

# The Chapter Letter

## The Sunday Next Before Lent

### Sunday 15 February 2026



**8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP):** The Collect, Epistle, and Gospel for Quinquagesima begin on page 82 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.

**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. We will be offering Lent groups, to look at different types of prayer and ways of praying. These will be on the four Wednesday evenings in March, and more information will be shared next week.

The Bishop of Taunton Fiona will also be holding a service in the Market Place at **11.30 a.m.** She will be joined by Kate Scott, Bishop's Chaplain, as well as the Canon Precentor, Tim Stevens.

#### 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.

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

**Cathedral Choir's Fund-raising Concert!** The Cathedral Choir are very excited to be travelling to Tuscany in April for the first Choir Tour in over 10 years! They will be singing Mass at the Basilica di Santa Maria Assunta in Montecatini Terme and performing three concerts - in Chiesa di San Salvatore in Ognissanti in Florence, San Paolino Basilica in Lucca, and Chiesa di Sant'Agostino in San Gimignano. To help raise funds towards their trip, the Choir will be giving a concert in the Quire of Wells Cathedral on **Saturday 28 February at 4.00 p.m.** They will perform pieces from the recital programme. Entry is free with admission to Wells Cathedral, with a retiring collection in aid of the Tour. Please come along!

**Year of Prayer Retreat:** As part of the Year of Prayer the Dean will be leading a Retreat to the Sisters at Ty Mawr Convent in Wales <https://tymawrconvent.org/about-us/> from **Wednesday 28 to Friday 30 October**. This will give time for space and reflection together. If you might be interested there will be 6 spaces (possibly slightly more if a couple wish to come). The cost will be £150.

For more information please speak to the Dean or to book please email [office@wellscathedral.org.uk](mailto:office@wellscathedral.org.uk)

**'Teach us to pray' Week of Guided Prayer Sunday 31 May – Sunday 7 June:** Discover a joyful, refreshing way to deepen your life of prayer in our Cathedral. With daily (Monday to Friday) one to one support from trained accompaniers joining us from around the country at an agreed time through the week. This will give space for simple, personal reflection: you will explore new ways of praying and notice God's presence woven through everyday life. Many Pilgrims speak of renewed clarity, peace, and companionship; an enriching spiritual journey open to all, whatever your experience of prayer. Do hold the date! A letter is coming soon, but for more information speak to the Dean or Caroline Byrne.

**Exploring the Nicene Creed: final instalment! On Sunday 8 March,** join Professor Jane Williams, McDonald Professor in Christian Theology at St. Mellitus College, and The Reverend Canon Dr Duncan Dormor, General Secretary of USPG and Canon Theologian of Portsmouth Cathedral. 'Powers and Superpowers, Global, Earthly, and Heavenly in the Council of Nicaea' will take place in the Education Room between 12.30 p.m. and 2.30 p.m., organised by the Canon Chancellor. This will follow the singing of the *Samba Mass* by Bob Chilcott at the Cathedral Eucharistic, a setting tying in with our global themes. Attendees are invited to bring their own packed lunch. If you would like to attend, please email [office@wellscathedral.org.uk](mailto:office@wellscathedral.org.uk) to register your interest, so we can best prepare for the right numbers.

**Talk and Q&A:** Join us on **Wednesday 25 February** at 7.00 p.m. in the Education Room to explore the legacy of Transatlantic Slavery and examples of reparative action. John Dower, a member of the Trevelyan family, will speak on 'From Shame to Taking Action on Reparative Justice'. In 2016 his life changed when he discovered that his ancestors had received compensation at the time of the Abolition of Slavery in 1834 for 1,004 enslaved people on six plantations on Grenada. In 2023, he delivered, along with other family members, a letter of apology to the people of Grenada. Soon after, he was a cofounder of Heirs of Slavery - a loose affiliation of other descendants of enslavers - and the Trevelyan Grenada Education Charity. The Q and A will be chaired by creative producer, Rob Mitchell, who has acted as a mentor for the Wells and Transatlantic Slavery group and has a wealth of experience exploring Bristol's links to

slavery. Rob is also the Supplementary School Coordinator at Black Families Education Support Group in Bath. Free tickets are available via Eventbrite: <https://www.wellscathedral.org.uk/whats-on?event=102653064>

**'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.

**Cathedral Curate Out of Africa:** I might like to sit in a darkened room for several days when I get back, as the excitement seems never-ending. This was my last full week in Lusaka. I have been out to visit some rural communities, visited a few more charities, and, by a strange turn of events, I buried HRH The Prince of Wales and the Duke of Sussex's childhood swimming instructor. Natalie joins me now for a while and together we travel to Livingstone in the Southern Province. I return to Wells on 23 February. You can find the latest instalment of my diary via the usual link: <https://redwardday.substack.com/>

**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!

**Visiting Choirs:** **Choral Evensong on Friday 20 February** will be sung by the choir of St John's, Glastonbury, and **Choral Evensong on Saturday 21 February** will be sung by the joint forces of RSCM Voices West, Crediton Parish Church Junior Choir and St Mary's Swanage Junior Choir. We are very grateful to them for supporting the daily worship in the Cathedral whilst our own Choir is having a well-deserved half-term break.

**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.

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

**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.

#### **16 MONDAY**

5.15 p.m. **Evening Prayer**

#### **17 TUESDAY: Janani Luwum, archbishop, martyr, 1977**

5.15 p.m. **Evening Prayer**

#### **18 WEDNESDAY: ASH WEDNESDAY**

10.00 a.m. **Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes** (Common Worship Order I, Traditional)

5.15 p.m. **Solemn Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes †** (Wells Cathedral Chamber Choir)

#### **19 THURSDAY**

11.30 a.m. **Mothers' Union Prayers**

5.15 p.m. **Evening Prayer**

#### **20 FRIDAY**

12.05 p.m. **Stations of the Cross**

2.00 p.m. **Funeral Service** for Dr John Gould

5.15 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (Choir of St John's Church, Glastonbury)

#### **21 SATURDAY**

8.00 a.m. **Morning Prayer**

5.15 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (RSCM Voices West; St Mary's, Swanage Junior Choir; and Crediton Parish Church Junior Choir)

#### **22 SUNDAY: THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

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

10.30 a.m. **Cathedral Eucharist** (Universities in London Church Choir)  
Preacher: The Venerable Anne Gell, *Archdeacon of Wells*

3.00 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (Universities in London Church Choir)  
Preacher: The Reverend Mary Lewis, *Priest Vicar*