

# The Chapter Letter

## The Fifth Sunday after Trinity

### Sunday 20 July 2025



8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP): The Collect, Epistle, and Gospel for the Fifth Sunday after Trinity begin on page 163 of the Book of Common Prayer.

This week, The Reverend Melvyn Matthews' Permission to Officiate will come to an end. Melvyn was licensed 38 years ago and his last post was as Canon Chancellor of Wells Cathedral, until his retirement in 2005. We thank God for Melvyn's faithful ministry and dedicated service over the last 38 years.

The Reverend Edward Day, Cathedral Curate, is at Taizé, in Southern France with Bishop Michael and a group of young adults from the Diocese of Bath and Wells (and from the Dioceses of Bristol, Portsmouth, Norwich, York, and Leeds) until Sunday 27 July. We pray that all those attending will deepen their relationship with God through community, chants, silence, personal reflection, and making new friends.

The Reverend Philip Harbridge: Philip has been a Priest Vicar at the Cathedral since 2020 and is leaving us to become Chaplain and Interfaith Officer at Jesus College, Oxford. He is preaching at Choral Evensong this afternoon. Many thanks to Philip for his ministry here at Wells Cathedral and we pray for God's blessing on him in his new role in Oxford.

**Welcome:** A very warm welcome to the Cathedral, particularly if you are a visitor or here for the first time. We would be delighted to meet you, so do please make yourself known to one of the clergy after the service. Everybody is always welcome to stay and enjoy time together over tea and filter coffee after the Cathedral Eucharist, where there are Welcomers available - please do seek them out if you have questions or simply to chat.

Huge thanks go to the Choir of St Paul's Episcopal Church, Fayetteville, Arkansas, USA who sang the services so beautifully this week. They will be singing at the Cathedral Eucharist this morning and Choral Evensong this afternoon.

**Visiting Choir - Monday 21 to Sunday 27 July:** The Good Shepherd Choir in Lexington, Kentucky, USA, sings weekly for Eucharist on Sundays and Evensong on Wednesdays. Their repertoire includes traditional Anglican and Episcopal repertoire, and in the past few years, an increasing number of American Spirituals. Previous choir pilgrimages have included St. Alban's Cathedral, Durham Cathedral, the American Cathedral in Paris, and more.

**INEQE Safeguarding report:** The results of the independent review into safeguarding in the Diocese of Bath and Wells and Wells Cathedral have now been published and are available here: <https://www.wellscathedral.org.uk/archives/173057365> We are thrilled with the report which recognises how far we have come. In the press release this week, the Dean states: "We warmly welcome the audit findings and

recommendations. I am clear that the improvements to our safeguarding culture acknowledged in this report are the shared achievements of the whole team of volunteers, staff and clergy at Wells Cathedral, who work tirelessly towards upholding the highest standards of care. I am grateful for their commitment and for all they do.”

All are warmly invited to a Congregational Meeting in the Nave at 4.00 p.m. on **Sunday 27 July**. Refreshments will be served after Evensong. This will be an opportunity to celebrate the findings from the INEQE safeguarding audit and mark some steps in our common life together.

**Sounds Joyful:** Sounds Joyful is coming back! Following the debut performance in June, the next joyful session at Wells Cathedral will be in the Lady Chapel on **Monday 21 July**, from 10.45–11.45am. No music experience is necessary, just come as you are. Tickets, costing £5, are available on the door.

To find out more, please visit: [www.soundsjoyful.co.uk](http://www.soundsjoyful.co.uk)

**Somerset Chamber Choir presents: Summer Gold: On Saturday 26 July** at 7.00 p.m., join Somerset Chamber Choir for a celebration of Sir John Rutter’s 80th birthday year with a performance of his jubilant *Gloria*. The concert also features James Whitbourn’s evocative *Son of God Mass*; James MacMillan’s *Summae Trinitati* and Gerald Finzi’s *God is gone up* which will perfectly complement works of peaceful reflection written by Paul Mealor and Cecilia McDowall. To book tickets, please visit: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/somersetchamberchoir>

**Introducing Alfie Rendell and Fin James:** In September, we are delighted to be welcoming Alfie Rendell and Finlay (Fin) James to the Cathedral for their Ministry Experience Scheme (MES) year. This is an important Church of England scheme for 18 to 30-year-olds.

Alfie writes: “My name is Alfie Rendell, I’m an 18-year-old from the small village of Martock, who is incredibly excited to be working alongside you all from September. I have been blessed with the opportunity to participate in a ‘Ministry Experience Scheme’, which is a 10-month placement that allows young people who are seeking to grow in their own discipleship and to discern exactly where God may be calling them, to become involved in the inner workings of the church and to gain real ‘on the ground’ experience of ministry in a variety of contexts. I personally hope that this coming year in our wonderful Cathedral will help me to discern my personal sense of calling to the priesthood and I know that partaking in the wide range of ministries that our Cathedral offers will help me do just that. I’m also very excited to be able to grow in my faith alongside you all and hope we can help each other to do just that.”

Fin writes: “Hello, my name is Finlay James and I’m delighted to be joining the community here at the Cathedral as part of the Ministry Experience Scheme. I have always loved Wells, having often visited when I was younger and now having the opportunity to live here fills me with great joy. I come from a background in church ministry, law and finance, having spent the past year involved in youth work, worship and being employed as the Site Assistant within my local church of St Paul’s in Weston-super-Mare. I’m currently discerning a call to ordained ministry with a particular interest in chaplaincy, and I’m really looking forward to this year of deepening my faith through service, reflection and walking alongside others in this beautiful and prayerful place. I hope to grow not only in my theological understanding but also my spirituality, really having the chance to embed myself into the prayer rhythm here at the

*Cathedral. I look forward to getting to know many of you over the coming months and I am extremely grateful for this opportunity.”*

If you feel that you would be able to make a financial contribution to support Alfie and Fin's work, your gift - large or small - would be deeply appreciated. It is an important investment not only in two young people but in the future leadership of the church. If you would like to make a donation or would like further information, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the Dean's Executive Assistant for a form: [Jonathan.Rodd@wellscathedral.org.uk](mailto:Jonathan.Rodd@wellscathedral.org.uk)

**Cider and Cheese Festival – Saturday 27 September:** Enjoy a relaxed and lively afternoon at Wells Cathedral as you sample a wide range of local ciders and cheeses, discover new favourites and soak up the atmosphere with live music and great company. The Festival is scheduled to start at 12 noon and run until 9.00 p.m. the same evening. Alongside stands from local cider and cheese producers, there will be a range of soft drink and food stalls. Tickets include access to all events on the day, two half-pint drink tokens, and a commemorative glass to use on the day and take home. Additional tokens may be purchased for £2.50 each. To book tickets, please see: <https://WellsCathedral-CiderCheese25.eventbrite.co.uk>

**Carols by Candlelight:** The Carols by Candlelight Concerts are returning for 2025 on **Friday 19, Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 December!** Immerse yourself in a world of choral classics sung by the renowned Wells Cathedral Choir, and witness the Cathedral aglow with over 3,000 twinkling candles. Tickets for the concerts are now available through the Cathedral website: <https://www.wellscathedral.org.uk/candlelight>

**Pilgrimage journey in aid of Spurgeons:** Colin Jones, Head of Finance at Wells Cathedral School and a regular worshipper, will be undertaking a pilgrimage journey from Ferns in County Wexford to St David's, inspired by the Lent talks at the Cathedral. He is walking to raise money for the charity Spurgeons, which is currently running a 'Stop the Stigma' campaign to support its work with children and families affected by imprisonment in the UK. A typical journey for a family making a prison visit is 100 miles, which is the same distance as Colin's pilgrimage journey. This has prompted him to launch a fundraising page in support of the Spurgeons campaign. For further information about the campaign, please visit:

<https://spurgeons.org/about-us/news-stories-events/news/stop-the-stigma-our-campaign-to-support-children-of-imprisonment/>

To make a donation, please use this link: [https://www.justgiving.com/page/colin-jones-2?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/page/colin-jones-2?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL)

**Pastoral Care:** The Cathedral Pastoral Care team comprises: Wendy Haslam (Pastoral Care Coordinator), Caroline Byrne, Reverend Edward Day, Kate Day, Reverend Rosey Lunn, Patricia Hellier, Lissy Manners, Julian Tucker and Fran Wood. Members of the team visit individuals as needed including the provision of home communion. Visits are co-ordinated by Wendy Haslam.

**If you have pastoral matters to raise or would like a visit, please contact Wendy on [pastoralcare@wellscathedral.org.uk](mailto:pastoralcare@wellscathedral.org.uk) or 07815 309527. You can also call the Cathedral Office (01749 674483).**

**Safeguarding at Wells Cathedral:** Wells Cathedral is committed to the safeguarding of all people. For details please visit:

<https://www.wellscathedral.org.uk/safeguarding>

You can report a concern using the same online link or by contacting either Joanne Austin, Diocesan and Safeguarding case worker:

01749 588905, [joanne.austin@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:joanne.austin@bathwells.anglican.org)

or Ben Goodhind, Diocesan and Cathedral Safeguarding Manager,

01749 588917, [ben.goodhind@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:ben.goodhind@bathwells.anglican.org)

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### **This week at Wells Cathedral**

<b>Monday – Friday (inclusive)</b>
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The Morning Liturgy is celebrated at 8.00 a.m. in the Lady Chapel.
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#### **21 MONDAY**

1.30 p.m. **Circle Dancing Event**

5.15 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (Choir and Choristers of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Lexington, Kentucky, USA)

#### **22 TUESDAY: Mary Magdalene**

5.15 p.m. **Festal Evensong** (Choir and Choristers of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Lexington, Kentucky, USA)

#### **23 WEDNESDAY**

10.00 a.m. **Eucharist** (Common Worship Order I, Traditional)

5.15 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (Choir and Choristers of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Lexington, Kentucky, USA)

#### **24 THURSDAY**

5.15 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (Choir of Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Utrecht, Netherlands)

#### **25 FRIDAY: James the Apostle**

5.15 p.m. **Festal Evensong** (Choir and Choristers of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Lexington, Kentucky, USA)

#### **26 SATURDAY: Anne and Joachim, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

8.00 a.m. **Morning Prayer**

5.15 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (Choir and Choristers of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Lexington, Kentucky, USA)

7.00 p.m. **Concert:** Somerset Chamber Choir

#### **27 SUNDAY: THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

8.30 a.m. **Holy Communion** (BCP), Quire/Presbytery

10.30 a.m. **Cathedral Eucharist** (Choir and Choristers of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Lexington, Kentucky, USA)  
Preacher: The Very Reverend Toby Wright, *Dean*

3.00 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (Choir and Choristers of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Lexington, Kentucky, USA)  
Preacher: The Reverend Canon Tim Stevens, *Precentor*

4.00 p.m. **Congregational Meeting**, Nave