 5:15pm 6:15pm	Year 4 Pilgrim Day Holy Communion - Lady Chapel Wells Cathedral Song Squad – Education Room Evensong Lent Book Group – Chapter Room
Wed	13	10am-4pm 9:30am 5:15pm	Year 4 Pilgrim Day Holy Communion - Lady Chapel Evensong
Thur	14	1:05pm 5:15pm	Lunchtime Organ Recital: Harrison Cole Evensong
Fri	15	12:05pm 5:15pm	Stations of the Cross – The Revd Mary Bide Evensong
Sat	16	9:30am-12:30pm 5:15pm	Mendip Mens Walk - Cathedral Green Evensong