

The Chapter Letter



Fifth Sunday of Easter 19th 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.

All Saints Martock: The Dean and Chapter are patron, or co-patron, of nearly thirty parishes across the diocese. And when one of these parishes becomes vacant we do want to offer special encouragement. For that reason I'm presiding and preaching at All Saints Martock this morning as they are several months into vacancy. I'll also be issuing my now familiar invitation to the Cathedral!

John Davies, Dean

Save the Children is an outstanding organisation which is presently celebrating its centenary. Local supporters of Save the Children will be here for Evensong this afternoon, and prayers of thanksgiving for this important charity will be woven into the service. And I'll be preaching on the work of Save the Children.

John Davies, Dean

Ascension Day 2019: Ascension Day this year falls on Thursday 30th 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

Confirmation: On Sunday 16th 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...

Christian Aid Week 2019: It was very good to see the Quire and Presbytery all but full for the local launch of Christian Aid Week, and I do salute the volunteers who have been out and about collecting; and the Cathedral team who are organizing the Smartie challenge and other fundraising events over the next six months.

John Davies, Dean

Launch of Christian Aid Project: The start of Christian Aid Week was marked last Sunday with a special Evensong at which the guest preacher was the Revd Dr Susan Durber, Theology Co-ordinator for Christian Aid. This was followed by the launch, in the North Transept, of the Cathedral's Community fundraising campaign for refugees in Iraq and Lebanon. After a welcome from the Dean, Dr Durber spoke of her experience of refugee camps in Bosnia, Adrian l'Anson (Christian Aid Co-ordinator) outlined the plans for raising the £5000 required (which will be matched 6-1 by 'Bread for the World'), and finally we saw an inspiring video clip in which refugee Syrian children expressed their hopes for a better future. Fifty-two Smartie tubes were distributed (to visitors as well as locals), which will be returned on 19th January 2020, filled with 36 pound coins.

More Smartie tubes will be available after the Cathedral Eucharist this morning in the North Transept. Please come and collect one if you would like to participate in this challenge.

For your diaries: the next event will be a Garden Party at 2 Canons' Close (kindly made available by the Canon Pastor), on Saturday 22nd June, 3- 6pm. ***There is a sign-up list for this event in the North Transept.***

Glimpses of Cathedral life and ministry: The past week has been national Mental Health Awareness Week, and at the beginning of the week it was brilliant to welcome pupils and staff from nine ***primary schools*** from across Somerset who were here to explore through the day the stillness, beauty, stability and dependability of the Cathedral – to enrich their sense of well-being. The project was a joint one between the Cathedral and Diocesan Education teams.

Meanwhile in another corner of the Cathedral ***the Embroidery Group*** spent the day working on the (really promising and very beautiful) embroideries which will go on the seats of the sixth Vicars Choral in the Quire, the seats being newish additions.

And in quick succession we welcomed a large ***parish group*** from St Mary Magdalene, Taunton, for tea, tours and Evensong.

John Davies, Dean

Building work in the **Cathedral offices** 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.

The Receptionist is away next week. If you have an urgent enquiry, please could you contact the office via email: reception@wellscathedral.uk.net where possible. We will be monitoring messages regularly. Thank you for your patience during this time of disruption!

Jackie Croft, Cathedral Administrator and Chapter Clerk

Conservation Works to Wells Cathedral's Clock: Scaffolding went up this week at the famous Cathedral clock and surrounding masonry to allow close inspection in preparation for the next major phase of conservation work. The outside clock on the North Face of the Cathedral (opposite Vicars' Hall) dates from the 15th Century and is thought to be one of the oldest continuously working external clock faces in Britain, and is connected directly to the internal clock face, considered to probably be the second oldest clock in the world to survive in original condition and still be in use.

We are grateful to the Friends of Wells Cathedral for supporting this phase of the works. Following the results of the inspections, a phased programme of repair and restoration will follow, for which further financial support will be needed.

If you would like to know more about supporting this important project or about fundraising in general at Wells Cathedral please contact Nicholas Selman, Director of Development via phone 01749 832214 or email nicholas.selman@wellscathedral.uk.net.

Nicholas Selman, Director of Development

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

For our prayers: Many will remember Dr Kathryn Goldsmith, a former Virger here who went to train at Mirfield for ordained ministry. She will be ordained on June 30th to serve in the diocese of Ripon and Leeds. She asks for our prayers.

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

Supporting the Cathedral: The Cathedral, like all other churches, looks to the financial contributions of those who worship and visit here. Regular worshippers who value the life and ministry of this place are invited to make a regular contribution, either by planned giving envelopes or a standing order. The Chapter expresses its thanks to those who choose to offer their support in this way.

Enquiries are dealt with in complete confidence. To find out more please contact the Development Office by phone: 01749 674483 Ext. 268 or via email: fundraiser@wellscathedral.uk.net.

Readings for next Sunday's Cathedral Eucharist, 6th Sunday of Easter:

Acts 16.9-15 and John 14.23-29

OF SPECIAL NOTE FOR THIS WEEK

The Dean is in Residence

<i>Every day at 8am, Morning Liturgy, Lady Chapel</i>			
Mon	20	5:15pm	Evensong
Tue	21	12:25pm 2-4pm 4:15pm 5:15pm	Holy Communion – Lady Chapel Cathedral Council Meeting Cathedral Song Squad Evensong
Wed	22	9:30am 5:15pm	Holy Communion - Lady Chapel Evensong
Thur	23	5:15pm	Evensong
Fri	24	1:05pm 5:15pm	Lunchtime Concert: Mendip Consort Evening Prayer
Sat	25	10:30am 2pm 5:15pm	Stockport Morris Men Dancing – West Front Apron Service of Holy Matrimony: Carla Gonzalez & Alexei Taylor-Maughan Evensong