

# The Chapter Letter

## The First Sunday of Lent

Sunday 22 February 2026



**8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP):** The Collect, Epistle, and Gospel for the First Sunday in Lent begin on page 86 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.

**The Universities in London Church Choir:** We are very grateful to Sally Martin-Brown and the Universities in London Church Choir for leading our worship at the Cathedral Eucharist and Choral Evensong today whilst our own Choir is on its half-term break.

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

**Lent in the Cathedral:** We will be offering Lent groups to look at different types of prayer and ways of praying. Sessions will begin with refreshments in the Education Room after Evening Prayer, with the talks starting at 6.15 p.m., and aiming to finish by 7.45 p.m. at the latest:

4 March	Liturgical Prayer	The Reverend Canon Tim Stevenes, <i>Precentor</i>
11 March	Biblical Prayer	The Reverend Canon Dr Megan Daffern, <i>Chancellor</i>
18 March	Contemplative Prayer	The Reverend Mary Lewis, <i>Priest Vicar</i>
25 March	Prayer in times of need	The Reverend Prebendary Simon Lewis, <i>Sub-Dean</i>

**Stations of the Cross:** Please do join us **on Fridays at 12.05 p.m.** during Lent to spend some time in prayer and meditation as we walk the Stations of the Cross, led by one of the Cathedral's ministry team. The Stations of the Cross have formed part of Christian devotion for many centuries because they offer a particularly vivid way of following in the steps of Jesus on the way to the Cross. Please do join us if you can.

**Ukraine Memorial Service - Tuesday 24 February at 7.00 p.m. in the Lady Chapel:** As we enter the fifth year of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, local Ukrainian exiles will gather in the Cathedral's Lady Chapel for a memorial service for those who have died. The service will be led by Father Richard of Bath Orthodox Church. The service (known as Panikhida) is to pray for the repose of souls and for peace. It is a public service and all are warmly invited. It will last 45 minutes and will be followed by coffee/tea in the North Transept.

**Cathedral Choir's Fund-raising Concert!** The Cathedral Choir are very excited to be travelling to Tuscany in April; the first time the Choristers and Vicars Choral have sung overseas 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. The Choir will give a concert in the Quire of Wells Cathedral on **Saturday 28 February at 4.00 p.m.**, showcasing some of the music which they will be singing in Italy, including Gregorio Allegri's *Miserere mei, Deus*, excerpts from Frank Martin's *Mass for Double Choir*, motets by Anton Bruckner, and twentieth-century English music by Gustav Holst, Charles Wood and Edward Bairstow. Entry is free, with a retiring collection in aid of the Tour. Please come along!

**Visiting Choirs:** The Girl Choristers and Lay Clerks of Bath Abbey will join our own Girl Choristers and Vicars Choral for Evensong in the Nave at **3.00 p.m. on Sunday 1 March**. The music will include Stanford in A and William Mathias' joyful anthem, *Let the people praise thee, O God*. Please join us for this special service, if you can.

**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.** 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. To register your interest please email [office@wellscathedral.org.uk](mailto:office@wellscathedral.org.uk), so that we can best prepare for the right numbers.

**The Open Door Service:** The Open Door Service will take place in the Nave on **Monday 9 March at 10.15 a.m.**, during which the Dean will commission and bless all the volunteers who work to welcome visitors to our Cathedral. There will be refreshments in the North Transept after the service, and all staff and volunteers at the Cathedral are warmly invited to attend and mark this important occasion.

**'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! For more information see the accompanying letter, or speak to the Dean or Caroline Byrne.

**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)

**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 will speak on 'From Shame to Taking Action on Reparative Justice'. In 2016 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. He was a cofounder of Heirs of Slavery 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.

**The Diocese of Bath and Wells Racial Justice - Lament to Action:** The Diocese is seeking volunteers for its Lament to Action Group, which supports the Diocese's long-term commitment to racial justice. Volunteers will act as critical friends, advising and challenging the Diocese in its commitment. We would love to hear from people with lived experience of racism or exclusion, or experience in areas such as racial justice, education, governance, community work or pastoral support. No church background is required, but volunteers should be open to working within Christian values. The closing date for expressions of interest is Friday 6 March 2026. Further details are available at: <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/-vacancies/diocesan-staff/lament-to-action-group-volunteer-members.php>

**Gwilym Salmon:** We have recently heard that Gwilym died at home in the early hours of the morning on 10 February. He was 96 and previously Master of the Cathedral and St Cuthbert's bellringers. Please keep his family in your prayers.

**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 - 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.

**Pastoral Care:** The Cathedral Pastoral Care team comprises: Wendy Haslam (Pastoral Care Coordinator), Caroline Byrne, Kate Day, Patricia Hellier, Reverend Rosey Lunn, Lissy Manners, William Newton Newey, 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)

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### **This week at Wells Cathedral**

<h4><b>Monday – Friday (inclusive)</b></h4>
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The Morning Liturgy is celebrated at 8.00 a.m. in the Lady Chapel.
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**23 MONDAY:** Polycarp, bishop, martyr, c. 155

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

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

#### **24 TUESDAY**

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

7.00 p.m. **Orthodox Vespers** commemorating those killed and injured in Ukraine, led by Bath Orthodox Church, in the Lady Chapel

**25 WEDNESDAY:** Ember Day

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

5.15 p.m. **Evening Prayer**

7.00 p.m. **Lecture and Discussion:** ‘What does racial justice and reconciliation look like?’ in the Education Room

#### **26 THURSDAY**

5.15 p.m. **Evening Prayer**

**27 FRIDAY:** George Herbert, priest, poet, 1633

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

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

#### **28 SATURDAY**

8.00 a.m. **Morning Prayer**

4.00 p.m. **Concert:** Wells Cathedral Choir Tour Concert

5.15 p.m. **Evening Prayer**

#### **I SUNDAY: THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

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

10.30 a.m. **Cathedral Eucharist** (Girl Choristers and Vicars Choral)

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

3.00 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (Girl Choristers and Vicars Choral, sung jointly with Bath Abbey Girl Choristers and Lay Clerks)

Preacher: The Venerable Anne Gell, *Archdeacon of Wells*

4.00 p.m. **Congregational Meeting**