

# The Chapter Letter

## The Second Sunday of Epiphany

### Sunday 18 January 2026

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**8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP):** The Collect, Epistle, and Gospel for The Second Sunday after the Epiphany begin on page 69 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.

**Archdeacon of Wells Announces Departure:** Our wonderful friend and colleague, The Venerable Anne Gell, Archdeacon of Wells, has decided to step down from her roles in Bath and Wells, in May this year.

Anne has been Archdeacon of Wells and Residentiary Canon of Wells Cathedral since 2017. Between February 2023 and June 2024, Anne also played a critical role in leading the Cathedral through a time of transition as Acting Dean of Wells.

Reflecting on the news, The Very Revd Toby Wright, Dean of Wells, said:

“Through her ministry as Residentiary Canon, as well as her time as Acting Dean of Wells, Anne has brought support, wisdom and healing in times of change for many at Wells Cathedral and throughout the wider community. Anne will be much missed in Wells. We will always remember with gratitude the strong foundations she has established here, on which we can now build confidently for the future. Our prayers are with Anne and her family as she discerns God’s call to her next chapter.”

**Save the Date:** *The next Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday 1 March, at 4.00 p.m.*

**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.

**Exploring the Nicene Creed: Today 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.

**Wells Cathedral School: Brass & Percussion Promenade Concert:** On **Tuesday 20 January** at 7.30 p.m., join Wells Cathedral School for a Promenade Concert in the Cathedral. With the Nave cleared of chairs, the Cathedral is opened up in all its medieval splendour, allowing audiences to move freely through the Nave, Quire, Transepts and Chapels. The programme offers a richly varied musical journey, from Gabrieli's glorious antiphonal brass and Brahms' evocative *Four Songs*, through medieval drums and jazz vibraphone, to the impassioned procession from Wagner's *Lohengrin*. To book tickets, please visit: <https://WCS-Brass-Percussion-2026.eventbrite.co.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-kqrmaxsvmgyaz](http://www.ticketsource.com/whats-on/somerset/wells-cathedral/candlemas-wells-cathedral/2026-01-22/d-kqrmaxsvmgyaz)

**Soul Soundings Event:** On **Friday 23 January** at 7.30 p.m., there will be a special participatory singing event led by Jane Harris, Director of Songways. Set in the glorious open space of the Chapter House, the evening offers an opportunity to sing, harmonise and improvise together, exploring the resonance of this ancient, sacred building. Through heart-lifting songs and rich harmonies, the gathering invites a shared sense of stillness, joy and peace. To book tickets, please visit: [www.songways.co.uk/product/fri-23-jan-soul-soundings-wells-cathedral-chapter-house](http://www.songways.co.uk/product/fri-23-jan-soul-soundings-wells-cathedral-chapter-house)

**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](mailto:sally.wright@wellscathedral.org.uk)

**Epiphany Procession:** On Sunday 1 February at 3.00 p.m.

This special service will mark the end of the Christmas/Epiphany Season. We will celebrate the three themes of Epiphany: the Coming of the Magi, the Baptism of Christ and the Wedding at Cana, through hymns, choir carols and a procession out to St Andrew's Holy Spring in the Bishop's Palace Garden. The service will begin in the South Transept before the Magi and Christ child; we will then process through the cloister and garden to celebrate the Baptism of Christ at the Holy Spring and finally return to the Quire for the celebration of the Wedding at Cana. All are invited to stay for refreshments and a glass of wine at the end of the service.

**Festal Eucharist for Candlemas:** On **Monday 2 February** at 5.15 p.m., there will be a Festal Eucharist for Candlemas at which the work of Anna Chaplains will be celebrated. Candlemas and Anna Chaplaincy are deeply connected through the biblical figure of Anna, whose story is central to the Candlemas narrative. This feast offers a meaningful moment to celebrate the ministry of Anna Chaplains. Light refreshments will be served after the service.

Anna Chaplains accompany older individuals as they spiritually reflect on life, face challenges of aging, and prepare for the end of life. They are an advocate in the community for older people.

You are also invited to learn more about Anna Chaplains on **Thursday 5 February** in Wells Town Hall at 2.30 p.m. and meet some of the team. If you would like to know more or if you have any other questions about Anna Chaplaincy, please contact: Wendy Haslam, Bath and Wells Diocesan Lead for Anna Chaplaincy. Or email [pastoralcare@wellscathedral.org.uk](mailto:pastoralcare@wellscathedral.org.uk)

**‘A Celebration of Demonstration’ exhibition:** On **Monday 2 February** at 7.00 p.m., you are invited to preview the *A Celebration of Demonstration* exhibition and join us for talks in the Education Room exploring racial injustice, resistance and finding ways to repair – featuring Wayne Campbell, visual activist and creator of the photographic exhibition, and Richard Reddie, Director of Justice and Inclusion for Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. Admission is free and tickets are available through Eventbrite: <https://Celebration-of-Demonstration.eventbrite.co.uk> The exhibition will run from Tuesday 3 February until Sunday 1 March and is part of Resistance, Racial Justice and Reconciliation.

**Welcome and Installation of The Right Reverend Dr Fiona Gibson as The Bishop of Taunton:** You are warmly invited to attend this service at 3.00 p.m. on **Sunday 8 February**. There will be a block of unreserved seats for congregation members and visitors from parishes across the Diocese. Although you do not need to obtain a ticket, it would be helpful to know if you are planning to attend, so please email: [office@wellscathedral.org.uk](mailto:office@wellscathedral.org.uk) The congregation are asked to be seated by 2.40 p.m., please.

**Cathedral Curate Out of Africa:** Last week, I safely arrived in Zambia for my six-week placement. I've settled into a modest guest house next to Lusaka Cathedral. Although I'm having to quickly learn to live with a few more bugs than I'm used to. Some are very friendly. Well, I think they're more hungry than friendly. So far, I've been to a diocesan service to begin 2026; an ordination at the Cathedral; helped the Archbishop with some admin; assisted at a funeral; eaten a lot of food; and met a lot of people. You are welcome to read the full diary of my adventure each week on my website via this link: <https://redwardday.substack.com/>

**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 January, the focus is on *Marie Curie* which provides free specialist hospice and end-of-life care, practical and emotional support for people with terminal illnesses and their families, and campaigns for better end-of-life provision across the 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](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 Jill Edmonds, Cathedral Safeguarding Advisor

01749 674483, [jill.edmonds@wellscathedral.org.uk](mailto:jill.edmonds@wellscathedral.org.uk)

or 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.

**19 MONDAY:** Wulfstan, bishop, 1095

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

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

#### **20 TUESDAY**

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

7.30 p.m. **Promenade Concert:** Wells Cathedral School Brass and Percussion

**21 WEDNESDAY:** Agnes, child martyr, 304

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

5.15 p.m. **Evening Prayer**

#### **22 THURSDAY**

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

7.00 p.m. **Promenade Concert:** Opus Anglicanum

#### **23 FRIDAY**

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

7.30 p.m. **Soul Soundings Event**

**24 SATURDAY:** Francis de Sales, bishop, teacher of the faith, 1622

8.00 a.m. **Morning Prayer**

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

#### **25 SUNDAY: CONVERSION OF PAUL**

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

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

Preacher: The Reverend Matthew Frankum, *Vocations Team Leader and Diocesan Director of Ordinands in the Diocese of Bath and Wells*

3.00 p.m. **Festal Evensong †** (Schola Cantorum and Vicars Choral)

Preacher: The Reverend Andrew Bell, *Methodist Minister in the Somerset Mendip Circuit Team*