

# The Chapter Letter

## Advent Sunday

### Sunday 30 November 2025



**8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP):** The Collect, Epistle, and Gospel for the First Sunday in Advent begin on page 47 of the Book of Common Prayer.

The Reverend Edward Day, *Cathedral Curate*, is presiding and preaching at both St Mary Magdalene Church, Wookey Hole and St Cuthbert's Church, Wells today. We pray that both he and the communities 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.

**Cathedral Advent Carol Service:** On **Sunday 30 November**, join us for the Advent Carol Service at 5.00 p.m. (Congregation to be seated by 4.45 p.m., please) This very special service begins with the Cathedral in darkness. The combination of music, readings and liturgy as the procession moves around the Cathedral all come together to create an atmosphere which so powerfully embodies the Advent message. The service includes readings and traditional congregational Advent Carols, as well as wonderful music from the Cathedral Choir.

**Advent Celebration and 'Last Things' Advent course: A reminder for pre-booked participants:** The Advent Celebration with the Dean and the Reverend Mary Lewis takes place tomorrow morning, **Monday 1 December**, from 9.00 a.m. until 11.00 a.m. in the Chapter Room. Light refreshments, including tea, coffee and mince pies, will be served.

The Reverend Rosey Lunn's Advent course begins at 3.30 p.m. in the Education Room on **Monday 1 December**. The theme of the first session is *Living with a sense of our mortality*. The session will begin with tea and cake, followed by short talks, questions and discussions.

**Taste and See:** The Cathedral Meditation Group is an opportunity to share in thirty minutes of silent prayer which follows a brief introduction. Such prayer is a chance to deepen our personal relationship with God and to contribute to the prayer-life of the Cathedral. All are most welcome. The next session will be on **Monday 1 December**, at 6.00 p.m. in the Lady Chapel. If you are just coming for the meditation, please enter via the North Door.

**Lunchtime Concert:** On **Tuesday 2 December** at 1.05 p.m., join celebrated pianist Warren Mailley-Smith for a lunchtime concert at Wells Cathedral. Admission is included with entry with a retiring collection in aid of the Cathedral.

**Piccadilly Sinfonietta presents: Vivaldi Four Seasons at Christmas:** On **Tuesday 2 December** at 7.30 p.m., celebrate the season with Vivaldi's iconic masterpiece *The Four Seasons*, brought to life as you've never heard it before. This vivid and revolutionary work captures the natural rhythms of the year, making it the perfect soundtrack for a winter's evening. To book tickets, please visit: <https://www.eventim-light.com/uk/a/63c82ca274fb184f4eebf902/e/6849d1e649429218d9a01d45?lang=en>

**Cathedral Library closed:** Please note that electrical contractors will be working in the foyer of the Library on **Wednesday 3 December**. For safety reasons, the Library will therefore be closed on this day.

**Primary Outreach Concert:** Please join us at 1.05 p.m. on **Friday 5 December** for this festive outreach concert. The Cathedral's Singing Development Leader, Alex Jenkins, has been working this term with pupils from local primary schools. On 5 December, these children will come to the Cathedral to join together, alongside the Cathedral's Junior Choristers, to give this special concert to herald the Christmas season!

**Wells Cathedral Oratorio Society presents Handel's Messiah:** On **Saturday 6 December** at 7.00 p.m., join WCOS and Music for Awhile for an unforgettable evening as the resounding power of George Frideric Handel's *Messiah* once again fills Wells Cathedral with its timeless beauty and triumph. To purchase tickets, please visit: <https://WCOS-Messiah-2025.eventbrite.co.uk>

**A Christmas Carol:** On **Saturday 6 December**, there will be two illuminated costumed readings of Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* in the Undercroft with live music, performed by Wells Theatre Company at Wells Cathedral. The first is at 1.00 p.m., and the second is at 3.00 p.m.  
Admission is included with entry with a retiring collection in aid of the Cathedral.

**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.

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

**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.

**Sue Jones (b. 30 April 1928):** We are sorry to announce that Sue died peacefully at her home in King Alfred Courtyard on 20 November. She was a regular member of our Cathedral Congregation after her move to Wells, being a great lover of the Cathedral music. Before moving here, she had sung in the Kidderminster Choral Society. There will be a private Cremation Service at the Mendip Crematorium, mainly for family members, on Thursday 11 December taken by our Priest Vicar Emeritus John Sclater. In the New Year, the family are hoping to arrange a celebration of her life in Wells Cathedral. We remember her son Andy and daughter Lucy in our prayers and give thanks for her life. May she rest in peace.

**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](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)

## This week at Wells Cathedral

### Monday – Friday (inclusive)

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

#### 1 MONDAY

- 5.15 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (Vicars Choral)  
6.00 p.m. **Taste and See:** Cathedral Meditation Group in the Lady Chapel

#### 2 TUESDAY

- 1.05 p.m. **Lunchtime Concert**, Warren Mailley-Smith, *piano*  
5.15 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (Vicars Choral)  
7.30 p.m. **Concert:** Piccadilly Sinfonietta presents Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*

#### 3 WEDNESDAY

- 10.00 a.m. **Eucharist** (Common Worship Order I, Traditional)  
5.15 p.m. **Evening Prayer**  
7.30 p.m. **Crispin School Carol Service**

#### 4 THURSDAY

- 5.15 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (Girl Choristers and Vicars Choral)  
7.15 p.m. **Millfield Senior School Carol Service**

#### 5 FRIDAY

- 1.05 p.m. **Lunchtime Concert: Primary School Music Outreach**  
5.15 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (Junior Choristers)

#### 6 SATURDAY: Nicholas, bishop, c. 326

- 1.00 p.m. **Performance:** Wells Theatre Company presents *A Christmas Carol* in the Undercroft  
3.00 p.m. **Performance:** Wells Theatre Company presents *A Christmas Carol* in the Undercroft  
5.15 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (Wells Cathedral Chamber Choir)  
7.00 p.m. **Concert:** Wells Cathedral Oratorio Society presents Handel's *Messiah*

#### 7 SUNDAY: THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 8.30 a.m. **Holy Communion** (BCP), Quire/Presbytery  
10.30 a.m. **Cathedral Eucharist** (Girl Choristers and Vicars Choral)  
Preacher: The Reverend Canon Tim Stevens, *Precentor*  
3.00 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (Vicars Choral)  
6.30 p.m. **Wells Cathedral School Advent Service**  
Preacher: The Right Reverend Trevor Willmott, *Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Bath and Wells*

**Cathedral Shop news:** Wells Cathedral Shop is pleased to announce that they are once again running 10% OFF Wednesdays in December. This year that includes 5 Wednesdays: 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 December. The offer applies to all of our products, including Christmas gifts of bespoke gin and cider, various toiletry ranges, and a wide selection of Christmas decorations and cards. We have our Wells Cathedral Advent Calendars and Advent candles, as well as our 2026 Calendars, church diaries and lectionaries. See you on the 3 December for some great savings this Christmas!