

Cathedral in Touch

A Newsletter for our Community

12 May 2024 | 7th Sunday of Easter



Leicester **Cathedral**
A beating heart for City and County



What are you waiting for?

Said in a certain tone, this tiny question can feel quite a put me down. Why are you hesitating? Dithering? But spoken or heard differently it holds entirely different resonances – of anxiety, hope, anticipation... More of that anon.

The exquisite window at the east end of the Cathedral's south aisle depicts the Ascension. Here is Jesus elevated from the ground, surrounded by a gathered heavenly host with musicians making a merry noise above and below him a group of slightly bemused humans. The dominant received narrative of the Ascension is exactly that – his disciples watch him travel heavenwards. Even to the point that in some depictions, all we see of Jesus are the soles of his feet. And that narrative is enshrined in our liturgical calendar where there is a linear timeline from Crucifixion to Resurrection, Ascension, and then Pentecost.

The literal narrative so depicted feels out of place in today's world, with our improved understanding of the universe. Heaven is not literally 'up there' so to speak, with the sky in between. I wonder whether this awkwardness has, in part, to do with the fact that Ascension Day is not so much celebrated nowadays. What we forget, of course, is that behind the graphic story lies some deep theology. Which, by helpfully contemplating the narrative, we can enter into.

Hold onto your hats! I'm not going to dive into all of that here. But I'd like to pick up on the mental image which must surely form the next part of the chapter, namely those same disciples returning to where they were staying, hanging

around and trying to make sense of things. There was a hiatus before they cranked into gear, with an outpouring of energy – theirs fired by God's – and, as apostles, embarked upon their new adventure. There was a period of waiting time – very active in the sense that the air would have been alive with the energy of half-formed thoughts and questions. The burning one being 'what next?' Certainly not a passive waiting.

What are you waiting for? An innocent little question with a wealth of meaning which personally I find to be a useful tool in checking in with myself. Especially right now. The question can have great impetus – get on with it, whatever the 'it' is. It can also be scary. What can I expect? To be approached with care if personally the future seems dark and you'd rather not know the answer. But sometimes needing to be asked because knowing the answer is important. Conversely there is childlike eager anticipation – awaiting a birthday perhaps – again not knowing but trusting the surprise will be good.

A more prosaic form of waiting is to be found in waiting rooms, transit lounges and in other situations of enforced time out from normal activities. While we so often consider that an irritating waste of time and lacking purpose, it too can be productive waiting in that potentially reflective space is created.

There is plenty of waiting in the Bible, with some of it very long term. Human time is not God's time. Patience and trust were definitely qualities required of the Patriarchs. And, while the Prophets came

with messages, they too were waiting on God. Some of our waiting feels the same, especially given the tendency nowadays so often to expect and to promise instant outcomes. Our aching for peace and justice in this world mirrors the Biblical waiting. In hope even if the goal seems very far distant. *I wait for the Lord, my soul does wait and in His word do I hope.* (Ps 130). There is a myriad of similar verses.

Important to note is that, whether our waiting is passive or active, whether scary, pleasurable, irritating or whatever, God is there in the waiting. Furthermore we are called to wait upon God to discern both God's desires and our next steps. But we have to tune in.

What are you waiting for?

Alison Adams
Canon Pastor



CANON-IN-RESIDENCE

ONE OF the clergy always holds this phone. Do feel able to contact us if you need but please be aware we cannot receive texts.

07399 523 330

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News & Updates

A gouda time

On Thursday 9 May, Dean Karen was on the judging panel for the Artisan Cheese Awards at St Mary's Church, Melton Mowbray.

The Artisan Cheese Awards are designed to support Britain's medium, small, and micro cheesemakers.



Check out all the fabulous cheese at the Artisan Cheese Fair from 18–19 May, in Melton.

Chapter election

In the coming weeks we will be inviting nominations for a member of the Cathedral Chapter. The Chapter are the charity trustees and have general control and management of the administration of the Cathedral. They meet six times a year. Amanda Fitchett is one of two Cathedral representatives,

and there is a vacancy for the second.

To be eligible for this a person needs to be

1. On either the Cathedral Community Roll or the Cathedral Electoral Roll.

2. A communicant

If you would like to know

more about the role, please talk with Dean Karen or Amanda Fitchett and contact [Richard Norman@LeicesterCofE.org](mailto:Richard.Norman@LeicesterCofE.org) for an *Expression of Interest* pack which will give you more information about the role and the nomination process.

Dean Karen

Your Leicester Awards

We have been nominated for the Your Leicester Awards under the categories of best **Visitor Attraction** and best **Day Activity**. They are an independent set of awards nominated and voted for by the people of Leicester, with over 9,000 followers on social media. You can vote as many times as you like for Leicester Cathedral and it would be great to see if we stand a chance.

Spread the word via social media and your contacts, and let's see what we can do!

Vote [here](#).



Services this week

SUNDAY 12 MAY

EASTER 7

- 10.30am Cathedral Eucharist
- 12.15pm Questions Together
- 3.30pm Choral Evensong
- 3.30pm *Together with* Choral Evensong
at St Ursula's Chapel, Wyggestons
- 6.30pm Eucharist at St Nicholas Church

MONDAY 13 APRIL

- 8.30am Morning Eucharist
- 12.30pm Lunchtime Recital: Ellis Thomas, Piano
- 5.30pm Choral Evensong

TUESDAY 14 MAY

MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

- 8.30am Morning Prayer
- 12.30pm Lunchtime Eucharist
- 5.30pm Choral Evensong

WEDNESDAY 15 MAY

- 8.30am Morning Prayer
- 12.30pm Lunchtime Eucharist
- 5.30pm Evening Prayer

THURSDAY 16 MAY

- 8.30am Morning Prayer
- 12.30pm Lunchtime Eucharist
- 5.30pm Choral Evensong

FRIDAY 17 MAY

- 8.30am Morning Prayer
- 12.30pm Lunchtime Eucharist
- 5.30pm Evening Prayer

SATURDAY 18 MAY

The Cathedral will be closed for general visiting from 2.00–4.30pm

- 9.30am Morning Prayer
- 3.00pm Called Together Service
- 5.30pm Evening Prayer

SUNDAY 19 MAY

PENTECOST

- 10.30am Cathedral Eucharist with Baptism and Confirmation
- 3.30pm Choral Evensong
- 6.30pm Eucharist at St Nicholas Church



The St John Eye Hospital

The horrific hostilities in Gaza have seen many thousands of people killed and injured. The plight of the Palestinians and the Israeli hostages seems to be a long way off from Leicestershire, doesn't it? But no – Jerusalem is right here with us in our Diocese. For the Leicestershire Order of St John, that includes the St John Ambulance service, is a great supporter of the St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem that also has a hospital and clinics in Gaza.

For many years I had the honour of being the Leicestershire St John representative for the Jerusalem Eye Hospital, so I visited it a number of times. We sponsored the salary of specialist nurse, Saedda Kawwas [pictured with Caroline above], and still do so. Saedda is very talented at painting realistic, matching, artificial eyes for those patients who have lost their own – but she and her family have to live in a refugee camp, as they were driven out of their home in central Jerusalem.

The St John Eye Hospital is the oldest and only charitable provider of expert eye care in the Middle East. In 1070, at the time of the Crusades, monks established a hospice for European pilgrims travelling to Jerusalem and by 1113 it had developed into a hospital run by the Knights

Hospitaller of St John, who cared for the poor and sick of all faiths. The present day St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem has been operating for 142 years and is committed to providing expert eye care to all patients, regardless of ethnicity, religion, or ability to pay. They even provide subsidies for refugees, marginalised people, and those who cannot afford the full treatment cost. In 2023 the Hospital treated more than 135,000 patients including 46,000 children and it performed almost 6,000 major operations.

Palestinians are ten times more likely to go blind than many people in developed economies. Access to eye care, poverty and genetics all play factors in increasing the likelihood of preventable blindness in this group. Sadly 80% of blindness in this region is curable, but most will not have access to this medical care.

The Hospital Group's outreach work provides free essential sight-saving and life-changing eye care to the most remote and impoverished communities in the region – at Anabta Clinic, Hebron Hospital, Gaza Hospital and two mobile outreach vans visiting remote villages in the West Bank and Gaza. Together they serve a population of 2.5 million people. The St John Gaza Hospital has been



providing charitable eye care for the 1.9 million residents of Gaza since 1992.

The March official update from the St John London office reports that the St John Hospital in Gaza has sustained heavy collateral damage and remains non-operational and its staff have fled to the south, mainly to Rafah but also to Deir El Balah, south of the Gaza Strip. They are enduring the most devastating conditions. though so far remain unharmed. And the Hospital has continued to pay them despite all the challenges.

Following an urgent Board meeting to approve the SJEHG's response plan in Gaza, it is now engaged in discussions with the major health care responders in Gaza, including the World Health Organisation, Care International and International Medical Corps. The St John staff on the ground have secured at least one location to serve as a semi-mobile unit in Deir El Balah. They have also approved an approval from The Unit for Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) to move medical equipment and medications to Gaza, in preparation for ophthalmic medical responses that should commence as soon as there is a reasonable ceasefire agreement.

The people who are affected are some of the most underprivileged in the world and this war is creating a severe humanitarian crisis on a scale never seen before. Amid the hostilities, chaos, and uncertainty the work of the St John hospitals and their clinics in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem therefore remain more vital than ever.

So perhaps some readers might wish to



make an individual donation to the St John Gaza Appeal. You can do this by going to its [JustGiving](#) page and your gift will go directly to the Gaza Appeal. Alternatively, donation envelopes for cash or cheques can be obtained by phoning the London Fundraising Office on 0207 553 6963. Let us hope that we can obtain happiness by finding a way of directly assisting those suffering in Gaza – knowing that every penny will go to them.

Caroline Wessel



“Our” Saeeda, creating an artificial eye. In local culture a person with a physical defect, such as their eye, is not acceptable for marriage – so Saeeda has enabled hundreds of people to get married.

Summer at Leicester Cathedral

This summer we will have exciting opportunities to explore and enjoy stories of Leicester, of faith, and of culture, as we celebrate the new life our cathedral building is bringing.

Treat yourself to the beauty of Choral Evensong and recitals by talented young musicians. Bring a friend or relative to sing in Dementia Week. Laugh at local Paul Gosling's *Dr Watson* comedy show. Reflect on Iain McKillop's *Stations of the Resurrection* exhibition. Explore the city's 2,000 year history with world-renowned archaeologist Mathew Morris.

It will be great to see you!

Pick
up a
booklet!

Wednesday 15 May | 2.00–3.00pm

Singing for the Brain

Part of Dementia Action Week, a special afternoon of Singing for the Brain with Kyle Newman – designed to be a fun, stimulating and social activity for people in the early to moderate stages of dementia and their carers. All welcome, no booking required!

Sunday 12 May | 3.30pm

Choral Evensong Together with St Ursula's Chapel, Wyggestons

Join us for a special service of Choral Evensong at St Ursula's Chapel, as part of our *Together with Leicester Cathedral* project.

Saturday 18 May | 3.00pm

Called Together Service

A Diocesan service of prayer and thanksgiving, celebrating the incredible variety and contribution of lay ministers in the Diocese of Leicester, with licensing of Associate Ministers.

Please note the Cathedral will be closed for general visiting between 2.00–4.15pm for the service.

See all events and services on our [website](#)



Questions Together

Next on Sunday 12 May

Our monthly discussion group aims to offer a friendly space to ask questions (and practise giving answers!) about faith and discipleship.

Everyone is welcome and there is no need to book a place. Join us as we ask, wonder, and share together!

In St George's Chapel.

Lunchtime Recitals

Summer Season 2024



**12.30pm | Free admission,
donations encouraged**

Monday 13 May
Ellis Thomas Piano*

Monday 27 May
Philip Millwood Organ

Monday 10 June
Anna Crawford Cello (+ Duet partner)*

Monday 24 June
Osnabruck Youth Choir

Monday 8 July
Leicestershire Music Strings Ensemble

Students aged 13–18, the LMSE performs a varied programme of summer chamber music including well-known quartets and octets. Directed by Phil Houghton.

Philharmonia

* with the **Philharmonia Fellowship Scheme**

The Philharmonia is a world-class symphony orchestra – based in London at Southbank Centre’s Royal Festival Hall, resident in cities and at festivals across England, and streaming online, the Philharmonia creates thrilling performances for a global audience.

Here at Leicester Cathedral, we’re thrilled to welcome Philharmonia Orchestra Instrumental Fellows for a series of recitals in a new partnership with this acclaimed orchestra.



Leicester **Cathedral**
A beating heart for City and County



www.leicestercathedral.org

As part of Dementia Action Week 2024

Singing for the Brain

at Leicester Cathedral

LMMB, Alzheimer's Society, and Leicester Cathedral are working together to bring you a special afternoon of Singing for the Brain with

Kyle Newman – designed to be fun, stimulating, and social activity for people in the early to moderate stages of dementia and their carers.

Refreshments included

Working with the power of music and singing!



**Wednesday
15 May 2024**

2.00–3.00pm

**All welcome
No booking required!**

Leicester Cathedral presents



Ida Pelliccioli

From South to Vienna

For her 2024 tour, renowned concert pianist Ida Pelliccioli has been inspired by the forgotten music of 18th century Spanish composer **Manuel Blasco de Nebra**.

Her performance will take audiences on a journey from Blasco de Nebra's recently re-discovered keyboard music and **Scarlatti's** keyboard sonatas, through to the Viennese classic style of **Mozart** and **Schubert**.

Booking essential!



Thursday 4 July 2024
7.30pm



Tickets
£12–15 available
from **Eventbrite**

Together with...

Our forty-seventh service out with parish churches in the City and County, as part of *Together with Leicester Cathedral*, will take place on Sunday 12 May 2024.

Join us at 3.30pm for a service of Choral Evensong at **St Ursula's Chapel, Wyggestons** (160 Hinckley Road, Leicester, LE3 0UX).

Together with Leicester Cathedral

While the building was closed for 22 months during our restoration project *Leicester Cathedral Revealed*, the mission and work of the Cathedral continued with our choirs, clergy, and community members visiting parish churches across Leicester and Leicestershire.

With the Cathedral now reopen, we are still enjoying our visits to other parishes on occasional Sunday afternoons for Choral Evensong around once a month. It is wonderful to connect with people across the Diocese and to make new friends as well as continue existing relationships. Do join us if you can!

For information about the *Together with* project, please contact Canon Emma Davies or Head Verger Bev Collett at CathedralBookings@LeicesterCofE.org



WOMEN, SLAVERY, AND THE CHURCH



Moderator: Michelle Charters, International Slavery Museum
Panel: Fiona Compton (Know Your Caribbean); Stephanie Jones-Rogers (UC Berkeley); Chine McDonald (Theos).

This webinar is the second panel in the series of online discussions about the Anglican Church and Slavery. This collaborative series explores the historical involvement of the Anglican Church in the institution of slavery, the lasting implications of colonialism on the Church and actions to progress racial justice by the Church of England Racial Justice Unit (CoERJU). This seminar will be held online, and will introduce the work of our stellar panellists, with an audience Q&A at the end.

This webinar will consider specifically the role of women as enslavers/beneficiaries of African enslavement and their links to the Anglican church, including religious justifications for keeping African-descended people enslaved. It will focus on women as resisters/rebels against slavery (including as church leaders); and how women, especially Black women, are viewed in the church today as a result of slavery.

The second panel from the Church of England Racial Justice Unit's series of online discussions about the Anglican Church and Slavery series entitled, 'Women, Slavery and the Church' – on Monday 13 May.

Tickets available from [Ticketsource](#).



LEICESTER DIOCESE WOMEN'S MINISTRY
SHAPED BY GOD TOGETHER

All women involved in mission and ministry (ordained or lay) in the Diocese are warmly invited to attend a gathering hosted by the Diocesan Women's Ministry Group on Tuesday 4 June.

There will be a time to get to know one another over light refreshments and drinks, worship together led by Jessie Tang, and hear Bishop Martyn speak on the influence women have had on his own faith and ministry.

Please sign up through [The Hub](#) and let us know of any dietary requirements by 20 May.



Join us for a gathering for all women in mission and ministry in the Diocese of Leicester

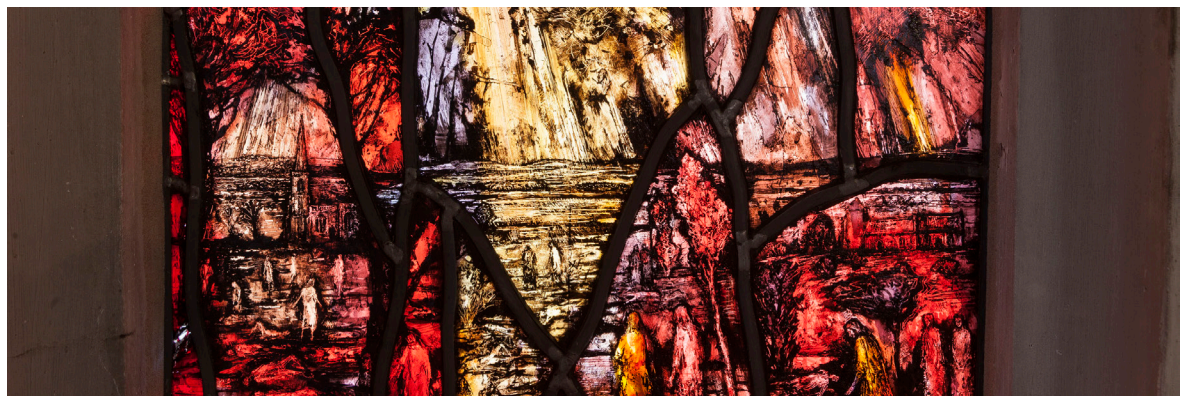
Tuesday 4 June, 7-9pm

Grand Hall, St Martins House, Leicester



Chiamaka Okafor

Prayer Thoughts



I'd like to take this opportunity to honour the life of Daniel Anjorin, a 14-year-old boy fatally stabbed with a sword by a 36-year-old man who went on the rampage in north-east London. Daniel had his whole life ahead of him. He did not deserve what happened to him. It is not fair and it is not right. I pray that he is now in peace with the Lord.

It feels like every time I turn on the news there's a stabbing, a shooting, protests about the killing of the innocent around the world. Many have lost their homes and loved ones and are lost. Many of these conflicts have been going on for decades and there's expectation that they will go on for decades more. That's sometimes difficult to swallow. The world has become a global village and these signs of unrest or actual conflict can no longer simply be contained in one area but impact all countries in one shape or another and I feel that it's essential to open our minds to that. There's desperation and concern about inflation and the state of the

economy. Young people all over the world are inheriting a world with serious environmental issues and in many parts of the world, face a bleak future where many wonder what the future holds for them.

Breathe. God is in control. Jesus, take the wheel. Jesus, see me through. Jesus, you are my husband, friend, parent, Lord, and all. These are words that bring calm to my heart after listening to the news and to my days after a hectic day at work. They are words that I know will see me through all trials and tribulations. They are my safety net and my safe zone. I feel it's important to have something that we can lean back on when we feel that we need a breather and there are many ways to help and contribute towards the tackling and resolution of the different diverse sets of issues and challenges that the world faces. Many opened their doors to Ukrainian refugees, contribute through trusted channels, offer prayers, etc. I feel that although we may not be in a position to

change the world on our own, we can make little contributions that would go a long way. After all, little drops of water, make a mighty ocean.

There may be a lot going wrong in the world at the moment, but there's a lot going right and a lot to be grateful for. Being grateful allows us to see the positive more than the negative. A friend of mine lost her mother to Alzheimer's disease recently. I knew her mother, who often visited from Nigeria and would spend a couple of months with her and her family before returning back. My friend was grateful. Her words to me were that she was glad, they were given a long time to come to terms with her eventual loss. She has fond memories of the times she spent with her mother as a child but especially, as an adult and holds onto the fact that her mother must be in a better place with the love of her life, her father, whom she lost when she was still a teenager. She described her mother in many beautiful words and continued to laugh as she recalled their shared experiences.

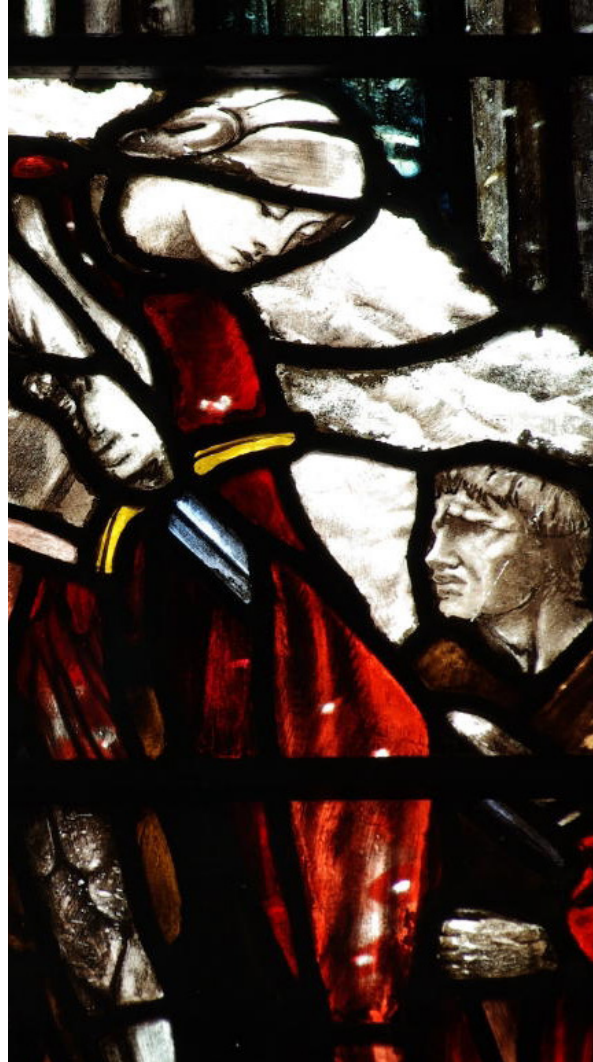
I am grateful to still have my parents and be gifted with the opportunity to take care of them in ways that I can, now that they are older. 1 Timothy 5.1–2 says,

"Do not rebuke an older man harshly but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers; older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity."

There are many blessings around us and many ways we can bless others. Its not all gloom; we live in a beautiful world, God wants us to be happy, and although we may not have all that we want, the world has so much to offer. We must grab it, cherish, enjoy it and be happy.

May the clouds around them melt away. May subtle sweet scents coat the air around us and may we be greeted with a spectacular display of colourful wildflowers. Envision red, pink, white and yellow flaming flowers creating a tapestry of colours before you whilst you praise and lift up God's name.

Be happy and enjoy your weekend.



PRAYER POINTERS

THIS WEEK, from the Diocesan Prayer Diary, we pray for

Sun 12 May: Christian Aid Week

Mon 13 May: Diocese of Kiteto (partner diocese)

Tue 14 May–Sat 18 May: Christian Aid Week

"Pray this Christian Aid Week that people pushed to the brink by poverty find the strength and opportunity to push back harder and fulfil their hopes and ambitions."

[Christian Aid Week](#)

For the Prayer Diary, see their [website](#).

WAYS YOU CAN HELP LEICESTER CATHEDRAL

ONLINE GIVING

Donate online [here](#).

By TEXT

To donate £5, text PLATE to 70970

To donate £10, text PLATE to 70191

INTO OUR BANK ACCOUNT

Account Name: Leicester Cathedral Chapter

Account Number: 03807282 | Sort Code: 20-49-11

BY CHEQUE

Payable to: Leicester Cathedral Chapter

Address: St Martins House, 7 Peacock Lane,
Leicester, LE1 5PZ



SAFEGUARDING

THE DEAN and Chapter of the Cathedral are wholly committed to the safety, well-being and protection of everyone having contact with our community.

We all share responsibility for Safeguarding.

If you have concerns about the welfare or behaviour of an adult, young person or child, please speak to one of the Residentiary Canons or to Linda Green or Amanda Fitchett, our Safeguarding Co-ordinators.

The Residentiary Canons can be approached in person or contacted on **07399 523 330**.

The Safeguarding Co-ordinators do not publish their contact details. Please speak to a verger if you wish to contact them. You do not need to explain the reason for your request.

All concerns will be responded to proportionately and with discretion.

