

The Chapter Letter

The Second Sunday before Advent

Sunday 16 November 2025



8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP): The Collect, Epistle, and Gospel for the Twenty Second Sunday after Trinity begin on page 192 of the Book of Common Prayer.

The Dean is preaching at both All Saints Church, Closworth and St Mary's Church, Hardington Mandeville today. We pray that both he and the communities will be blessed by their time together.

The Reverend Edward Day, *Cathedral Curate*, is presiding and preaching at St Peter's, North Wootton today. We pray that both he and the community will be blessed by their time together.

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.

This afternoon, Choral Evensong will mark the work of Marie Curie and Macmillan Cancer Support. Refreshments will be available after Evensong, prior to the Congregational Meeting. We hope that many of you will be able to attend both Choral Evensong and the Congregational Meeting.

Thank You From Clemmie: I just wanted to say a big thank you to everyone who supported me with my recent Fundraising bake sales. Everyone was so incredibly generous and it was lovely to meet with you all after the Cathedral Eucharist.

Remembrance at Wells Cathedral: 1945 – 2025

The Education room was full to capacity for Tuesday's talk on Emperor Haile Selassie I in Bath and Wells: His journey, His faith.

Following his talk, Ras Benji presented Bishop Michael with a framed *Wells Journal* article, as a gift from Fairfield House to Wells Cathedral, that provides an account of the Emperor's visit to Wells Cathedral in 1938. Our thanks go to Fairfield House for such a wonderful gift. It will be displayed on the table in the South Transept until 28 November.

The final event that accompanies the Tapestry of Black Britons is the Woven Stories creative workshop on **Monday 17 November** from 2.00 - 4.00 p.m.

Armonico Consort presents: Karl Jenkins, The Armed Man: Join us on **Thursday 20 November** at 7.00 p.m. in Wells Cathedral for a powerful performance of The Armed Man, Karl Jenkins' moving work for peace. To book tickets, please use the Eventbrite website:

<https://Armonico-ArmedMan-WellsCathedral.eventbrite.co.uk>

An Evening of Pink Floyd: On Friday 21 and Saturday 22 November at 7.30 p.m., join Let Me In Presents for their brand new production, *An Evening of Pink Floyd*. Tickets are now available: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/an-evening-of-pink-floyd-at-wells-cathedral-tickets-1320567335449>

Lecture - Sources of Unity, from Daily Prayer to the Sunday Creed: All are warmly invited to a lecture being organised by the Canon Chancellor at 6.00 p.m. on **Tuesday 25 November** at Wells Cathedral. The World Council of Churches European President, The Reverend Dr Susan Durber, will be speaking about the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, and what it means for us today. No ticket is needed. The lecture will follow immediately after Evensong, which takes place at 5.15 p.m. Post-lecture refreshments are available from The Loft (either eat in or take away) and should be pre-booked using this link, please: <https://pre-advent-retreat-eveningrefreshments.eventbrite.co.uk>

Christmas Orchestra Concerts: On **Wednesday 26 November**, discover the magic of the festive season with the Christmas Orchestra's unique concert experience. There are two concerts, an early one from 7.00 p.m. until 8.15 p.m., and a later one from 9.30 p.m. until 10.45 p.m. Tickets can be purchased using this website link: <https://www.thechristmasorchestra.co.uk>

London Concertante Present - Christmas at the Movies: On **Saturday 29 November** at 7.30 p.m., enjoy a programme of music from timeless films including 'White Christmas', 'Love Actually', 'Home Alone', 'Elf' and 'It's a Wonderful Life'. Tickets are now available from the London Concertante website: <https://londonconcertante.com/2025/05/14/christmas-movies-wells-cathedral-29-november-2025/>

Advent Sharing and Celebration: You are invited to join in an Advent Celebration and time of sharing on **Monday 1 December** from 9.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. This will take place in the Chapter Room and will be led by the Dean and the Reverend Mary Lewis. Together we will reflect on the meaning of Advent through art, music, poems and prose. There is no need to bring anything. Coffee and mince pies will be served at the beginning. As there is limited space, please email Jonathan Rodd if you wish to reserve a place: jonathan.rodd@wellscathedral.org.uk

'Last Things' in Advent: In former times, the great preaching themes of Advent were Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell. Nowadays, the build-up to Christmas seems to predominate, and the traditional penitential mood of the season all too soon gives way to the brightness of Christmas. Yet we are reminded, in Scripture and in Advent hymns, to prepare, not just for Christmas, but for the end of our lives, and for the coming of Christ at the end of time – to be mindful of death.

Here at Wells Cathedral, 'Last Things' will offer four sessions on Monday afternoons, beginning on **Monday 1 December** from 3.30 p.m. until 5.00 p.m. exploring themes such as 'Living with a sense of our mortality', 'Putting our affairs in order', 'Preparing for a good death', and thinking about 'What comes next – heaven or hell?' Each session begins with tea and cake, followed by short talks, discussion and prayer. There will be some visiting speakers to help with our thinking. For further information, please call Reverend Rosey Lunn (07786 118762). To reserve a place, please email Jonathan Rodd: jonathan.rodd@wellscathedral.org.uk

Farewell to the Organ: Please come and join in a very special event on **Thursday 11 December** at 7.30 p.m., when we will be saying au revoir to the Organ.

This is such an exciting watershed moment – scaffolding will go up around the Organ in January for a few weeks while it's dismantled and taken off to Durham for cleaning, restoration, renewal, repair and partial replacement. Our Organ *will* accompany the Christmas services (so long as nothing else goes wrong in the meantime!) but the evening concert on 11 December will be a very special farewell moment.

Director of Music, Tim Parsons, will be playing Messiaen's *La Nativité du Seigneur*, a beautiful and powerful piece, perfect for the season, and which will be played again in late 2027 when we celebrate the Organ's glorious return.

Wells SOUP!: SOUP! returns to Wells Cathedral on **Saturday 13 December** at 1.00 p.m. (arrive by 12.40 p.m to get a good seat), supporting four more local causes.

The four good causes presenting on 13 December are:

Wells Community Day: showcasing 100 local groups through stalls, performances and workshops.

Wells and Mendip Museum: to support school and family programmes for the new Romans in Mendip gallery (opening Easter 2026).

Keward House – rethinking mental illness: launching a fortnightly breakfast club to promote healthy eating and social connection. They currently have zero funding.

Wells Storehouse (Foodbank & Furniture Store): maintaining its foodbank and furniture service, including van upkeep, for helping families in need.

This event is sponsored by Paint Shop Boys (City Decorating Supplies). All projects will gain funds and visibility. Bishop Michael will be in attendance. Please join us to support these great initiatives!

Ross Young

Dr Anthony Crossland: On **Saturday 14 March 2026**, the Cathedral will be holding a special Evensong in thanksgiving for the life of Dr Anthony Crossland (1931-2025), who was Assistant Organist at Wells between 1961 and 1971 and then Organist and Master of the Choristers from 1971 until his retirement in 1996. The service will be held in the Nave at 5.15 p.m. and sung by the Cathedral Great Choir. All are welcome to join us to celebrate Anthony's life and his immense contribution to the music and ministry of Wells Cathedral over so many years.

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 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 or Ben Goodhind, Diocesan and Cathedral Safeguarding Manager, 01749 588917, ben.goodhind@bathwells.anglican.org

This week at Wells Cathedral

Monday – Friday (inclusive)

The Morning Liturgy is celebrated at 8.00 a.m. in the Lady Chapel.

17 MONDAY: Hugh, bishop, 1200

2.00 p.m. **Workshop:** Woven Stories with Paula Ogun Hector, Artist and Curator of *Tapestry of Black Britons* in the Education Room

5.15 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (Vicars Choral)

18 TUESDAY: Elizabeth, princess, philanthropist, 1231

5.15 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (Boy Choristers and Vicars Choral)

19 WEDNESDAY: Hilda, abbess, 680

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

5.15 p.m. **Evening Prayer**

20 THURSDAY: Edmund, king, martyr, 870

5.15 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (Girl Choristers and Vicars Choral)

7.00 p.m. **Concert,** Armonico Consort presents Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man*

21 FRIDAY

5.15 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (Vicars Choral)

7.30 p.m. **Concert:** Let Me In presents *An Evening of Pink Floyd*

22 SATURDAY: Cecilia, martyr, c.230

5.15 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (Schola Cantorum and Vicars Choral)

7.30 p.m. **Concert:** Let Me In presents *An Evening of Pink Floyd*

23 SUNDAY: CHRIST THE KING; THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT

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

10.30 a.m. **Cathedral Eucharist** (Vicars Choral)

Preacher: The Venerable Anne Gell, *Archdeacon of Wells*

3.00 p.m. **Festal Evensong** † (Schola Cantorum and Vicars Choral)

Preacher: The Reverend Dr Felix Mascarenhas, *Priest Vicar*