

# The Chapter Letter

## The Third Sunday of Lent

Sunday 8 March 2026



**8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP):** The Collect, Epistle, and Gospel for the Third Sunday in Lent begin on page 89 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. 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.

**This afternoon,** as part of the Choir's Diocesan Outreach, the Boy Choristers and Cantoris Vicars Choral will sing Evensong at St Bartholomew's Church in Cranmore at 3.00 p.m.. All are welcome to attend.

**Lent Talks:** These will 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:

11 March Biblical Prayer                      The Reverend Canon Dr Megan Daffern, *Chancellor*

18 March Contemplative Prayer    The Reverend Mary Lewis, *Priest Vicar*

25 March Prayer in times of need    The Reverend Prebendary Simon Lewis, *Sub-Dean*

**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.

**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.

**Lunchtime Organ Recital:** On **Thursday 12 March at 1.05 p.m.**, Wells Cathedral Junior Organ Scholar Gavin Phelps, will give our Lunchtime Organ Recital. Gavin was a chorister at Bath Abbey and Organ Scholar at Bath Abbey before moving to Wells Cathedral School, where he is a specialist musician. His recital will feature Bach's *Prelude and Fugue in D Major*, Frank Bridge's *Adagio*, the first movement of Bach's *Fourth Trio Sonata*, Pietro Yon's *Toccatina*, and Franck's *Chorale No. 1*. Gavin studies the organ with Carolyn Craig, has recently performed in masterclasses with Dan Moulton and Nicholas Wearne, and was a finalist for the 2025 Bath Young Musician of the Year.

**Sad News:** Ross Young passed away on Tuesday 3 March. His funeral will take place in the Cathedral on **Wednesday 25 March at 2.30 p.m.**

## **Wells SOUP! returns to the Cathedral on Saturday 14 March at 1.00 p.m.:**

Arrive by 12:45 p.m. to get a good seat. The four good causes who will be telling their story are:

- The Wells Moat Boat Race which the organisers want to save from cancellation.
- The campaign to save the Britannia Inn as a community pub in East Wells.
- Fresh and Good, a group of volunteer chefs who run cafes to support other community organisations fundraise.
- Eating disorders charity SWEDA which counsels 1,200 people a year.

All four will go away with a share of the money and a raised profile for their good cause at this quarterly grant-giving lunch.

An example of how it raises their profile is the anonymous donation of £150 to Keward House, the supported housing service in Wells for people aged 18 years and above living with mental illness, from someone who heard the charity present at December's SOUP!.

The sponsors provide half the money which goes to the four good causes and the rest comes from the £5 entrance fee which includes a choice of freshly made soups and fresh bread. Drinks are also available.

**Healing Prayer Ministry:** In this Diocesan Year of Prayer, we are hoping to grow a team to offer prayer ministry after the Cathedral Eucharist. We begin with a taster session on prayer on **Monday 16 March 10.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.** in the Education Room. You are invited to come and explore prayer as listening, presence, and relationship with God. The session will include short reflections, simple prayer practices, and space for quiet personal reflection. This will be an opportunity to explore and discern your own prayer life.

Following the taster session, you may like to go on to explore how prayer for one another can be a ministry of transformation and healing, how to offer it safely, how to listen well to God, to ourselves, to one another. There will be two days of training as part of a wider discernment process, in the Education Room, on **Saturday 11 April and Friday 17 April, 9.30 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.**, led by the Reverend Prebendary Narinder Tegally and Caroline Bruce. For more information or to book a place please email [Caroline.bruce@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:Caroline.bruce@bathwells.anglican.org) or phone 07891 645034.

**Primary Schools' Outreach Celebration Concert:** Please join us in the Nave at **1.05 p.m. on Friday 20 March.** For the last few months, the Cathedral's Director of Primary School Musical Outreach, Alexander Jenkins, has been working with choirs of children in local schools. These children will join together, alongside the Cathedral's Junior Choristers, to give this very special concert as a culmination of all their hard work. Admission is included with entry to the Cathedral, whether as a paid ticket or with a valid admission pass.

**Duruflé Requiem and Haydn Nelson Mass:** These works will be performed in the Cathedral on **Saturday 21 March** by Wells Cathedral Oratorio Society starting at **7.00 p.m.** Duruflé's *Requiem* offers a deeply intimate meditation on peace, comfort, and eternal rest. Haydn's *Nelson Mass (Missa in Angustiis)* in contrast bursts with drama and jubilant energy. Tickets are available at

<https://www.wellscathedral.org.uk/whats-on?event=102082043>

**Searching Scripture: The Annunciation in the Feminine.** On **Monday 23 March at 7.00 p.m.** The Reverend Sally Wright will be hosting a session for women

only considering the story of the Annunciation in the feminine. This will take place in The Education Room. For more information, or to book a place, please contact Sally at [sally.wright@wellscathedral.org.uk](mailto:sally.wright@wellscathedral.org.uk)

**Vacancies on the Cathedral Safeguarding Advisory Panel:** Chapter are looking for independent lay members with significant professional experience in safeguarding to join CSAP, which is the committee responsible for providing strategic oversight and assurance for safeguarding across the Cathedral. Further details are available on the website: [wellscathedral.org.uk/vacancies](http://wellscathedral.org.uk/vacancies)

**Easter Lilies:** Each year, Easter lilies brighten the Cathedral as we celebrate the joy of Easter. On Easter Sunday dozens of beautiful white lilies will once again be arranged throughout the Cathedral. If you would like to make a gift towards the purchase of Easter lilies, perhaps in memory of a loved one, please collect a form from the table in the North Transept.

**'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. For more information pick up a letter from the table in the North Transept, 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)

**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 March, the focus is on *Heads Up Somerset*, a mental health and well-being charity based in Wells. *Heads Up Somerset* aim to improve the mental health and well-being of our community through empowerment, support, creativity and hope. They also offer support for people with mental health challenges, including dementia, and their carers.

**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 Virgiers' 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

### Monday – Friday (inclusive)

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

#### 9 MONDAY

- 8.50 a.m. **Wells Cathedral School Service**  
10.15 a.m. **Open Door Service** (Wells Cathedral Chamber Choir)  
5.15 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (Vicars Choral)  
6.00 p.m. **Taste and See:** Cathedral Meditation Group in the Lady Chapel

#### 10 TUESDAY

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

#### 11 WEDNESDAY

- 10.00 a.m. **Eucharist** (Common Worship Order I, Traditional)  
5.15 p.m. **Evening Prayer**  
6.15 p.m. **Lent Talk:** 'Biblical Prayer', led by the Reverend Canon Dr Megan Daffern, *Chancellor*, in the Education Room

#### 12 THURSDAY

- 1.05 p.m. **Lunchtime Organ Recital** Gavin Phelps  
5.15 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (Girl Choristers and Vicars Choral)

#### 13 FRIDAY

- 12.05 p.m. **Stations of the Cross**  
5.15 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (Boy Choristers and Vicars Choral)

#### 14 SATURDAY: Perpetua, Felicity, and companions, martyrs, 203

- 8.00 a.m. **Morning Prayer**  
1.00 p.m. **SOUP! in the Cathedral**  
5.15 p.m. **Choral Evensong** celebrating the life of Anthony Crossland (1931–2025), Director of Music and Organist at Wells Cathedral (1961–1996) (Great Choir)

#### 15 SUNDAY: THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT: Mothering Sunday

- 8.30 a.m. **Holy Communion** (BCP), Quire/Presbytery  
10.30 a.m. **Cathedral Eucharist** (Girl Choristers and Vicars Choral)  
Preacher: The Very Reverend Toby Wright, *Dean*  
3.00 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (Girl Choristers and Vicars Choral)  
Preacher: The Reverend Edward Day, *Cathedral Curate*  
6.30 p.m. **Wells Cathedral School Service**