

Vicars' Close Project Callout for Community Groups



Are you a community group based in Somerset?

Would you like to try something new and explore your creativity through free workshops?

We are creating an exciting community-led project around the opening of Vicars' Close at Wells Cathedral. As part of this work, we are looking to build relationships with community groups across the region and provide opportunities for local people to get involved with exciting creative activities. The Vicars' Close project is made possible with The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Thanks to National Lottery players, we have been able to offer these bespoke workshops to local groups.



Vicars' Close is an amazing medieval street that feels like travelling back in time. For over 650 years it has been home to the Cathedral's choir. As well as repairing the buildings, we are engaging people in a whole range of activities – from singing and oral histories to wildlife gardening. Eventually, once we've finished repairs and made it more accessible, we will open parts of the street as an innovative new visitor attraction with all kinds of things to explore.

Given its continued use as a residential street for many people, our theme for this activity is the idea of 'home'. We're excited to explore what this means to people from across the county.

Creativity Workshops

As part of the first phase of the project we are looking to offer *free* workshops to local groups.

The sessions will be led by Nik Kitchridge (Creative Facilitator at Wells Cathedral) and Verity Standen, a celebrated local composer who specialises in singing – especially with people who’ve not had much experience of singing before.

There are three main ways your group can take part in these workshops:

1. **Learn about the amazing history of Vicars’ Close** – we’d love to share some stories from the wonderful characters that have lived and worked on the street over several centuries.
2. Chat to us, **share your own stories**, contribute your ideas about what ‘home’ means and your experiences of living in Somerset. These ideas could then inspire new pieces of music or be added to the visitor attraction at Vicars’ Close.
3. **Get creative**. Take part in **writing and storytelling exercises** led by Nik or **try out some fun singing** with Verity.

These workshops are designed to be joyful and accessible. Creative activities are great for building confidence and group bonding. And we’ll support you with anything that helps make the session fun and accessible for your group.

We can travel to meet your group or welcome you to Wells Cathedral.

...But what if we’ve never been creative or sung before?

Nobody needs to have any previous experience of being creative or singing. Nik has a background as a theatre-maker, creating stories with a whole range of people including community groups and non-professional artists. Verity doesn’t use any written music or technical language, just a lot of energy and laughter. And her musical style isn’t anything like you might normally expect from the Cathedral – it’s playful and lively, inspired by pop and folk music from around the world. You can explore her work at www.veritystanden.com

Details:

- Sessions are entirely free.
- They will take place between January and April 2026.
- We can travel to your setting to deliver the sessions or host you here at Wells Cathedral, depending on what your group would prefer.
- We will fit into your existing meeting schedule and/or work with you to find a time that works for your group.
- Each group will be offered 2 x sessions. We can adjust to your group, but we recommend around an hour and a half each time.

We may ask groups for their permission to document some of these sessions, through photography, video, and audio recording. No-one will be recorded if they do not wish to be, and all participants have a right to anonymity.

Wells Cathedral would then love to keep in touch with you. This project is a great way for us to kickstart our relationships with community groups across the region as we begin to expand our identity as a creative and cultural hub.

How to Express Your Interest

Please get in touch with the Vicars' Close Project Team: VCProject@wellscathedral.org.uk

Or scan the QR code:



And we will get back to you to arrange an informal conversation.

If you would rather contact us by phone, you can call or leave a message: **07747214861**

Further Information:

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact the Vicars' Close Project Team: VCProject@wellscathedral.org.uk