

# The Chapter Letter



## Fourth Sunday of Easter 12<sup>th</sup> May 2019

### **Welcome**

A very warm welcome to worship at the Cathedral today.

In this **Easter season** we continue to celebrate the glorious and mysterious resurrection of Christ.

It is very good to welcome pupils and staff from the **Cathedral School** to the Cathedral Eucharist today.

This afternoon sees the launch of **Christian Aid Week 2019** at a specially themed Evensong. The preacher is the Revd Dr Susan Durber, a Theological Consultant to Christian Aid, and a noted preacher. After the service, over refreshments, a Cathedral Community Fundraising project for Christian Aid will be launched...

**Deans** should be much in their Cathedrals, but they are also called to be out and about, representing the Cathedral locally and in the wider diocese. The Dean is preaching this morning at Wells Methodist Church.

**Christian Aid Project 2019/20:** The Cathedral's Christian Aid group is hoping to raise £5,000 over the next 8 months to support Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Iraq. Our money will be matched 6:1 by 'Bread for the World', making our £5,000 worth almost £35,000. We would be most grateful for your support, starting with a launch event immediately after Evensong today, when we shall be giving all who are interested a Smartie tube to empty and then re-fill with £1 coins. Each tube takes 36 coins, so if you put in £1 a week, you can bring your tube back to us on 19 January, at the end of the project. To help us raise even more money, we have planned some exciting events, so please put them in your diary now. On 22 June you are invited to a Garden Party at 2 The Liberty, and we shall keep you updated on other events as they are confirmed. We hope that you will share our excitement about this project and engage with it not only by helping us to raise the money but by having some fun along the way!

*Adrian l'Anson, Christian Aid Coordinator*

**Holy Week and Easter:** Early in Holy Week it was very good to welcome clergy from across the diocese for the Chrism Eucharist and renewal of ordination vows.

On Maundy Thursday we celebrated the Last Supper and followed the service with a Watch. It is good to see this service grow, and to see so many come forward for the washing of feet.

On Good Friday 470 people were here to mark the Lord's death, and to hear Dr Alastair Redfern speak about the Crucifixion and its saving power.

The Easter Eve vigil was also very well attended, with nearly 150 people present. Fireworks and a drinks party followed the service.

On Easter Day we celebrated the Resurrection of Christ: 1230 attendances were recorded (1190 last year).

These are the most profound days of the Christian year, when the saving events of Christ's passion, crucifixion and resurrection are re-enacted. If some of these days remain a mystery to you, read about but not attended, do venture along next year. There is symbolism here, a pain and a beauty, which is simply transcendent, of God.

On behalf of Chapter I have thanked those who 'enabled it all to happen'. We are fortunate indeed to have such a strong team of staff and volunteers.

*John Davies, Dean*

**Somerset Day:** Yesterday the Cathedral celebrated Somerset Day in some style. There were special offers of Somerset food and products in the shop and café; the bells were rung in celebration; and a themed Evensong drew civic and other representative guests.

*John Davies, Dean*

**Ascension Day 2019:** Ascension Day this year falls on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May. There will be celebrations of the Eucharist at 8am and 9:30am. Before the Festal Eucharist at 5:15pm the bells will be rung. And after the service there will be a drinks party - in part to celebrate the glory of the festival day, and in part to introduce our new Director of Development, Nicholas Selman.

Ascension Day is a red letter day, the climax of the Easter season; we will celebrate that Christ is the exalted Prince of Love.

*John Davies, Dean*

**Root Connections:** The stall selling produce from Root Connections will be in operation after Eucharist this morning at the West End of the Nave.

*Chris Day*

**The Wells Cathedral Chorister Trust** concert last Saturday was hugely well attended and supremely happy. £799 was raised, with Gift Aid to be added. Congratulations go to the Choristers and the organisers.

*John Davies, Dean*

**Confirmation:** On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June there is a confirmation service here. If you would like to prepare for confirmation (as an adult or young person) please contact any of the clergy in coming days...

**Special services:** These are an important aspect of the Cathedral's ministry. And a number are coming up very soon: On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 5:15pm Evensong will be replaced by a 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of 'Open the Book' – OtB is a wonderful organization which takes the Bible, its stories and teaching, into school assemblies. All are invited.

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May, Evensong at 3pm will include a thanksgiving for the Centenary of Save the Children. Again, all are invited to signal support for this very important organization.

[And of course yesterday we marked Somerset Day, and today we launch Christian Aid Week]

*John Davies, Dean*

Building work has already begun on the ground floor of the **Cathedral offices**. This will continue until the end of May. 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*

**The Shop** has had something 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*

**New boilers:** In the winter months it is essential that the Cathedral is heated for worship, for welcome, and to care for the fabric. Our boilers are ancient and unreliable – and are now being replaced. Chapter is very grateful to the Friends for the financial support to allow this important work to be undertaken.

*John Davies, Dean*

**Connected:** As advertised recently, the Cathedral is delighted to be the venue for the Wells Art Contemporary exhibition this year. We are also delighted to be working closely with the Wells Theatre Festival this year. More news soon...

*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](mailto:Pastor@wellscathedral.uk.net)

**Readings** for next Sunday's Cathedral Eucharist, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter:

Acts 11.1-18 and John 13.31-35

**OF SPECIAL NOTE FOR THIS WEEK**

The Precentor is in Residence this week

<b><i>Every day at 8am, Morning Liturgy, Lady Chapel</i></b>			
<b>Mon</b>	<b>13</b>		Eeles Family Pottery Exhibition – South Cloister (until 18/5)
		5:15pm	Evensong
<b>Tue</b>	<b>14</b>	12:25pm 5:15pm	<b>Matthias the Apostle</b> Holy Communion – Lady Chapel <b>Festal Evensong, with Wells Cathedral Song Squad.</b> <i>Martin Randall Group and St Mary's Taunton Group attending</i>
<b>Wed</b>	<b>15</b>	9:30am 1:05pm 5:15pm	Holy Communion - Lady Chapel Lunchtime Concert: Carillon Singers Evensong
<b>Thur</b>	<b>16</b>	11:30am 5:15pm	Mothers' Union Prayers Evensong
<b>Fri</b>	<b>17</b>	5:15pm	Evensong
<b>Sat</b>	<b>18</b>	5:15pm	<b>Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration of 'Open the Book'</b>