

## Preparing for Royal Maundy – 50 days to go!

#RoyalMaundy



Well, this is what it's all about! On Maundy Thursday the Queen will give red and white purses to 91 men and 91 women aged 70 and over. Behind these specially minted coins lie centuries of tradition, which we shall see in splendour on April 13th in and around Leicester Cathedral.

Leicester is the last Cathedral to host this event in our Queen's reign. And one of the smallest, yet hosting the largest number of recipients so far. Recipe for a managerial headache! If anyone had said to me 6 months ago, 'You'll be organising the Maundy service' I would have laughed my head off. But here we are, with an amazingly good-humoured and competent team assembled, many of whom were involved last time Her Majesty visited Leicester and for the reburial of King Richard III.

Last week, after hours and behind closed doors, members of the Royal Household team, the Cathedral staff and others assembled in the Cathedral building to work out how it all will work. A kind of technical rehearsal – as those readers involved in stage productions would understand. Flower arrangements, sound, chairs, movement of people, processions... the minutiae of these and many other issues. Who will greet the Queen and where? How does X get from A to B? Of course people in the Royal Household have done this many times before - but we haven't. But are learning quickly!

So what can we expect on the day? Guests will be attending the main events by invitation only, and we are keen to ensure that, alongside the pageantry, some members of the public are included in those invitations. After the service, the Bishop of Leicester will host a community lunch in the presence of the Queen, for a different group of guests. For others there will be opportunities to wave as the Queen goes by.

Enough for now! But keep an eye on this page. For it's not all about Maundy money and throughout the run-up I'd like to share with you some of the different, intriguing and noteworthy aspects of this event. Stay in touch!

**Alison Adams, Sub-Dean of Leicester Cathedral**