

The Chapter Letter



Palm Sunday: Sunday 14th April 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.

Palm Sunday and Holy Week: Today we enter into the saving mystery which is at the very heart of Christianity. This is a week to walk as closely as possible with Christ as he walks to the Cross. And there Christ will reveal to all creation the very nature of God's being – compassion, forgiveness, renewing grace, divine love. It costs Christ his life to give us tangible evidence of all this. The cost to him is everything.

So, all are invited to come very close to this saving mystery; and all the services and reflections of this week are to guide us right to the very heart of the matter, the epicentre of our faith.

John Davies, Dean

This afternoon: St Matthew Passion (world premiere), All are invited at 3pm today for a very special service. Commissioned by Cathedral Commissions of Wells Cathedral (cathedralcommissions.co.uk), this major new setting of the St Matthew Passion is to be given its World Premiere by Wells Cathedral Choir within a service for Palm Sunday. Admission: free. Retiring collection in aid of the Cathedral.

Appeal for Easter Lilies: In Christian tradition, the Easter lily signifies rebirth and a new beginning. On Easter Sunday many white lilies will be included in the floral arrangements to celebrate Easter. If you would like to make a donation towards the purchase of Easter lilies, perhaps in memory of loved ones, please call in at the Cathedral Office or at the Virgers' Vestry. Every gift is very welcome and much appreciated.

Ros Edney, Guild of St Andrew Flower Arrangers

Easter vigil: This year's Easter Vigil begins at 9pm on Holy Saturday in a darkened Cathedral. The Easter fire is kindled from the Paschal candle and is carried in to the Cathedral from the West apron. This wonderfully dramatic and atmospheric service ends with the proclamation of Easter amid fireworks and a party! Please bring a bottle or half bottle and leave with the Vigers before the service.

Nicholas Jepson-Biddle, Precentor

Easter Posies: On Easter morning we decorate the Easter Cross with posies of colourful spring flowers to represent new life. We would be very grateful if members of the congregation would bring posies before the 8am and 9.30am services to be included in the floral display. Baskets will be at both entrances for you to leave your posies which will then be taken to those decorating the cross.

Ros Edney, Guild of St Andrew Flower Arrangers

Root Connections Stall: A chance to buy local produce from Root Connections today after the Cathedral Eucharist.

Chris Day

Lunchtime Reflections in Holy Week: Clergy members of Chapter will offer reflections on the following figures at the Cross: Monday/The Centurion, Tuesday/St John, Wednesday/St Peter, Thursday/Women at the Cross, all as part of a lunchtime (short) service at 12:30pm.

Lent 2019: Lent has seen all manner of activity and preparation for Easter: A book group met to study a modern text on Christ's saving work; (delicious) Lent lunches at Seager Hall; a variety of choirs and music have inspired our spirits; individuals have followed a Rule of Life, and some have engaged with individual Lent reading; Stations of the Cross have been traced each Friday.

So it has been a full Lent – and Lent is in essence a preparation for Easter, a preparation for the day when God will declare that, yes, Christ crucified does indeed reveal the very nature and being of God.

John Davies, Dean

The Dean and Chapter are delighted to be making the following announcement in connection with **Wells Art Contemporary**; this is a major step forward on several fronts – our connections with the arts, and our local connections. Wells Cathedral is delighted to be working in partnership with Wells Art Contemporary (WAC) this year:-

“19th July - 11th August 2019 the internationally renowned WAC exhibition of some of the world’s finest contemporary art will be on display within the Cathedral’s magnificent cloisters, in the contemplative Camery Gardens as well as positioned within the Cathedral itself. The exhibition is free of charge and open to all. For more information visit www.wellsartcontemporary.co.uk.”

Director of Development: I am very pleased to have joined the team at Wells Cathedral this month, working specifically to increase essential funding for the upkeep, renewal and development of the Cathedral’s estate. It is very exciting to be part of plans to ensure the Cathedral remains strong and sustainable for the future and I am looking forward to meeting in the coming weeks those who worship, work, and support the busy life here at Wells Cathedral.

Nicholas Selman, Director of Development

The Shop has had a bit of a transformation so it’s worth a special visit. There are some great new product lines that are beginning to appear and certainly more to come. We now feature The Dean’s *book of the month* suggestion for purchase, a much improved range of religious artefacts, greeting cards, some marvellous music themed gifts and an updated range of local food items to tempt everyone.

Please come and see – it’s still work in progress and there will be more changes over the next couple of months but it’s beginning to be a lot more interesting. Look out for news of our new loyalty card in May.

Janet Harvey, Head of Enterprises

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

Lent 2020: I’m grateful for a variety of ideas which are coming in for Lent next year. Clearly the Evensong addresses are popular and appreciated by a wide constituency. And we will want to feed and inspire the immediate Cathedral Community too.

John Davies, Dean

Postponed: Bach Complete Organ Works: We are sorry to announce that the Bach Lunchtime Organ Recital on Thursday 25 April has been postponed.

Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi: There are a couple of places still on the Precentor's pilgrimage 1-7th June. Please see Canon Nicholas today if you are interested.

Building work will commence on the ground floor of the **Cathedral offices** Tuesday 23rd April for approximately 3 weeks. The office staff will be working but access will need to be restricted to pre-booked appointments for your and their safety. Therefore, only those with appointments can be given access. Car park tokens will be available from the Cathedral Shop or Donation Desk. We apologise for any inconvenience but are very excited about the prospect of the makeover and the provision of an accessible toilet!

Jackie Croft, Cathedral Administrator and Chapter Clerk

Readings for next Sunday's Cathedral Eucharist, Easter Day:
Acts 10.34-43 and Luke 24.1-12

OF SPECIAL NOTE FOR THIS WEEK

The Precentor is in Residence

Every day at 8am, Morning Liturgy, Lady Chapel			
Mon	15	12:30pm 5:15pm	Midday Office with reflection: Figures at the Cross Evensong
Tue	16	10am 12:30pm 12:25pm 5:15pm	Diocesan Eucharist with the Blessing of Oils Midday Office with reflection: Figures at the Cross Holy Communion – Vicars' Close Chapel Evensong
Wed	17	9:30am (10:30am 12:30pm 5:15pm	Holy Communion - Lady Chapel Confessions before Easter – Corpus Christi Chapel) Midday Office with reflection: Figures at the Cross Evensong
Thur	18	12:30pm 5:15pm 7:30pm	Maundy Thursday Midday Office with reflection: Figures at the Cross Evening Prayer Eucharist of the Last Supper
Fri	19	10am 12pm 5:15pm 7:30pm	Good Friday Choral Matins Three Hour Devotion: Bishop Alastair Redfern Evening Prayer Concert: Bath Camerata – Music for Good Friday
Sat	20	8am 5:15pm 9pm	Easter Eve Matins Evening Prayer Easter Vigil with fireworks and drinks (PBAB)