

The Chapter Letter

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday 21 December 2025



The Dean and Chapter wish all readers of the Chapter Letter, and all associated with the Cathedral, a very happy Christmas, and many blessings for 2026.



8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP): The Collect, Epistle, and Gospel for the Fourth Sunday in Advent begin on page 52 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.

Alma's Choir Tour Fundraising Cake Sale: Alma Kidd (Head Girl Chorister) will be selling festive bakes in the North Transept after the Cathedral Eucharist this morning. She is fundraising for the choir tour in April to Tuscany. Thank you for supporting Alma – she looks forward to seeing you all after the service.

Donations for tea and coffee: There is always an opportunity to donate for the teas and coffees after the Sunday 10.30 a.m. Eucharist, and this pays for supplies of tea, coffee and biscuits, and also supports our Link Diocese in Zambia. We are conscious that not everybody carries cash with them, so from this Sunday there will be a contactless terminal at the refreshment tables, so that it is easier than ever to make a donation as we enjoy our tea and coffee together.

Christmas Services: Details of the Christmas services can be found on the back page. Please note that the pattern of services times between 26 December and 1 January is different from the normal weekday pattern.

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

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.

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.

Suggestion Box: To help us continue improving every aspect of life at Wells Cathedral - for our visitors and our worshipping community - we have introduced a Suggestion Box, placed on the table near the Virgers' Vestry. If you have a constructive idea to share, please jot it down on one of the cards provided, and place it in the box. Thank you for helping us care for and strengthen this special place.

Opening Hours between Christmas and New Year:

	Cathedral	Café	Shop
Thursday 25 December	8.00-12.30	Closed	Closed
Friday 26 December	9.00-4.00	Closed	Closed
Saturday 27 December	9.00-4.00	Closed	Closed
Sunday 28 December	Normal hours	10.00-4.00	11.00-3.00
Monday 29 December	9.00-4.00	10.00-3.00	10.00-3.00
Tuesday 30 December	9.00-4.00	10.00-3.00	10.00-3.00
Wednesday 31 December	9.00-4.00	10.00-3.00	10.00-3.00
Thursday 1 January	9.00-4.00	10.00-3.00	10.00-3.00

SOUP! At this month's SOUP, warm tributes were paid to Ross and Karen Young for their eight years of dedicated service to the city's much-loved grant-giving lunch. The Dean and the Bishop of Bath and Wells led heartfelt thanks for the couple's exceptional contribution. Karen received a certificate and voucher in thanks. Four local groups presented their projects, with Keward House receiving the most votes and half of the £700 raised. The Dean encouraged everyone to keep supporting this uplifting community event. The next SOUP! will be on **Saturday 14 March** at 12.40 p.m.

Recruiting to the Cathedral's Fabric Advisory Committee (FAC): The FAC is central to caring for the physical and cultural heritage of the Cathedral and has a crucial role, advising Chapter on complex decisions, and balancing preservation successfully with innovation, as the Cathedral is a living thriving space for worship, music, education, and communities, as well as an internationally significant heritage visitor attraction. Chapter are seeking skilled individuals to join the Committee for the next five-year term of office, to support and advise them in conserving and restoring this fantastic building for generations to come. The time requirement is approximately three visits/meetings per year and further details can be found on the Wells Cathedral website: <https://www.wellscathedral.org.uk/your-cathedral/vacancies> The closing date is **11 January 2026**.

Epiphany Group: You are invited to join in a morning of reflection on the season of Epiphany 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. 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.

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

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 on 24 and 31 December. The offer applies to all of our products, including Christmas gifts of bespoke gin and cider and various toiletry ranges. We also have 2026 Calendars, church diaries and lectionaries.

This week at Wells Cathedral

22 MONDAY: O Rex Gentium

8.00 a.m. **Morning Liturgy**

10.45 a.m. **Sounds Joyful Community Sing**

3.30 p.m. **Advent Group: 'Last Things' with The Reverend Rosey Lunn, *Priest Vicar*, in the Chapter Room**

5.15 p.m. **Evening Prayer**

23 TUESDAY: O Emmanuel

8.00 a.m. **Morning Liturgy**

6.00 p.m. **Cathedral Carol Service** (Great Choir)

24 WEDNESDAY: CHRISTMAS EVE

8.00 a.m. **Morning Liturgy**

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

1.15 p.m. **Crib Service** (Wells Cathedral Song Squad and Wells Cathedral Youth Choir)

2.30 p.m. **Crib Service** (Wells Cathedral Song Squad and Wells Cathedral Youth Choir)

6.00 p.m. **Cathedral Carol Service** (Great Choir)

11.00 p.m. **First Eucharist of Christmas †** (Schola Cantorum and Vicars Choral)

Preacher: The Very Reverend Toby Wright, *Dean*

25 THURSDAY: CHRISTMAS DAY

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

10.30 a.m. **Eucharist of Christmas Day †** (Great Choir)

Preacher: The Right Reverend Michael Beasley,
Bishop of Bath and Wells

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

26 FRIDAY: Stephen, deacon, first martyr

9.30 a.m. **Morning Liturgy**

3.00 p.m. **Evening Prayer**, Lady Chapel

27 SATURDAY: John, Apostle and Evangelist

9.30 a.m. **Morning Liturgy**

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

28 SUNDAY: THE HOLY INNOCENTS

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

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

Preacher: The Reverend Prebendary Narinder Tegally, *Priest Vicar*

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

Preacher: The Reverend Canon Dr Megan Daffern, *Chancellor*