

# The Chapter Letter

## The Fourth Sunday of Easter

### Sunday 26 April 2026



**8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP):** The Collect, Epistle, and Gospel for the Third Sunday After Easter begin on page 139 of the Book of Common Prayer.

*The Girl Choristers and Decani Vicars Choral will be singing Choral Evensong at St George's Church, Easton-in-Gordano, at 3.00 p.m.*

**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.

**The Archdeacon of Wells departs:** As you know Archdeacon Anne is stepping down from her roles in Bath and Wells. A date for your diary! Anne will be presiding for the last time as Archdeacon at the Cathedral Eucharist on **Sunday 10 May**, and also preaching at Choral Evensong that day. There will be a drinks reception for Anne after Evensong to which you are all warmly invited. If you would like to contribute to a gift for Anne, this can be done in either of the following ways:

- **A BACS transfer (Account: 52164330 Sort code: 60-23-06) ref: Anne Gell**
- **A cheque made out to 'Wells Cathedral', addressed to the Accounts Department ref: Anne Gell**

Please can all contributions be sent by Monday 4 May.

**The Reverend Canon Tony Birbeck MBE:** We note with sadness the death of the Reverend Canon Tony Birbeck MBE, who served as Canon Residentiary and Treasurer of Wells Cathedral from 1974 to 1978. Ordained in 1960 and awarded the MBE in 1990, he later ministered as a Non-Stipendiary Minister at St Thomas', Wells and as Rural Dean of Shepton Mallet, and was a pioneering figure in industrial mission. He was much loved and greatly respected. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. Tony's funeral will be on **Thursday 7 May** at 11.00 a.m., at St Thomas' Church, Wells.

**Lunchtime Concerts:** This week, a variety of lunchtime concerts will take place in the Nave of Wells Cathedral at **1.05 p.m.** as follows:

**Tuesday 28 April** – Joyful Voices

**Thursday 30 April** – Avalonian Free State Choir

**Friday 1 May** – Students from Wells Cathedral School

**Saturday 2 May** – Salisbury Cathedral Chamber Choir

Admission is included with Cathedral entry, with a retiring collection in aid of Wells Cathedral.

**Visiting Choir:** On **Saturday 2 May**, Choral Evensong will be sung by the Choir of St Mary's Church, Bathwick. St. Mary's is fortunate to have the support of an enthusiastic and talented adult choir, which is responsible for the musical ministry of the church both within and beyond the parish. In 2018, they set up a Choral Bursary Fund for student singers and they now enjoy a strong link with Bath University Chamber Choir who use the church for their annual concerts and some of their singers become members of the church choir through the Bursary Scheme. The choir's repertoire is comprehensive, ranging from the music of the Renaissance schools right up to works which have been specially written for the choir.

**Wells Painting Group Art Exhibition:** Wells Painting Group has about 30 artists working in a range of media and a variety of subjects who meet every Monday morning in term time in St Thomas' Church Hall, Wells. Some members are semi-professional but most simply paint as a hobby. The exhibition will run from **Saturday 9 to Tuesday 19 May** inclusive.

**Called to Pray:** There has been considerable interest in the *Called to Pray* initiative. Following reflection, it has seemed wise to allow this ministry to develop in an organic and sustainable way, enabling both prayer and relationships to deepen over time. Rather than a single stand-alone event, the training is therefore proposed as a series of fortnightly sessions, offering a more spacious and reflective context in which a community of prayer may be formed.

The sessions are planned for **Thursday afternoons from 2.00–4.30 p.m. during May and June**, with the opportunity to attend **Choral Evensong at 5.15 p.m.** together. The venue will be confirmed shortly. The proposed dates for the sessions are: 14 May, 28 May, 11 June and 25 June.

Those who would like to explore further how this ministry might sit alongside their existing commitments are warmly invited to find out more from Caroline Bruce and The Reverend Prebendary Narinder Tegally.

Caroline Bruce – [caroline.bruce@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:caroline.bruce@bathwells.anglican.org) 07891 645034

Narinder Tegally – [narinder.tegally@nhs.net](mailto:narinder.tegally@nhs.net) 07940 580859

**Pilgrimage:** As part of the year of prayer, we are offering opportunities to experience pilgrimage in different settings. We are looking forward to launching a pilgrim trail around the Cathedral, which can be self-led, but which the Reverend Edward Day will lead on **Friday 15 May at 2.30 p.m.** The Precentor will lead a Forest Pilgrimage on **Thursday 25 June** (or **Wednesday 8 July** if the weather defeats us in June) at **1.00 p.m.** All are welcome to join the Cathedral Pilgrimage, but if you would like to join the Forest Pilgrimage, please email [office@wellscathedral.org.uk](mailto:office@wellscathedral.org.uk), so that if we do need to change the date, we can be in touch with you.

**Ascension and Pentecost: Sharing and Reflection:** You are warmly invited to join an Ascension and Pentecost Sharing and Reflection on **Monday 18 May from 9.30 a.m. to 11.00 a.m.** in the Education Room. This will be led by the Reverend Mary Lewis, Priest Vicar, and will offer an opportunity to reflect on the feasts of Ascension and Pentecost. Those who wish are invited to bring a poem or piece of artwork to share, relating to either or both festivals; artists within the congregation are particularly encouraged to share work of their own if they wish. However, there

is no obligation to bring anything - all are welcome simply to come and listen. Tea and coffee will be served on arrival. Please email Jonathan Rodd if you wish to reserve a place: [jonathan.rodd@wellscathedral.org.uk](mailto:jonathan.rodd@wellscathedral.org.uk)

**‘Teach us to pray’ – Week of Guided Prayer (Sunday 31 May – Sunday 7 June):** Discover a joyful and refreshing way to deepen your life of prayer in the Cathedral, with daily (Monday to Friday) one-to-one support from trained accompaniers from around the country, at a time agreed during the week. This offers space for simple, personal reflection, exploring new ways of praying and noticing God’s presence woven through everyday life. Many pilgrims speak of renewed clarity, peace and companionship. **With only 8 places remaining**, this enriching spiritual journey is open to all, whatever your experience of prayer.

If you would like to find out more, please speak to either the Dean or Caroline Byrne.

**Saint Decuman Pilgrimage:** On **Thursday 27 August**, you are invited to make your own way to St Decuman’s Church and Holy Well in Watchet, Somerset. Decuman was a seventh century Welsh saint and hermit who came to the well there. An outline of the pilgrimage is below, with approximate timings:

12.00 – 12.30 p.m. Arrive

12.30 p.m. Welcome and introduction to Saint Decuman, the Holy Well, and Benefice

1.00 p.m. Lunch (please bring your own picnic) The Parish will provide cakes.

1.45 p.m. Worship and Reflection, led by The Dean of Wells

2.30 – 3.00 p.m. Depart in peace

If you would like to join the pilgrimage, please email Jonathan Rodd: [Jonathan.Rodd@wellscathedral.org.uk](mailto:Jonathan.Rodd@wellscathedral.org.uk)

**Year of Prayer Retreat at Ty Mawr Convent (Wales):** Step away from the busyness of everyday life and join the Dean for a quiet and prayerful Retreat to the Sisters at Ty Mawr Convent in Wales <https://tymawrconvent.org/about-us/> from **Wednesday 28 to Friday 30 October**. This retreat offers unhurried space for shared reflection and renewal in a beautiful and prayer-filled setting. Places are very limited – just 6 spaces available (with the possibility of one or two additional places for couples). The cost is £150.

To find out more, please speak to the Dean, or to reserve a place, please email [office@wellscathedral.org.uk](mailto:office@wellscathedral.org.uk)

**USPG:** Any stamp, coin, postcard or badge (civil or military, fabric or metal) can be of benefit to the Anglican mission United Society Partners in the Gospel. Please place in the box on the table in the North Transept. Very many thanks to all contributors.

**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)

---

### This week at Wells Cathedral

#### Monday – Friday (inclusive)

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

#### 27 MONDAY

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

#### 28 TUESDAY

1.05 p.m. **Lunchtime Concert:** Joyful Voices

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

**29 WEDNESDAY:** Catherine of Siena, teacher of the faith, 1380

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

5.15 p.m. **Evening Prayer**

#### 30 THURSDAY

1.05 p.m. **Lunchtime Concert:** Avalonian Free State Choir

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

**1 FRIDAY: Philip and James, Apostles**

1.05 p.m. **Lunchtime Concert:** Wells Cathedral School

5.15 p.m. **Evening Prayer**

**2 SATURDAY:** Athanasius, bishop, teacher of the faith, 373

8.00 a.m. **Morning Prayer**

1.05 p.m. **Lunchtime Concert:** Salisbury Cathedral Chamber Choir

5.15 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (Choir of the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Bathwick)

#### 3 SUNDAY: THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

10.30 a.m. **Cathedral Eucharist** (Schola Cantorum and Vicars Choral)  
Preacher: The Reverend Edward Day, *Cathedral Curate*

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