

Cathedral in Touch

A Newsletter for our Community

Sunday 19 May 2024 | Pentecost



Leicester Cathedral
A beating heart for City and County



How do we know the Spirit is with us?

Last Sunday our *Together with Leicester Cathedral* visiting schedule took us to St Ursula's Chapel at Wyggestons, on the Hinckley Road in Leicester. The choir and clergy joined Master Revd Tony Leighton for Choral Evensong, gathering with residents of affordable housing William House, and those receiving care in Agnes House, and their families. We all enjoyed wonderful hospitality in the Duchy of Lancaster Lounge afterwards. Also present was the recently announced Chaplain to Trinity Hospital and Wyggestons, Revd Andrew Micklethwaite, who will take up his new post in the summer. As with all our visits, it was a joy to worship and fellowship together.

We reflected together on the bold words of Jesus in his home synagogue, which he appropriated from Isaiah 61.1, *'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives...'* We noted that Jesus was absolutely sure the Spirit was with him and unafraid to tell other people. I think we see something of the same confidence in the followers of Jesus in the Pentecost event we celebrate this weekend.

How do we know the Spirit is with us? For Jesus it may have been a sense of God close in times of prayer and inner silence. Or perhaps a strong day to day sense of doing the right things and feeling content that he was doing what he was meant to be doing – a fulfilled sense of meaning and purpose. I talked with someone this week who was setting

aside time to be with friends and they were beaming as they told me. They are doing the 'right thing' and it is a blessing to them and others. The Spirit is clearly with them. Jesus would also have studied the Isaiah texts so he knew what the right things were. He knew God was nudging and asking and calling him to certain things and joined in with the activity of God in the world that looks just like what he read.

We see this in the public servants and philanthropists of Leicester's past, like William Wyggeston the younger founding St Ursula's Hospital – a place of safety and hospitality for 12 poor men, and 12 poor women. Those almshouses and their chapel were here at St Martin's, demolished in the 1860s and find expression today in William House.

Or members of the Vaughan family: physicians, one of whom was a founder of Leicester Infirmary. Clergy and teachers like Edward, Vicar of St Martins, and Revd David James Vaughan who established learning in the city. His 'school of sound learning and home for Christian intercourse and brotherly love' operated on the model of FD Maurice in London and had a huge impact with thousands of students in the city. Vaughan College was funded by public subscription in his memory following his death and is now part of the University of Leicester. The Vaughans and Wyggestons are both names you will see memorialised in the Cathedral.

These families and people of faith were sensitive to the spirit at work in them.

They recognised what kingdom work looked like – good news for the poor, healing, comfort, education, and life.

This Pentecost I invite you to notice the promise of God, the Holy Spirit in you. The Spirit given as a seal, a gift, at baptism: a Pentecost gift for all who believe. In our work; as we study; in our friendships; in our relationships with those we live with, might we pause and recognise the presence of the Spirit with us, and attend to the Spirit's nudges towards kindness, gentleness, self-control and love?

And join me in asking in what ways do our present day institutions – church, cathedral, education, care homes, and accommodation – in what ways are we joining in with the anointed work and activity of the Spirit of Jesus in this city and county?

Karen Rooms
Dean of Leicester



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

-
- 4** News and Services

 - 6** Ringing the Peregrine Chicks

 - 7** Pommie Pilgrimage

 - 12** Summer Season: What's On

 - 12** What is Pentecost?

 - 13** Prayer Thoughts

 - 16** Donating / Safeguarding

News & Updates

Having a clear out?

Does anyone have copies of the **King James Bible** and/or the **Book of Common Prayer** which are in good condition and which they don't need? Our Chaplains sometimes find it appropriate to give someone a Bible or prayer book, and, for some people, these are the appropriate gift,

rather than more modern versions. We don't need loads, but a few would be very helpful and this is good recycling. Also, does anyone have a spare **cassock** tucked in a cupboard? Or know of someone who might whom you could ask? Our Chaplains mostly wear cassocks but not everyone



possesses one. Any size in black, grey or navy would be welcome. Again – good recycling! For both requests perhaps you could either mail me (Alison.Adams@LeicesterCofE.org) or drop them in at the Cathedral. Thank you very much.

Canon Alison

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.

[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



Services this week

SUNDAY 19 MAY

PENTECOST

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

MONDAY 20 MAY

- 8.30am Morning Eucharist
- 5.30pm Choral Evensong

TUESDAY 21 MAY

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

WEDNESDAY 22 MAY

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

THURSDAY 23 MAY

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

FRIDAY 24 MAY

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

SATURDAY 25 MAY

- 9.30am Morning Prayer
- 5.30pm Evening Prayer

SUNDAY 26 MAY

TRINITY SUNDAY

- 10.30am Cathedral Eucharist
- 3.30pm Choral Evensong
- 6.30pm Eucharist at St Nicholas Church

MONDAY 27 MAY

BANK HOLIDAY

The Cathedral will be open for general visiting from 10.00am–4.30pm. Services will be said privately.

- 12.30pm **Lunchtime Recital:** Philip Millward, Organ

Put a ring on them

Earlier this week, the three chicks in our Bell Tower were ringed to allow future identification.

The actual process, including taking DNA samples, took the team less than 15 minutes. However, they had to wait almost three hours for the female to leave the chicks of her own accord.

When she returned, she was none the wiser about what had occurred in her absence.

All three chicks looked very healthy. The DNA samples will confirm the sexes, but the suspicion at the moment is that there are two females and one male.

To keep up to date, you can watch the live-stream of the box on the Leicester Peregrines [website](#).



Pommie Pilgrimage



It was great to welcome the group from Pommie Pilgrimage to the Cathedral for Sunday's Choral Evensong – a village group attempting to walk to and between each of the 42 Anglican Cathedrals in England this summer.

After a group of 27 completed the 27 miles from All Saints' Youlgrave to Derby Cathedral around Palm Sunday, they have also had pilgrims reach Chester from their village, and completed the stretch from Birmingham to Worcester, then Gloucester to Hereford.

Then it was Leicesters's turn! A gentle three day walk from Derby Cathedral

via some landmarks in S. Derbyshire and beautiful Leicestershire, to arrive in time for Evensong in Leicester Cathedral on Sunday 12 May. It was also International Nurses Day, and their lead pilgrim, Theresa, spent her working life as a nurse and health visitor in Leicestershire, before retiring last year to Youlgrave.

The pilgrims started their walk on Palm Sunday, 24 March, and hope to have reached all 42 cathedrals by All Saints' Day, 1 November. They can be emailed at pommiepilgrimage@gmail.com.

We wish them well with their future adventures!



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!

Saturday 18 May | 3.00pm

Called Together Service

A Diocesan service of prayer and thanksgiving, celebrating 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.

Thursday 6 June | 5.30pm

Service marking the Anniversary of D-Day

On this date, the UK will commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Normandy Landings in 1944, leading to the end of the Second World War and the liberation of Europe. All are welcome to join us for a special service with music sung by the Cathedral Choir.

Sunday 9 June | 4.00pm

Choral Evensong Together with St Nicholas and St Hughes Churches, the Parish of The Transfiguration

Join us for a special service of Choral Evensong at St Nicholas and St Hughes Churches, in the the Parish of The Transfiguration in Market Harborough, as part of our *Together with Leicester Cathedral* project.

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



Book Club

Next on Thurs 6 June

Meeting online over Zoom, in June we've decided to read read ***An Intercultural Church for a Multicultural World*** by Bishop Martyn Snow.

New members are always welcome – please email Jude.Taylor@LeicesterCofE.org.

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.



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www.leicestercathedral.org



Pilgrimage Walk

Saturday 15 June

Starting from 9.30am outside St Martins House

Join us on a prayerful walk through the city and its surroundings. Over the course of 2.5–3 hours, we will journey together, guided through a series of reflections and prayers as we seek out the divine and sacred in the streets, shops, and waterways around us.

Like last year, Jonathan Kerry will lead us, and along our route we will pause at various locations to pray and reflect together. There will be breaks along the way, and plenty of opportunity for conversation with others as we walk together, too!

All are welcome, but children must be accompanied by an adult.

Please visit our [Eventbrite](#) page to book – or speak to Jude (jude.taylor@leicestercofe.org) if you prefer.

Tickets are free, but donations will be very gratefully received.

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**



What is Pentecost?

Celebrating the gift of the Holy Spirit

The Day of Pentecost marks fifty days since Easter Day and brings the Easter season to an end. It is a major feast of the Church's year when Christians recall how God's Holy Spirit was given to the disciples after Jesus' ascension, empowering them to begin the work of making disciples of all nations.

Pentecost (which comes from the Greek word for 'fiftieth') has its roots in the Jewish Feast of Weeks.

Jesus had promised his followers that, although they would not see him after his Ascension, they would receive the Holy Spirit to guide and inspire them.

The Acts of the Apostles describes how the crowds gathered in Jerusalem – representing many nationalities and speaking many languages – were able to hear the disciples preaching in their own language.

The colour most often associated with Pentecost is red, representing the tongues of fire which the Acts of the Apostles describes appearing above the heads of the disciples as a sign that they had received the Holy Spirit.

With its focus on God's Spirit being poured out on believers, Pentecost is one of the most popular days for baptisms and confirmations in the Church's year.

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'When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.'

Acts 2.2

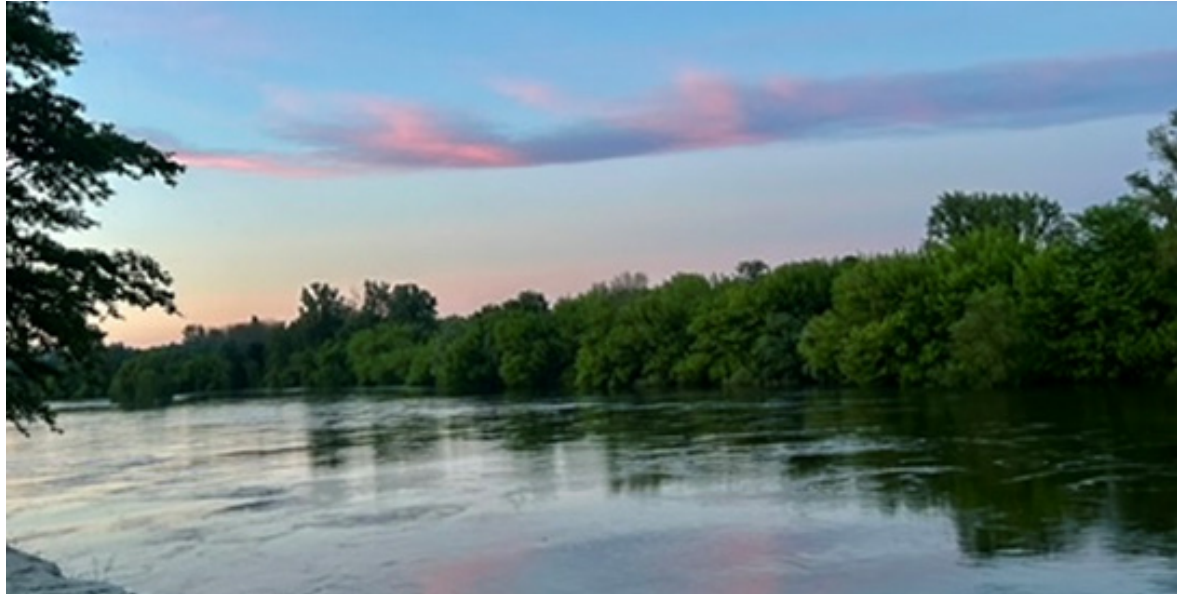


Martin Dyer

*As water
reflects the
face, so one's
life reflects the
heart.*

Proverbs 27.19

Prayer Thoughts



Hello! Greetings and much love as always from your correspondent “somewhere in mainland Europe”; which makes me sound like some kind of SOE operative reporting before D-Day, eighty years ago. But the truth is that we are on a “road trip”, a very long, (too long) road trip and our location changes from day to day. To understand some of what follows you will need to open our trusted companion Google Maps, without which we could not survive just now.

Our mission, such as it was, was to travel to Porto, to meet with friends and to check out the Porto fountain, which is a replica of the one located in front of Leicester Town Hall. There is debate as to which came first (both were built in Paris in the 1870s), but as you can see below, they are very similar. To get to Porto, we took our car on the Portsmouth to Santander

ferry and are now making our way back to sunny Leicester via Salamanca, St Jean-de-Luz, Flaujagues etc, finally spending some time in our beloved Île-Tudy before returning.

The journey to Porto was stunning. Our first stop was Meixedo, a tiny farming village in the Parque Natural de Montesinho, a mountainous region, made doubly beautiful with wild broom and heather in flower. Meixedo is situated on the side of a small mountain. It is the site of a spring, resulting in a small stream of water chuckling down one side of the cobbled main street, something which I seem to recall from childhood days in south Wales. There are storks nesting and swallows and swifts zooming in every direction and many birds I do not recognise. It is perfectly quiet and is a scene of bucolic perfection. Except there is no-one

Footnotes

1 A *Lojinha da Sonia* on Belgrave gate on Saturday morning has delicious Portuguese pastries!

2 Another saint in Haiti is Father Rick Frechette, a priest and doctor working in Port au Prince ([About St. Luke's](#)). He, like the Castillo's, loves Jesus and loves the people of Haiti.

3 Blog: [headshave4haiti](#)

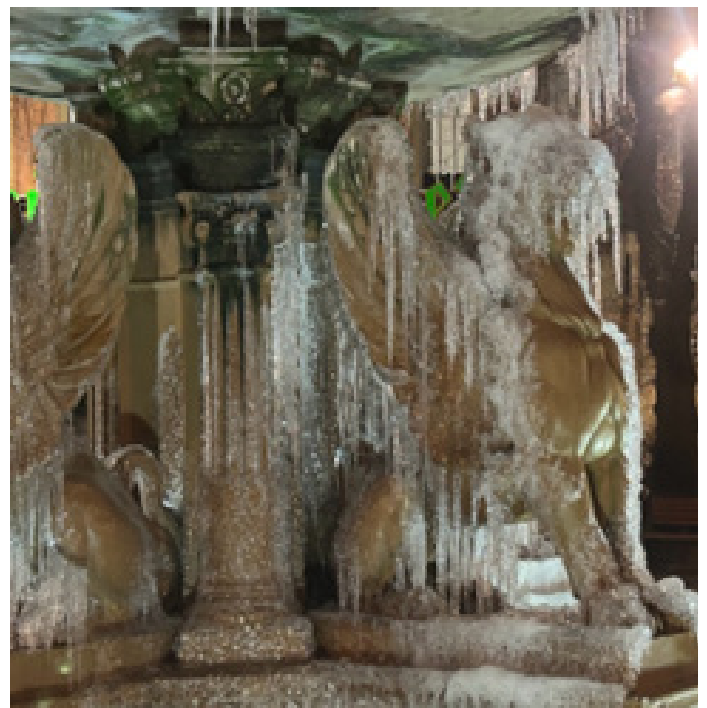
4 [Home](#), by Warsan Shire

there. Look a little closer and you see that most of the robust stone houses lining the main street are empty and some falling down. Behind the doors of some you will hear signs of life; but on the street nothing stirs, although you sense people are watching. There is no shop and there is no school. It is for the most part, an ex-village, whose life has departed. (We are of course staying in the lap of luxury in a carefully renovated farmhouse.)

I may be wrong, but I don't think such material decomposition is found in England. We have however seen similar beautiful but deserted villages in France and southern Italy and Sicily. In America such "ghost towns", often sprung up rapidly following the discovery of gold or silver and then emptied just as rapidly. In Portugal, the young leave the countryside (there aren't enough now to pick the grapes), many leave the country and some from Porto end up in Leicester!¹ Such migration benefits us and our economy enormously, but harms Portugal.

And then, out of the blue, whilst musing on the above, come two messages via Facebook from Mole St Nicholas in northwestern Haiti from a lady (Jody Owen Castillo) whom I have never met and likely never will meet, but whom I admire enormously. She and her family have devoted their lives to serving the poorest of the poor in this remote part of the country providing food, education, primary health care, the gospel and essentially a safe place in a dangerous environment; do check out nwhcm.org. The love, the faithfulness and the bravery this family and their team have shown towards the people of the Mole, despite huge and ongoing difficulties, have been unbelievable. They are saints with a capital "S".²

Sally Ann and I had the privilege of travelling to Haiti in 2013 with the "Lifeline Prayer Expedition" which brought together people



The Leicester (below) and Porto (above) gryphons compared

from Europe, Africa, North America and the Caribbean to make a public apology for the slave trade. You can learn more of our trip to Haiti from Sally Ann's blog.³ Visiting Mole St Nicholas was for me one of many highlights. For a start, the Mole is so beautiful; not for nothing was Haiti known as 'The Pearl of the Antilles'. Even then though, the situation was extreme, with people living under shelters made of palm leaves and obvious malnutrition. Since, the situation has worsened and it is no surprise that all four young Haitians who accompanied us have now left, for the USA, Brazil and Mexico. How can you stay when there are no jobs, no food, no healthcare and the only "government" is meted out by street gangs? "No one leaves home, unless home is the mouth of a shark".⁴

Please do ask me how it was that I became so fascinated by Haiti; it is an extraordinary story that predates our visit by many years. A lot has happened since but the two Facebook messages have reignited my passion and with it a host of questions. How can I best support people in Haiti? I can pray and I can give money, but I do not think I can do what the Castillo's and Father Frechette have done, age and health preclude (perhaps).

More than that though, how should I live as a rich follower of Jesus? Can I remain rich and be a follower of Jesus? Or do "the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful?" Should I sell all my possessions and give the proceedings to the poor? Please pray with me for discernment! And may the Grace and the Peace and the Joy and the Love of our Risen Saviour be with us all.



PRAYER POINTERS

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

Sunday 19 May

Pentecost

Monday 20 May

Diocese of Wyoming (partner diocese)

Tuesday 21 May

Launde Abbey

Wednesday 22 May

National Racial Justice Team visit to the Diocese

Thursday 23 May

The Coplow Benefice

Friday 24 May

Hallaton & Allexton with Horninghold, Tugby, East Norton & Slawston

Saturday 25 May

The Venerable Bede, monk, scholar, historian, 735AD

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.

