

The Chapter Letter

The Holy Innocents

Sunday 28 December 2025



8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP): The Collect, Epistle, and Gospel for The Innocents' Day begin on page 60 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.

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
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

Refreshment Rota Thanks: We would like to express our enormous gratitude to Cathedral Reader, Caroline Byrne, for faithfully organising the Sunday morning refreshments rota over the past years. Her quiet dedication, reliability, and generosity have been a real gift to our community, ensuring that hospitality continues to be offered week by week, as part of our ministry of welcome. We are now looking for two people who might be interested in sharing the leadership of this role going forward. If this is something you would be willing to help with, please contact Ruth Clacee-Rowe, Volunteer Services Manager: ruth.clacee-rowe@wellscathedral.org.uk

Choir news: The Cathedral Choir's newsletter for the Michaelmas and Advent 2025 terms is now available to view on the Cathedral website. Please do have a look to see what our hard-working Choir have been up to during the last term! www.wellscathedral.org.uk/choir-newsletter

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. Further details can be found on the 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.

Tallis Voices: Psalms of Penitence and Praise: On **Friday 16 January** at 7.00 p.m., we are delighted to welcome back Tallis Voices who will be performing once again in aid of the Wells Cathedral Chorister Trust. Their programme will feature some gems of the sacred choral repertoire, focussing on Renaissance music on the theme of Psalms of Penitence and Praise. As one of the Cathedral's Promenade Concerts, the audience will be free to walk the glorious open space of the building during the performance, the usual chairs all having been removed.

To book tickets, please visit: www.wcct.co.uk/tallisvoices

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

Opus Anglicanum Candlemas Promenade Concert: On **Thursday 22 January** at 7.00 p.m., join Opus Anglicanum as they present an immersive evening of ethereal plainchant for the feast of Candlemas. Hear antiphons, psalms and hymns and follow the singers as they process around the Cathedral, which will be stripped of chairs. Tickets are available by visiting the Ticket Source website: www.ticketsource.com/whats-on/somerset/wells-cathedral/candlemas-wells-cathedral/2026-01-22/d-kqrmxsvmgyaz

Why the Sacred Feminine? The Reverend Sally Wright will be hosting a session entitled, 'Why the Sacred Feminine?' on **Wednesday 28 January** at 7.00 p.m. in the Education Room, for women only. We will be exploring ideas and images of God in the feminine and why it might be important to do so. If you are interested in attending, or for more information, please contact Sally at sally.wright@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 on Wednesday 31 December. The offer applies to all of our products, including bespoke gin and cider and various toiletry ranges. In addition, we have our 2026 Calendars, church diaries and lectionaries.

This week at Wells Cathedral

29 MONDAY: Thomas Becket, archbishop, martyr, 1170

9.30 a.m. **Morning Liturgy**

3.00 p.m. **Evening Prayer**

30 TUESDAY

9.30 a.m. **Morning Liturgy**

3.00 p.m. **Evening Prayer**

31 WEDNESDAY

9.30 a.m. **Morning Prayer**

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

3.00 p.m. **Evening Prayer**

1 THURSDAY: Naming and Circumcision of Jesus

9.30 a.m. **Morning Liturgy**

3.00 p.m. **Evening Prayer**

2 FRIDAY: Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, bishops, teachers of the faith, 379 and 389

8.00 a.m. **Morning Liturgy**

5.15 p.m. **Evening Prayer**

3 SATURDAY

8.00 a.m. **Morning Prayer**

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

4 SUNDAY: THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

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

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

Preacher: The Reverend Canon Tim Stevens, *Precentor*

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

Preacher: The Reverend Rosey Lunn, *Priest Vicar*

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