

The Chapter Letter

The Second Sunday Before Lent

Sunday 8 February 2026



8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP): The Collect, Epistle, and Gospel for Sexagesima begin on page 80 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.

Bishop of Taunton: We are delighted to be welcoming Bishop Fiona as the new Bishop of Taunton, and Dave her husband. Bishop Fiona will be settling into her new role and we look forward very much to supporting her ministry here at the Cathedral as she gets to know the diocese, working alongside Bishop Michael. Do hold her and Dave in your prayers.

This afternoon's service of Welcome and Installation is at 3.00 p.m.. There will be a block of unreserved seats for congregation members and visitors from parishes across the Diocese. The congregation are asked to be seated by 2.40 p.m..

Racial Justice Sunday: At the Cathedral Eucharist this morning we will be welcoming the Reverend Canon Sonia Barron as our preacher. Canon Sonia is former Co-chair of the Church of England's Anti-Racism Taskforce and member of the Archbishops' Commission for Racial Justice.

Ash Wednesday: Ash Wednesday this year falls on **Wednesday 18 February**. There will be three opportunities to attend a Eucharist, where the Imposition of Ashes will also be offered:

8.00 a.m. Morning Liturgy in the Lady Chapel

10.00 a.m. Eucharist (Common Worship Order I, Traditional) in the Lady Chapel

5.15 p.m. Solemn Eucharist, with incense, sung by Wells Cathedral Chamber Choir

We very much hope that you will be able to join us at one of these services as we begin our Lenten journey together.

Wells Relaxed Networking Breakfast: Mogers Drewett are hosting another free Networking Breakfast on **Thursday 12 February from 8.30 a.m. until 10.00 a.m.** in The Loft. Enjoy a relaxed atmosphere, fresh pastries and breakfast butties while making new friendships and professional connections. Tickets can be obtained via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wells-relaxed-networking-breakfast-tickets-1437490305199?aff=oddtcreator>

'A Celebration of Demonstration' exhibition: This exhibition can be viewed **until Sunday 1 March** and is part of *Resistance, Racial Justice and Reconciliation*. This photography exhibition explores the *Black Lives Matter* protests in London and

Somerset that took place during the covid-19 pandemic. It is brought to us by Wayne Campbell, a London-based visual activist, award-winning designer, filmmaker, and critically acclaimed photographer. The exhibition also features work by renowned Somerset based photographers Jason Bryant and Len Copland. Access to the exhibition is included with admission to Wells Cathedral.

Talk and Q&A: What does Racial Justice and Reconciliation look like?: Do join us on **Wednesday 25 February, at 7.00 p.m.**, in the Education Room for an evening exploring the legacy of Transatlantic Slavery and examples of reparative action in both the UK and the Caribbean. The event includes a Q&A and talks, notably “From Shame to Taking Action on Reparative Justice” by John Dower, Reparations Campaigner and Cofounder of Heirs of Slavery. Doors open at 6.30 p.m. for an opportunity to view the *A Celebration of Demonstration* exhibition.

Free tickets are available via Eventbrite (booking required):

<https://www.wellscathedral.org.uk/whats-on?event=102653064>

Cathedral Curate Out of Africa: Please send help! I have run out of gin and tonic, and there is a smug-looking lime in the fridge teasing me. I have also injured one of my feet, but the lack of gin is more worrying than my hobbling. This week I have visited some more specialist HIV clinics, a community library, and experienced more pastoral ministry. We have had two funerals and a wedding (but Hugh Grant was nowhere to be seen). Being welcomed into people’s houses during these important times of joy and sorrow is one of the humbling privileges of ministry. As well as reading my reflections, you can also listen to my own little podcast of sorts via:

<https://redwardday.substack.com/>

Half Term Holiday Activities

17, 18 and 19 February, 10.30 a.m. - 3.30 p.m.

Marvel at the medieval masterpieces of Well Cathedral; discover the people and stories that made them and then make your very own souvenirs to take home!

Masons’ Marks - Tuesday 17 February: find signatures in stone left by the Cathedral’s builders, then design and carve your own maker’s mark in soap.

Stories in Stitches - Wednesday 18 February: discover the stories behind the brilliant embroideries and altar frontals, then stitch your own story or create a collage.

Wondrous Windows - Thursday 19 February: explore the Cathedral’s beautiful windows, then try out stained glass themed crafts.

Admission included with entry. No need to book – simply drop in on the day! Please note that children must be accompanied by a responsible adult and only assistance dogs are allowed at these activities.

Cathedral Shop: The Cathedral Shop has been very grateful to receive so many kind donations for our second-hand book and music section. However, the Shop is unfortunately not able to take any further second-hand donations at the moment as we are at capacity. Thank you for your understanding, and please do look out for a future notice when we are accepting donations again!

Sound & Science Organ Workshop for Grown Ups - Wednesday 11 February 3.00 - 4.30 p.m.: In this hands-on workshop for adults, step inside the world of the WOOFYT (Wooden One-Octave Organ for Young Technologists), explore the physics of pumps, valves and air pressure, and collaborate with fellow participants to perform music on this unique, custom-built instrument. No prior musical experience required, just curiosity and a willingness to experiment!

Lunchtime Organ Recital Thursday 12 February at 1.05 p.m.: This month's recital will be given by Tom Winpenny, a Freelance Organist and Choral Director. An award-winning organist, Tom Winpenny will be giving the inaugural recital in the 2026 Lunchtime Organ Recital series. In the absence of our Cathedral pipe organ, he will be putting the digital Viscount organ through its paces with a programme of works of by Mozart, Price, and Hakim, among others. Tom Winpenny was Assistant Master of the Music and Director of the Cathedral Girls Choir at St Albans Cathedral 2008–2024. His recording of the organ works of Florence Price on the Naxos label was Album of the Week on Radio 3's Essential Classics in December 2025. Please do come and support this recital! Admission is included with entry to the Cathedral, with a retiring collections in aid of the Friends of Wells Cathedral Grand Organ Appeal.

Collabro - The Harmonies Tour: At 7.30 p.m. on Saturday 14 February Collabro will be in the Cathedral to celebrate their famous harmonies; the boys are touring the UK's most beautiful cathedrals for stunning, intimate, piano-led concerts. Featuring songs from their past albums, from your favourite musicals, and from their never-performed-before choral album, *Be Still My Soul*, this promises to be a special evening with one of the most decorated vocal groups in the world – fans will not want to miss it! For tickets visit <https://www.wellscathedral.org.uk/whats-on?event=101546851>

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

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 February, the focus is on the *Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance* which provides life-saving, pre-hospital critical care to those in urgent need across Dorset and Somerset. They are a vital part of the community that relies on charitable support to be there for critically ill and injured people when every second counts.

Carol Service Collections 2025: We are delighted to confirm that the amounts raised at the Carol Services on the 23 and 24 December were £1258.93 for Children's Hospice South-West and £1883.25 for the Fire Fighters' Charity. Many thanks to everyone who contributed so generously.

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).

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.

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 or 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

This week at Wells Cathedral

Monday – Friday (inclusive)

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

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

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

6.00 p.m. **Taste and See:** Cathedral Meditation Group in the Lady Chapel

10 TUESDAY

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

11 WEDNESDAY

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

5.15 p.m. **Evening Prayer**

12 THURSDAY

1.05 p.m. **Lunchtime Organ Recital:** Tom Winpenny, *Freelance Organist*

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

13 FRIDAY

5.15 p.m. **Evening Prayer**

14 SATURDAY: Cyril and Methodius, missionaries, 869 and 885

8.00 a.m. **Morning Prayer**

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

7.30 p.m. **Concert:** Collabro presents *The Harmonies Tour*

15 SUNDAY: THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

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

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

Preacher: The Reverend Mary Lewis, *Priest Vicar*

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

Preacher: The Right Reverend Trevor Willmott, *Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Bath and Wells*