

The Chapter Letter

The Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday 14 December 2025



8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP): The Collect, Epistle, and Gospel for the Third Sunday in Advent begin on page 51 of the Book of Common Prayer.

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.	First Eucharist of Christmas
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)

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.

Responding to 'Christian Nationalism': On this Gaudete Sunday, a day of rejoicing in the midst of Advent, we are reminded that the heart of Christmas is a message of love and hope for all people. Yesterday, 13 December, far-right groups planned events in London that sought to twist Christian language into a tool for exclusion and hostility. We pray that our worship and witness this, and every, Sunday will overflow with welcome, hospitality, and joy, so that every person knows they are embraced by the light and peace of Christ.

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: 60-23-06) ref: Christmas Prosecco

We look forward to celebrating with you.

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>

Come and Sing Christmas Folk Songs: On **Thursday 18 December**, come and sing folk songs in the splendid setting of the Chapter House at 10.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. - 2.30 p.m. An informal get-together organised by Andrew Hunt and others - song sheets provided - bring your voice.

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

Family Fun Activities: Get the holidays off to a festive start with our creative workshops for children and their families:

Saturday 20 December, 10.30 a.m. – 3.30 p.m. - Festive Foliage

Make a festive table decoration using greenery gathered from the Cathedral gardens.

Monday 22 December, 10.30 a.m. – 3.30 p.m. - Willowy Christmas

Use Somerset willow to make a festive decoration.

Tuesday 23 December, 10.30 a.m. – 3.30 p.m. - Driftwood Angels

Use driftwood and other found and reused materials to make an angel decoration.

Please note that children must be accompanied by a responsible adult and only assistance dogs are allowed at scheduled activities.

Epiphany Group: You are invited to join in an Epiphany Celebration and time of sharing on **Monday 5 January** from 9.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. This will take place in the Chapter Room and will be led by the Dean and the Reverend Sally Wright. Together, we will reflect on the meaning of Epiphany through art, music, poems and prose. There is no need to bring anything. Light refreshments 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

Farewell to the Organ: 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. At the end of the service, Tim Parsons, Carolyn Craig and Ed Marshall will each play the organ for a short time. The Friends of Wells Cathedral will be providing wine, soft drinks and nibbles to be served in the North Transept.

The Loft closure: Please note that The Loft will be closed on **Tuesday 6 January** for cleaning and maintenance.

Exploring the Nicene Creed: 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.

USPG: Any stamp, coin, postcard or badge (civil or military, fabric or metal) can be of benefit to the Anglican mission United Society Partners in the Gospel. Please place in the box on the table in the North Transept. Very many thanks to all contributors.

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

Cathedral Shop news: Wells Cathedral Shop is pleased to announce that they are once again running 10% OFF Wednesdays in 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.

This week at Wells Cathedral

Monday – Friday (inclusive)

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

15 MONDAY

5.15 p.m. **Evening Prayer**

16 TUESDAY

5.15 p.m. **Evening Prayer**

7.30 p.m. **Concert:** Opus Anglicanum

17 WEDNESDAY: O Sapientia

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

5.15 p.m. **Evening Prayer**

18 THURSDAY: O Adonai

5.15 p.m. **Evening Prayer**

19 FRIDAY: O Radix lesse

5.15 p.m. **Evening Prayer**

7.00 p.m. **Concert:** Carols by Candlelight with Wells Cathedral Choir

20 SATURDAY: O Clavis David

5.15 p.m. **Evening Prayer**

7.00 p.m. **Concert:** Carols by Candlelight with Wells Cathedral Choir

21 SUNDAY: THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: O Oriens

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

10.30 a.m. **Cathedral Eucharist** (Schola Cantorum and Vicars Choral)

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

Preacher: The Very Reverend Toby Wright, *Dean of Wells*

7.00 p.m. **Concert:** Carols by Candlelight with Wells Cathedral Choir