

The Chapter Letter



Twelfth Sunday after Trinity 8th September 2019

Welcome: A very warm welcome to worship at the Cathedral.

Celebrating 25 years of Girls in the Cathedral Choir and the work of the Chorister Trust: The Chapter and the Trustees of WCCT have great pleasure in inviting all regular worshippers and all volunteers to Choral Evensong on Tuesday 24th September at 5:15pm.

The service will be attended by Their Royal Highnesses The Earl and Countess of Wessex. (The service will be held in the Quire and in the Nave.) *There is a list on the table in the North Transept to reserve a place in the Nave.*

Harvest 2019: We will be celebrating Harvest this year on Sunday 6th October at 9:45am. All coming to the Cathedral Eucharist are invited to bring a Harvest gift for the Connect Centre. (There won't be a service of Sung Matins on this Sunday.) After the Eucharist and refreshments, there will be some 'community time' in the Education Room, including a presentation by the minister of the Connect Centre – and then there is the offer of a Harvest Lunch at 12:15pm in the Cathedral Café: A ploughman's platter will be provided for £6, and there will be drinks and pudding for a small extra payment. All payments to be taken on the day.

There is a sign up list for Harvest Lunch, again on the table in the North Transept.

John Davies, Dean

There is a **Root Connections** stall at the back of the Cathedral this morning, selling produce from the Dairy House project. All are invited to support a great cause.

This afternoon at Evensong we will give thanks for the life and ministry of Bishop John Bickersteth (Bishop of Bath and Wells 1975-1986). After the service a memorial to Bishop John will be dedicated in the Cloisters. All who remember Bishop John are very warmly invited.

The Friends of Wells Cathedral are brilliant supporters of the Cathedral, and their Journal for 2019 is an outstanding publication. Might you join up? Membership forms are in the North Transept.

John Davies, Dean

Children's Society soup and pud lunch: On Thursday 12th September 12-2pm at Seager Hall. Lunch costs £7.50 payable at the door and there will be a raffle too. All proceeds go to the Children's Society. All are welcome.

Elizabeth Talbot, Children's Society Representative

Congregational meeting: The date for this year's meeting, as notified earlier in the summer, is Monday 16th September, at 6:15pm in the Education Room, following Evensong. There will be an overview of the year by the Dean, and a series of other updates including finance, fabric, pastoral care and safeguarding. There will also be time we hope to respond to questions. So that we can provide accurate and useful answers, it will be helpful to have questions submitted in writing and in advance. Email to paula.denyer@wellscathedral.uk.net, marked Congregational Meeting/The Dean – and hard copy notes via the office marked similarly please. The deadline is 24 hours before the meeting: please add your name and contact details.

Some social time afterwards would be enjoyable, so a drinks party is planned. Those coming are asked to bring a bottle (or half bottle) or juice. Glasses and some cheese will be provided.

John Davies, Dean

Why Did People Believe in Dragons? The dragon famously killed by Bishop Jocelin of Wells belongs, it seems, to a world of fantasy. But for centuries people believed that dragons were real and deadly creatures. In our own time of 'fake news', it is worth thinking about why this was so. Professor Darren Oldridge, Professor of Early Modern History at the University of Worcester, sets out the many and surprising reasons why people once accepted the existence of dragons, and introduces the experts on these creatures from seventeenth-century England. He suggests that there is still much to learn from the world in which dragons seemed to be real. This will be held in the Education Room, 2pm Monday 16th September.

In order that we can set out the Education Room appropriately, there is a sign up list on the table in the North Transept. Tea will follow the lecture and questions.

Professor David Thomas, Canon Theologian

Heritage Open Days free tours – Wells Cathedral and the Monmouth Rebellion Tuesday 17th September: In conjunction with Heritage Open Day activities taking place across the country (and Wells!) here is an opportunity to take a short tour with a Cathedral guide visiting locations connected with the Monmouth Rebellion.

You will learn about this key historical event and Bishop Ken's involvement and the tour ends in the Archives Reading Room, not usually open to the public. Here you can see original documents relating to this demonstration of 'People Power' in Somerset, sometimes known as 'The Pitchfork Rebellion' which ended in defeat at the Battle of Sedgemoor.

This tour is free of charge. Please meet the guide in the West Cloister. Tours last around 20 minutes, plus additional time with the Archivist. Departures at regular intervals, as groups assemble. Morning tours between 10am and 11am. Afternoon tours between 3pm and 4pm.

Miranda Young, Outreach & Learning Manager

The Dean will be taking part in the **Charity Abseil** from the Cathedral's North West Tower in late September. Three weeks of abseiling are to raise money for SOS Africa, a charity based in Shepton Mallet which supports some of the most marginalised youngsters in Southern Africa. The Dean's abseil date is 27th September.

If you would like to sponsor you can do so using this link www.justgiving.com/dean-of-wells-abseil or by signing the sponsorship form on the table in the North Transept. It's a great cause!

Be a Chorister for a Day: The annual *Be a Chorister for a Day* event will take place on Saturday 12th October 11am-5pm, and includes singing games, learning about the Cathedral, and finding out what a Chorister really does. Lunch is provided, and at the end of the day the children take part in Evensong with the Cathedral Choir. Parents can take a tour of Wells Cathedral School, and have afternoon tea in Vicars' Hall before Evensong.

If you know a child who will be aged between 7 and 9 on this date and would like to take part, please send your contact details to Melanie Lawlor in the Music Office by emailing: musicoffice@wellscathedral.uk.net, or telephone 01749 674483 ext. 281. Places are limited, so please register early.

The Cathedral's new music wells festival celebrates the past 40 years of music, as well seeing the premieres of several new works. *new music wells 79-19* will be held from Friday 11th to Thursday 17th October 2019, and all music during the Cathedral's services and at five special concerts will be selected from repertoire written over the last 40 years.

We are delighted to be able to welcome back Jonathan Dove as this year's distinguished Composer-in-Residence. He will be in conversation with fellow composer Lord (Michael) Berkeley at Composer Conversations at 2.30pm on Wednesday 16th October in Quilter Hall (Wells Cathedral School) and will give a public composition masterclass in Quilter Hall at 2pm on Thursday 17th October. Admission to all *new music wells* events is free, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Jeremy Cole, Acting Organist and Master of the Choristers

Coffee Rota Help: Can you spare some time on a Sunday morning, once every 6-8 weeks? Help is needed setting up, serving tea and coffee, and clearing away afterwards. Full support is given. If you are interested in helping and would like further information, please contact the Cathedral Office on volunteers@wellscathedral.uk.net or 01749 674483.

Ruth Clacee-Rowe, Volunteer Coordinator

Readings for next Sunday's Cathedral Eucharist: 13th Sunday after Trinity

Timothy 1.12-17 and Luke 15.1-10

OF SPECIAL NOTE FOR THIS WEEK

The Dean is in Residence

Mon	9		Chilcompton Art Group Exhibition – South Cloister (until 14/9) Evensong
		5:15pm	
Tue	10	12:25pm 5:15pm	Holy Communion – Lady Chapel Evensong
Wed	11	9:30am 5:15pm	Holy Communion - Lady Chapel Evensong
Thur	12	1:05pm 5:15pm	Lunchtime Organ Recital: Colin Walsh – Organist Laureate, Lincoln Cathedral Evensong
Fri	13	10:30am 5:15pm	Millfield School beginning of term service Evening Prayer
Sat	14	12pm 5:15pm	Holy Cross Day Eucharist with Prayers for Healing – Lady Chapel Festal Eucharist: Preacher, the Dean.