

The Chapter Letter

The Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday 7 December 2025



8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP): The Collect, Epistle, and Gospel for the Second Sunday in Advent begin on page 49 of the Book of Common Prayer.

The Dean is presiding and preaching at St Andrew's Church, Bournville, Weston-super-Mare today. We pray that both he and the community will be blessed by their time together.

The Reverend Canon Tim Stevens, *Precentor*, is presiding and preaching at St Paul's Church, Easton 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.

Christmas Services at Wells Cathedral

Tuesday 23 December	6.00 p.m.	Cathedral Carol Service
Wednesday 24 December	1.15 p.m.	Crib Service
Wednesday 24 December	2.30 p.m.	Crib Service
Wednesday 24 December	6.00 p.m.	Cathedral Carol Service
Wednesday 24 December	11.00 p.m.	Eucharist of Christmas Night
Thursday 25 December	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
Thursday 25 December	10.30 a.m.	Christmas Day Eucharist
Thursday 25 December	3.00 p.m.	Evening Prayer (Vicars' Close Chapel)

On Wednesday 10 December, all are very welcome to attend other carol services being held at Wells Cathedral: the Age UK Somerset Carol Service at 11.00 a.m. and the Women's Institute Carol Service at 2.30 p.m., both held in the Nave.

Congratulations to Arnold Wills: On Monday evening at the Bishop's Palace, Arnold Wills was presented with the High Sheriff's Award by the High Sheriff, Janet Montgomery, for his outstanding leadership of the Wells Cathedral Chorister Trust. Many congratulations to Arnold on this fantastic achievement.

A Christmas Carol: On **Saturday 13 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. 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.

Breakfast for the 8.30 a.m. Congregation: On **Sunday 14 December**, the 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion congregation are invited to stay for coffee, tea and croissants after the service. We hope that you will enjoy a time of fellowship together.

Sponsorship for Prosecco: Our beautiful Christmas services are a chance to gather in worship, reflection and celebration, marking this sacred time together. After the Christmas Day Eucharist, we invite the congregation to join us for a glass of Prosecco in celebration of this special time. If you would like to sponsor a bottle of Prosecco, this can be done in either of the following ways:

- A cheque made out to 'Wells Cathedral', addressed to the Accounts Department
- A BACS transfer (Account: 52164330 Sort code: 60-23-06) ref: Christmas Prosecco

We look forward to celebrating with you.

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

Opus Anglicanum: On **Tuesday 16 December** at 7.30 p.m., experience a candlelit journey into the spiritual heart of a medieval Christmas as Opus Anglicanum return to Wells Cathedral. To book tickets, please visit:

<https://www.opusanglicanum.org/event/2025/mediaeval-carols-wells>

Christmas Sing-Along: On **Saturday 20 December** at 10.00 a.m., enjoy a fun, free, Christmas Family Sing-Along at Wells Cathedral!

Wells Cathedral's Song Squad choirs are inviting families to sign-up for this special festive event, which is particularly aimed at children aged 4-11. Enjoy singing fun Christmas songs and joyful carols, and free entry to the Cathedral!

Please note that children need to be accompanied by an adult throughout, and places should be reserved in advance via Eventbrite.

A retiring collection will be taken in support of the Cathedral's Music Outreach work.

Simon Rose – Head Virger: On **Sunday 21 December**, Simon will be leading the procession for the final time at the Cathedral Eucharist. We are deeply grateful for Simon's dedicated service and the care he has shown to the Cathedral community over 28 years. If you would like to contribute towards a retirement gift for Simon, please place your contribution in a sealed envelope marked 'Simon Rose Retirement' and hand it to the Virgers who will pass it to our Accounts Department. Alternatively,

you can make a bank transfer to Wells Cathedral (Account: 52164330 Sort code: 60-23-06) ref: Gift for Simon

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.

The final opportunity to hear the Organ will be at the Festal Eucharist at 5.15 p.m., on **Tuesday 6 January**, for the Feast of the Epiphany. Please join us for this historic moment.

Save the Date: On **Sunday 18 January**, join Professor Morwenna Ludlow, Canon Theologian at Exeter Cathedral, and Reverend Dr Mark Smith, Dean and Fellow of Clare College, Cambridge as they explore the Nicene Creed. *Worshipping with the Creed: A conversation exploring the ongoing meaning, use and relevance of the Nicene Creed* will take place in the Education Room between 12.30 p.m. and 2.30 p.m., and has been organised by the Canon Chancellor. Attendees are invited to bring their own packed lunch. If you would like to attend, please email Jonathan Rodd: Jonathan.Rodd@wellscathedral.org.uk

Charity of the Month: In the South Quire Aisle, you will find a noticeboard where each month different charities are invited to publicise information about their work and where it is possible for individuals to make donations to that charity. In December, the focus is on *Sounds Joyful* which offers fun and accessible sound and music sessions for people of all ages and abilities.

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,

Cathedral Shop news: In addition to our beautiful Christmas gifts in the shop, this week we also have two exciting new books! One is 'Churches of Somerset' by Phil Draper, which features our very own St. Cuthbert's. The second is a wonderful book by Cathedral Guide Jennifer Martin, who has translated and reflected on some of the Latin Memorials in Wells Cathedral in her book 'Tales from Tombstones'. Jennifer will be doing a book signing and question answering hour in the Cathedral Shop on **Wednesday 10 December** at 2.00 pm. Hope to see you there! Finally, don't forget that you can take advantage of 10% off everything in the shop every Wednesday throughout December.

This week at Wells Cathedral

Monday – Friday (inclusive)

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

8 MONDAY: Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

5.15 p.m. **Festal Evensong** † (Vicars Choral, with Wells Cathedral Youth Choir)

7.00 p.m. **Concert:** Somerset Schools Christmas Celebration

9 TUESDAY

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

7.00 p.m. **Wells Cathedral Prep School Christmas Celebration**

10 WEDNESDAY: Ember Day

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

11.00 a.m. **Age UK Somerset Carol Service**

2.30 p.m. **Women's Institute Carol Service**

5.15 p.m. **Evening Prayer**

11 THURSDAY

5.15 p.m. **Evening Prayer** in Vicars' Close Chapel

7.30 p.m. **Concert:** Timothy Parsons, Director of Music plays Messiaen's *La Nativité du Seigneur, neuf méditations pour orgue*

12 FRIDAY: Ember Day

10.15 a.m. **Wells Cathedral School Service**

5.15 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (Choir of St John's Church, Glastonbury)

13 SATURDAY: Lucy, martyr, 304

1.00 p.m. **SOUP!** in the Cathedral

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)

14 SUNDAY: THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

10.30 a.m. **Cathedral Eucharist** (Wells Cathedral Chamber Choir)

Preacher: The Reverend Edward Day, *Cathedral Curate*

3.00 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (Wells Cathedral Chamber Choir)

Preacher: The Venerable Chigor Chike, *Archdeacon of Lewisham and Greenwich*