

# Cathedral in Touch

A Newsletter for our Community

16 Feb 2025 | 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Lent



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





## Breaking News?

Listening to the radio recently, I was very struck by a debate amongst the commentators about how to receive the tsunami of communications emanating from the White House. Not a day goes by without a statement of some sort. Do they all have equal weight? Should we respond to them all? These journalists were very much of the opinion that not only does President Trump think out aloud, which means for him in public, but also that he is so attuned to the social and other media world that he uses them as strategic tools. So a very respected voice in that debate suggested that despite all that is said, in reality Greenland will remain Greenland and Danish, Canada will remain in the Commonwealth, and Panama will still control the canal. The BBC's International Editor suggested that we need to filter out the 'distractions' (my word not his) from what actually needs taking seriously and thus requires a considered response.

Therein lies much truth – way beyond just the American White House, politics, or the present times. I don't envy prominent figures in navigating these 'minefields' both in choosing what to say and also in responding. Even at my level I have to think very carefully about when and what to say. Moreover what emerges in the media from whatever sources needs to be received in the knowledge that while there is much serious stuff, some of the news items are just 'white noise', some intentional pump priming or attention seeking, and some, sadly,

merely gossip. And we know things are reported in ways appealing to particular audiences. I'm not sure we always recognise the distinctions.

We are constantly bombarded with 'breaking news'. One of my colleagues asked what is 'breaking news'? Our devices ping with the latest update and yet what among all those 'pings' is of importance or value? What among all the stories we hear, whether on newsfeeds or social media, are worthy of our serious attention? What are merely at best interesting distractions? Or folks grabbing the limelight? I confess to being as susceptible as anyone to clicking on something because I'm curious. But I'm also careful to apply my brain and energies only to matters that I deem important.

My hairdresser doesn't engage with any newsfeeds at all. Have I said this before?! He's an intelligent, talented person. But he finds the news to be depressing, reminding him, too, of how little agency he has. I know other people with similar attitudes – maybe you're one of them? I also know folk who do engage with global, national, and local affairs but get very downcast as a result. And there is plenty to flatten us right now. So much that we cannot influence in any way whatever.

Why we should bother to be interested is a question of faith and values. That God remains involved is clear throughout the Hebrew scriptures. These are often painful

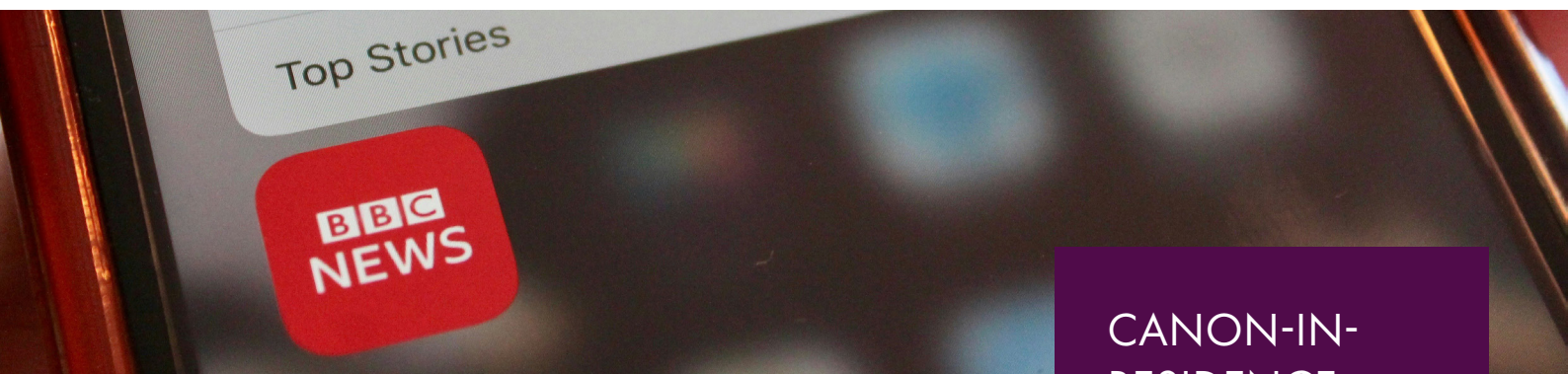
narratives mixed in with prophecy centred around a fractured and fragmented peoples whose experiences are at times desperate. Yet they continue to hope and, albeit while frequently straying away from the divine intentions, continue to try to make sense of what is happening in faith terms. The Prophets, variously, condemn, encourage, and tell of a different future.

What is happening in our world right now is worrying in the extreme. But take the long view, and ignoring noisy distractions, the serious global situations, while beyond our individual control, are absolutely deserving of our attention. While not telling God what God should do, we should constantly pray into them and pray not just for those we sympathise or affiliate with, but for all who have influence

or authority. It is a waiting game and we ache for God to turn hearts and minds but we must not succumb to despondence. We're not at the sharp end – we're not, for example, without shelter or food as are many folk in Gaza – and we owe it to them to be ever more concerned.

So let's receive the news from whatever channels we prefer with a heart which is both listening and critical, able to tune out the distracting threads and voices, to recognise what is indeed 'breaking news' and to hold all of this in prayer, knowing that we may well be just as powerless as our spiritual ancestors but that we trust in Gods' presence in our world today, just as much as did our spiritual ancestors.

**Revd Canon 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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- 4** News and Services

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  - 6** Family Fun for Feb half-term

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  - 7** Safeguarding Update

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  - 8** NSC: Macbeth

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  - 12** Prayer Thoughts

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  - 14** Donating / Safeguarding

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# News & Updates

## Prayer Vigil for Peace in Ukraine

Join us as the Leicester Ukrainian Community and refugee guests hold a 'Prayer for Peace in Ukraine' Vigil here at the Cathedral to mark the third anniversary of Russia's invasion and war against Ukraine.

All are welcome on Monday 24 February 2025 from 6.30–7.30pm.



Peace for Ukraine

Mon 24 Feb 25 \_\_\_\_\_  
**Prayers for Peace Vigil**  
\_\_\_\_\_Leicester Cathedral

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## *Job Vacancy*

# Children & Families Worker

We are looking to appoint to the role of Children & Families Worker.

The role focuses on the provision of high-quality children's work to assist with children and their families coming to a deeper sense of belonging at the Cathedral, and to help them grow in their Christian life, faith, and practice.

Duties of the role include:

- Plan a termly programme for our Sunday morning Junior Church
- Ensure safeguarding regimes are upheld and a culture of safeguarding is embedded throughout
- Identify and plan occasional workshops for children (or children and families)

**Full information available on our website.**

Salary: £13.47 per hour

Tenure: Permanent / Hours: 8 hours per week

**Application deadline: 5.00pm, Friday 21 February 2025**



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# The week

## SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY

**3 BEFORE LENT**

10.30am Cathedral Eucharist (doors open 10.00am)  
3.30pm Evening Prayer

## MONDAY 17 FEBRUARY

8.30am Morning Eucharist  
5.30pm Evening Prayer

## TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY

8.30am Morning Prayer  
12.30pm Lunchtime Eucharist  
1.30pm Family Half-Term – Make a clay grotesque!  
5.30pm Evening Prayer

## WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY

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

## THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY

8.30am Morning Prayer  
10.00am Family Half-Term – Make a clay grotesque!  
12.30pm Lunchtime Eucharist  
5.30pm Evening Prayer

## FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY

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

## SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY

9.30am Morning Prayer  
2.00pm NSC: Macbeth (free, no-FX matinee)  
5.30pm Evening Prayer  
7.00pm NSC: Macbeth (full evening performance)

## SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY

**2 BEFORE LENT**

10.30am Cathedral Eucharist (doors open 10.00am)  
3.30pm Evening Prayer  
8.00pm Leicester Comedy Festival Closing Gala



# February half-term

at Leicester Cathedral

**FREE!**

No booking  
required – just  
drop-in



## Make a clay grotesque!

Come and get creative and learn about the grotesques at Leicester Cathedral

**Make your own clay grotesque on:**

**Tuesday 18 February**

1.30 – 3.30pm

**Thursday 20 February**

10.00am – 12.00pm

**Tuesday 18 February**

10.00am – 12.00pm

Stained glass inspired craft at  
**Belgrave Library**

**Wed 19 February**

11.00am – 3.00pm

Richard III crafts at the  
**Haymarket Shopping Centre**

Ages 3+

All children must be  
accompanied by an adult



# Safeguarding updates

I hope you are well aware of the safeguarding noticeboard in the north aisle. Underneath it is always a stack of useful leaflets signposting people to where they may find help. And on the noticeboard are some helplines. We've now put links to these organisations and the helpline numbers on the [Cathedral website](#) also. Have a look!

We're up for further suggestions of what might be helpful to include under the heading of safeguarding and on that particular page of the Cathedral website.

Canon Alison Adams  
Canon Pastor

The screenshot shows the website's navigation bar with the Leicester Cathedral logo, a search bar, and links for 'Donate' and 'Menu'. The main heading is 'SAFEGUARDING'. Below this, there is a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > Safeguarding'. The main content area is titled 'Safeguarding' and includes a brief introduction about the cathedral's commitment to safety. It lists several key roles and services: Residentiary Canons, the Diocesan & Cathedral Safeguarding Adviser (Rachael Spiers), Safeguarding Coordinators (Linda Green and Amanda Fitchett), and Out of Hours Safeguarding Cover (Thirtynine:eight). A 'Policies' section follows, stating the cathedral's endorsement of the Church of England's safeguarding policy. At the bottom, there are three download links for documents: 'Safeguarding Policy' (216 KB), 'Safeguarding Procedures' (328 KB), and 'SCIE Final' (14 MB).

**SAFEGUARDING**

Home > Safeguarding

## Safeguarding

At Leicester Cathedral, the safety, well-being, and protection of everyone in our community are of utmost importance to us. The Dean and Chapter, along with all members of our community, are wholeheartedly committed to ensuring a safe environment for everyone.

If you have any safeguarding concerns, you can speak to any of the following people:

- Residentiary Canons**  
Our Residentiary Canons are available to speak to in person in the cathedral or you can contact them directly at 07399 523 330. Please approach any member of staff, who will find someone to help you.
- Diocesan & Cathedral Safeguarding Adviser**  
Rachael Spiers can be contacted on 07930 819 279 or via email [Rachael.Spiers@LeicesterCofE.org](mailto:Rachael.Spiers@LeicesterCofE.org). Peter Holloway, Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, can be telephoned on 07930 887 984 or be emailed at [Peter.holloway@LeicesterCofE.org](mailto:Peter.holloway@LeicesterCofE.org).
- Safeguarding Coordinators**  
Linda Green ([Linda.Green@LeicesterCofE.org](mailto:Linda.Green@LeicesterCofE.org)) and Amanda Fitchett ([Amanda.Fitchett@LeicesterCofE.org](mailto:Amanda.Fitchett@LeicesterCofE.org)) serve as our dedicated Safeguarding Coordinators from the Cathedral congregation. If you would prefer to talk to one of them, you can do this in person at the Cathedral on Sundays, email them via the addresses above, or write to them at the Cathedral office, or give the Cathedral office your details and one of the Coordinators will contact you. You do not need to provide a reason for your contact with them.
- Out of Hours Safeguarding Cover**  
If you need advice about a safeguarding matter when the Cathedral is closed, call: **Thirtynine:eight** by telephoning **0303 003 1111 (Option 2)**. Please state that you are calling from Leicester Diocese. **Safe Spaces** is a free and independent support service, providing a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has experienced abuse in relation to the Church of England, the Church in Wales, or the Catholic Church of England and Wales - [click here to find out more](#).

We want you to feel assured that any concerns you bring forward will be handled with the utmost care. Any safeguarding concerns or allegations shared with cathedral staff will be reported to the Diocesan safeguarding team.

Together, we all bear the responsibility for safeguarding, and we appreciate your commitment to ensuring the well-being of our community members and visitors.

## Policies

We fully endorse the Church of England's safeguarding policy statement '[Promoting a safer Church](#)' which asserts: "The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of the whole Church. Everyone who participates in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a Safer Church for all."

[\(PDF, 216 KB\)](#)  
Leicester Cathedral  
Safeguarding Policy  
January 2021

[\(PDF, 328 KB\)](#)  
Leicester Cathedral  
Safeguarding Procedures  
July 2014

[\(PDF, 14 MB\)](#)  
Leicester Cathedral  
Independent safeguarding audit  
(January 2019)

**Safeguarding Policy**   **Safeguarding**   **SCIE Final**

THE  
TRAGEDY  
OF **MACBETH**

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL, LEICESTER LE1 5PZ  
SAT 22ND FEB  
7PM

**£20/£18**

**NOTTINGHAMSHAKESPEARE.CO.UK**

**NSC**

After a hugely successful debut performance of *Romeo and Juliet* in 2024, NSC returns to Leicester Cathedral with *The Tragedy of Macbeth*.

On Saturday 22 February, see Shakespeare's most infamous tragedy in the heart of Leicester – there will be a FREE no-FX matinee at 2.00pm, followed by a full scale evening performance at 7.00pm.

Book your tickets today on [Eventbrite!](#)



# Community Events

## **Shrove Tuesday**

Come and join us this Pancake Day with the communities of Leicester Cathedral and St Nicholas Church after Evening Prayer, on 4 March 2025 from 6.30–8.00pm.

Come and make your favourite pancake with different toppings, as well as pancake races and games in the Cathedral. If you want to join us please contact [nathanmorley82@hotmail.com](mailto:nathanmorley82@hotmail.com) – everyone's welcome!

## **Bring and Share Lunch**

We will also be having our annual Bring and Share Lunch on Sunday 2 March 2025, the last Sunday before Lent.

There will be a list of items to bring at the coffee station after the Sunday Eucharist, please sign up. If you require any more information please see Nathan Morley. Thank you.

# Equality Action Public Lecture 2025 Communities: After the Riots

Equality Action will welcome **Baroness Ruth Lister**, a leading voice in social policy, as the keynote speaker for their Annual Public Lecture 2025.

This year's topic will explore how we can rebuild trust, promote inclusion and strengthen our communities in the wake of division and unrest.

This is a unique opportunity to hear Baroness Lister share her insights and engage in a meaningful conversation about the challenges and solutions to achieving social justice. A Q&A session with a panel of experts will follow the lecture.

- ◆ Date: Thursday 20 February, 6.30–8.30pm
- ◆ Venue: Loughborough University, Edward Herbert Building (EHB) Room EHB110A, Epinal Way, Loughborough, LE11 3TU
- ◆ **Free to attend, booking essential – book now on [Eventbrite](#)**



## The Scoliotic Knight Reconstructing the Real Richard III

Thursday 20 March | 7.00pm

In this illustrated talk, **Dr Toby Capwell** exploring how Richard III excelled in armoured combat despite a significant spinal condition and discusses his work on several reconstructions of King Richard's martial apparatus.

Tickets from £6–8 on [Eventbrite](#).



## Concert: Music for Kings and Queens

Saturday 22 March | 7.00pm

The Cathedral Choir presents a programme of music for royal occasions. Including music sung at the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II, Judith Bingham's *Ghostly Grace*, premiered at the Service of Reinterment, and music from the Coronation of King Charles III.

Tickets from £12–15 on [Eventbrite](#).



## Service of Compline

Sunday 23 March | 7.00pm

A solemn and contemplative evening service of music and prayer honouring the memory of the last Plantagenet king. The ancient office of Compline derives its name from the Latin word *completorium* ('completion').

All are welcome.

There is no charge for our services.



## Richard's Women Their impact on his life, death and legacy

Monday 24 March | 7.00pm

In this talk, acclaimed novelist **Annie Garthwaite** - author of *Cecily* and *The King's Mother* - reveals the untold story of the women who loved Richard, the women who feared him, and the women who brought him down.

Tickets from £6–8 on [Eventbrite](#).



## Civic Service on the Tenth Anniversary

**Wednesday 26 March | 5.30pm**

A Civic Service for the city and county on the day of the tenth anniversary, with music by the Cathedral Choir.

Following the service there will be light refreshments and the Cathedral Bell ringers will ring a Quarter Peal.

All are welcome. There is no charge for our services.



## Revisiting the Discovery and Reinterment

**Thursday 27 March | 7.00pm**

In this special panel discussion, our assembled experts from the worlds of archaeology, history, and the Cathedral revisit the amazing story that captured imaginations around the world.

Expect lively conversation and new insights!

Tickets from £6–8 on [Eventbrite](#).

## Medieval Banquet



## Medieval Banquet

**Friday 28 March | 7.00pm**

Transport yourself back to late medieval England, with feasting on four sumptuous courses and live entertainment fit for a King.

**The York Waites** perform a repertoire of medieval European music as well as their own arrangements of popular dance and ballad tunes.

Tickets at £90 on [Eventbrite](#).

## Richard III Afternoon Tea



## Afternoon Tea

**Saturday 29 March | 3.00pm**

An exclusive Richard III-themed afternoon tea – attendees will be sitting amongst specially invited VIP guests who were involved with the reinterment.

With a bespoke afternoon tea by Cocco and Delilah and live entertainment, this commemorative event promises to be a memorable and unique experience.

Tickets at £55 on [Eventbrite](#).





**Elaine  
Smith**

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# Prayer Thoughts

I love it when the church celebrates the saints of old like Columba and Aidan, and the heavenly host of others. But in February Saint Valentine has me confused. I am sure that St Valentine was not a cherub flying around shooting arrows to encourage us all to buy roses and chocolates for that someone special – demanding chocolate with menaces maybe? So who is the real Valentine?

It is believed that he was a priest or bishop who was martyred on 14 February, around 270AD in Italy by the Romans. At that time married men could not be conscripted into the army. The Emperor Claudius at that time needed more men to fight his wars and so made marriage illegal, it was banned. Valentine disobeyed the Emperor by secretly marrying any couple who asked him. The Emperor found out and had him killed.

St Valentine is the patron saint of lovers and beekeepers, among others. The earliest mention of Saint Valentine's day in this country was in 1375 by Chaucer – a sound Leicester lad so I believe; in one of his poems he speaks of Valentine's Day as the day when birds choose to find a mate.

So many of the church's traditions seem to become merged with other stories in the retelling over



time – history becomes legend, which then becomes myth. Valentine was prepared to defy the Emperor and do what he knew to be right, knowing that this might cost him his life.

And so for those of us looking forward to sending our Valentine cards and planning something a little special, or for those of us who recognise the day and let it drift over us like a warm summer memory, remember a man who believed in the Godliness of marriage and the sanctity of love.



## PRAYER DIARY

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

### **Sunday 16 February**

Prayers for Peace

### **Monday 17 February**

Our partner Diocese of Kiteto

### **Tuesday 18 February**

St Hugh, Eyres Monsell, and St James the Greater, Huncote

### **Wednesday 19 February**

Holy Apostles, Leicester

### **Thursday 20 February**

Holy Trinity and St John the Divine, Leicester

### **Friday 21 February**

St James the Greater, Leicester

### **Saturday 22 February**

St John the Baptist, Clarendon Park

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





## WAYS YOU CAN HELP LEICESTER CATHEDRAL

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### 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

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

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 Fitchcett, our **Safeguarding Co-ordinators**.

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

If you would prefer to talk to one of the Safeguarding Co-ordinators please either write to them at the Cathedral office, or give the office your details and one of the Co-ordinators will contact you. You do not need to explain the reason for your request.

All concerns will be responded to proportionately and with discretion.

