

Cathedral in Touch

A Newsletter for our Community

Sun 2 February 2025 | Candlemas



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



It has finally happened

This Sunday we will mark Candlemas, or as the lectionary records it, The Presentation of Christ in the temple. The newborn son of Mary (and Joseph) is brought to the temple in Jerusalem, a day's walk from Bethlehem. A young couple – the unusual thing in the Luke-Acts narrative may have been Mary's longevity and not Joseph's early demise – bring their firstborn to the very heart of the faith to do what is right by the Law. They want the very best start for their child and the blessing of God.

While they are at the temple they have two encounters with old people, with Simeon and Anna. Simeon has waited for many years for the fulfilling of a promise of God sensed by him that he would not die without seeing the messiah. Anna, widowed as a young woman, has been part of the temple community for decades, finding a role and place in the worship that is offered there. Both of these elders bless the child and the couple with their words and their gathering the child to themselves.

At each service of Choral Evensong we hear the Song of Simeon and are invited to take to our own hearts the peace and contentment he finds as he holds the Christ Child to himself knowing that God is absolutely faithful to his word and promise. He had held on for years hoping that this sense of his seeing the fulfilment of God's salvation was real. And right here and now in the moment Mary and Joseph come to the temple, it has finally happened.

This connects for me in a couple of ways.

The completion of the Heritage & Learning Centre is actually drawing near. As the scaffold has come down, so the Cathedral is being revealed in a new and beautiful way. The dazzling brightness of the parapet on a bright sunny morning is good for the soul. The promised building is arriving.

Last Sunday morning a number of babes and toddlers and their parents were part of our worship. It was a joy to both see and hear young voices in our midst. When Dad did the reading and was suddenly missed by his little boy, we felt his pain which resonated with the scripture that was being read. It was a delight to see one of our elders walking a little one along the back of the Cathedral with Mum keeping a close eye.

One of the joys of the Church and communities of faith is the way in which we mix and worship together, young and old. We are blessed by each other: the young by the wisdom and attention of the old, the old by the energy and optimism of the young. Candlemas is a moment for us to notice this: the richness of being an intergenerational community who gather together because we love and worship the Lord, the One who always does what he promises.

*The Lord exists forever;
Your word is firmly fixed in heaven.
Your faithfulness extends to all generations.*

Psalm 119.89–90

Karen Rooms Dean of Leicester



JESUS MAFA. Presentation of Jesus in the temple, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

<https://www.stgeorgesunited.com/sermon/2016/1/28/sermon-aging-grace-fully-january-17-2016-judi-restemeyer>

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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

News & Updates

Woodwork repair

The woodwork that has been damaged over the years in the Chapel of Christ the King has been restored over the last few months, with the final elements finished this week.



Lunchtime Recitals

Spring Season 2025

12.30pm | Free admission, donations encouraged

Monday 27 January

Alexander Berry Organ

Director of Music, Great St Mary's, Cambridge

Monday 10 February

Grupo Bossa

featuring **Carmelia Marques** singing

Bossa Nova in Portuguese and traditional Portuguese folk songs

Monday 24 February

Christopher White Violin

Melanie Reinhard Piano



The week

SUNDAY 2 FEBRUARY

PRESENTATION OF CHRIST

- 10.30am Cathedral Eucharist (doors open 10.00am)
- 3.30pm Choral Evensong
- 6.00pm Together with Choral Evensong at St Helen's Church, Ashby

MONDAY 3 FEBRUARY

- 8.30am Morning Eucharist
- 5.30pm Choral Evensong

TUESDAY 4 FEBRUARY

- 8.30am Morning Prayer
- 12.30pm Lunchtime Eucharist
- 1.30pm Bible Together: John (in-person)
- 5.30pm Choral Evensong
- 7.00pm Bible Together: John (online)

WEDNESDAY 5 FEBRUARY

- 8.30am Morning Prayer
- 12.30pm Lunchtime Eucharist
- 5.30pm Evening Prayer
- 7.00pm Leicester Comedy Festival: Paul Kerensa

THURSDAY 6 FEBRUARY

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

FRIDAY 7 FEBRUARY

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

SATURDAY 8 FEBRUARY

- 9.30am Morning Prayer
- 5.30pm Evening Prayer
- 7.30pm Leicester Comedy Festival: Milton Jones **SOLD OUT!**

SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY

4 BEFORE LENT

- 10.30am Cathedral Eucharist (doors open 10.00am)
- 3.30pm Choral Evensong with Installation of Canons

*Inspiring music
beautifully sung*

LEICESTERSHIRE
CHORALE

Director Tom Williams

Organ and Piano Nicholas Scott-Burt

O' Bonie Doon

Sacred and secular choral music, solo song, spoken word and piano/organ solo, in celebration of Scotland and their national bard

Tickets available online from
www.ticketsource.co.uk/leicestershirechorale
or from tickets@leicestershirechorale.org.uk
£15 Full /£12 Friends/£10 U19/£5 U13

Saturday 1 February 2025, 7.30pm
Stoneygate Baptist Church, London Road, LE2 3ND

Charity Number 1007773

Job Vacancies

Visitor Welcome Assistants

Leicester Cathedral is looking to appoint two part-time Visitor Welcome Assistants.

Our Visitor Welcome Assistants are on the front line of the Cathedral's interaction with the public and facilitate a positive visitor experience through the following key responsibilities:

- Providing the best possible welcome to all Cathedral visitors
- Encouraging visitors to donate on entry to the Cathedral – helping the Cathedral meet its financial targets.

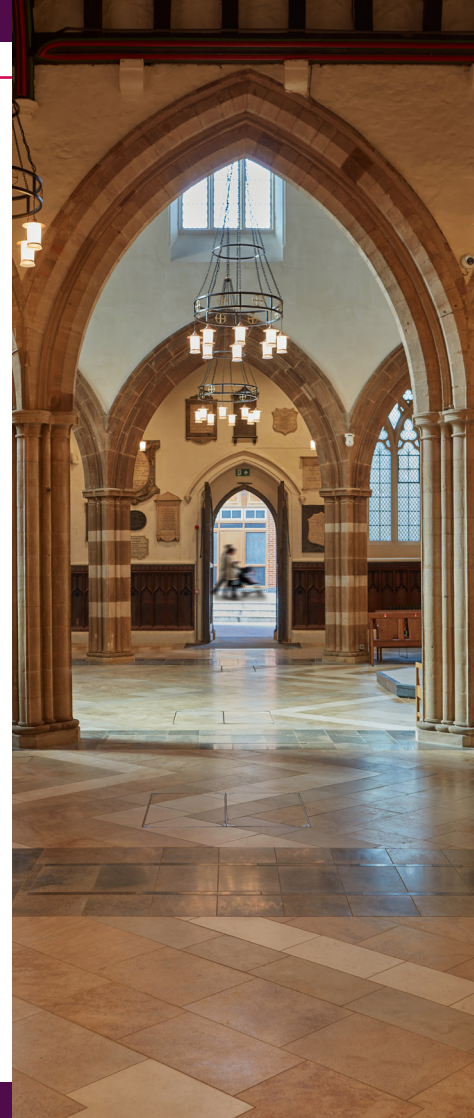
Full information available on our website.

Salary: £12.72 per hour

Tenure: 12 months (with intention to become an established post)

Hours: 14 hours per week

Applications will be considered as they are submitted and interviews will be organised on a rolling basis.



Casual Vacancy

FAC member

Can you be a critical friend to the Cathedral?

The Cathedral's Fabric Advisory Committee is looking to fill a casual vacancy (until summer 2026)

Expressions of interest especially welcome from those with interest/expertise in archaeology, education, or structural engineering.

This is a role open to people from across the whole breadth of Leicester's communities who want to see our Cathedral flourish.

To receive our information pack, please contact the FAC Secretary Pete Hobson on

Pete.Hobson@LeicesterCofE.org

or call 07810 023 659



Together with...

Our fifty-second service out with parish churches in the City and County, as part of *Together with Leicester Cathedral*, will take place on Sunday 2 February 2025.

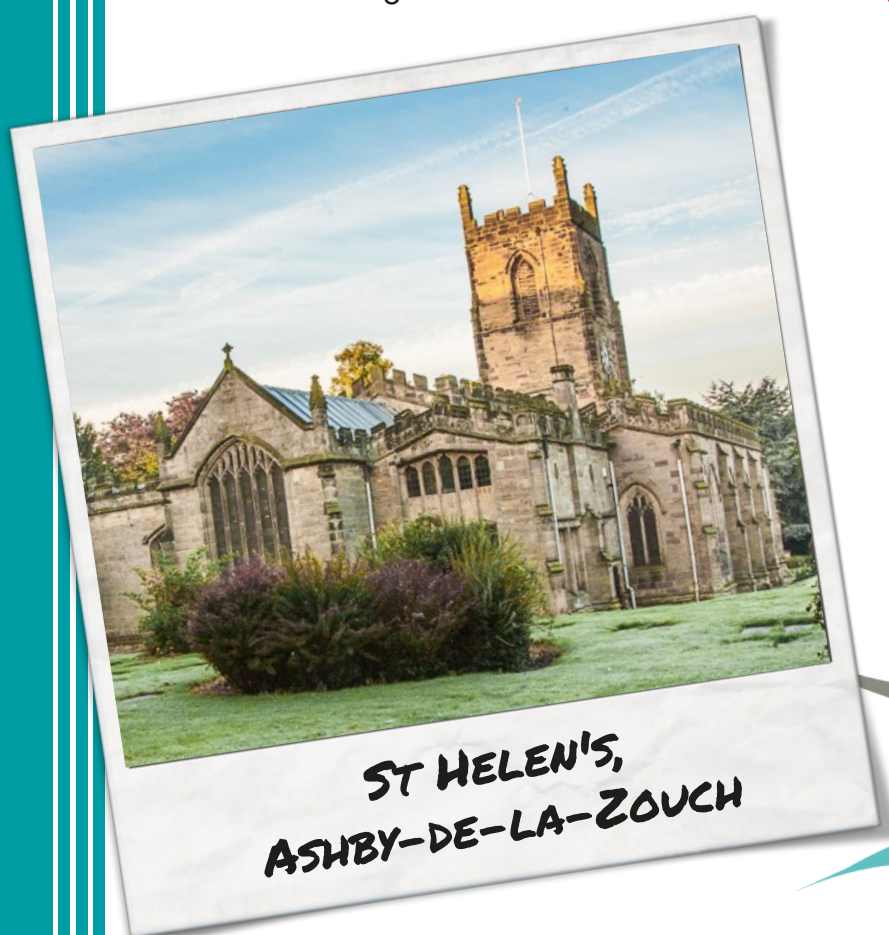
Join us at 6.00pm for a service of Choral Evensong at **St Helen's Church, Ashby-de-la-Zouch** (4 Church Yard, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire, LE65 1AA).

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





10
years



What do you remember of when we reburied King Richard III?

The crowds? The pageantry? The music? For some, the poignancy as his coffin was lowered into its final resting place. The soils from his birthplace, where he died, and his home. His prayer book, carried reverently by the Duke of Gloucester.

Or perhaps you are coming to this story for the first time – curious about the threads of history that tie us to a man who lived 500 years ago?

Whatever you remember or are keen to learn, to mark the **tenth anniversary of the reinterment** you are invited to join us for a spectacular three-week programme of services, events, and activities in March 2025.

There's something for everyone as we rediscover and remember King Richard's story – both the historical one and the events of ten years ago.

Do join us.



Late Night Openings

12 – 15 March | 6.30–9.00pm

Come and see **Light Up Leicester's** amazing projection on the front of the Cathedral – and then pop-in to our late-night opening to hear a soundscape produced by De Montfort University students using recordings from our Richard III Oral History Project. A bar will be available.

Image: Luxmuralis, 2021



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](#).

Exhibition

Medieval Women Forging the Way

Influential Women of the Sikh World and Beyond

12 – 31 March 2025

Free admission during
Cathedral visiting hours



Recently displayed at Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre, this exhibition explores the close historical links between the Battle of Bosworth and the beginnings of the Sikh faith in Punjab – and has been brought to life thanks to Leicestershire County Council's Culture Leicestershire team and a local Sikh women's group.

Whilst much is known about the powerful women of the War of the Roses, the group has used extensive research, stories, and images to explore their medieval peers in Punjab and the paths they forged for generations of Sikh women around the world, dating back to 1469.

Discover the stories of remarkable resilience, courage, and service throughout history, with ten portraits of Sikh women created by the local community, a timeline, and share your own reflections about inspirational women.

Free admission – open during Cathedral visiting hours from 12 to 31 March.

Dean's Discussion

Join us for the return of our Dean's Discussions, where the Dean of Leicester will hold a panel discussion on Sikh history linked with the exhibition.

A free event on Tuesday 25 March at 7.00pm - more details and booking will be available soon.

Richard III Tours

Join us on a fascinating tour as our expert guides showcase the beautifully crafted tomb, the magnificent Tom Denny Redemption Windows, and the stunning funeral pall.

Tuesdays & Wednesdays at 11.30am | Fridays at 2.30pm
Saturdays at 11.30am and 2.30pm

£4.00 per person. Accompanied children under 16 free. Tours last about 40 minutes and can be booked via [Eventbrite](#) or at the Welcome Desk.



Martin Dyer

Prayer Thoughts

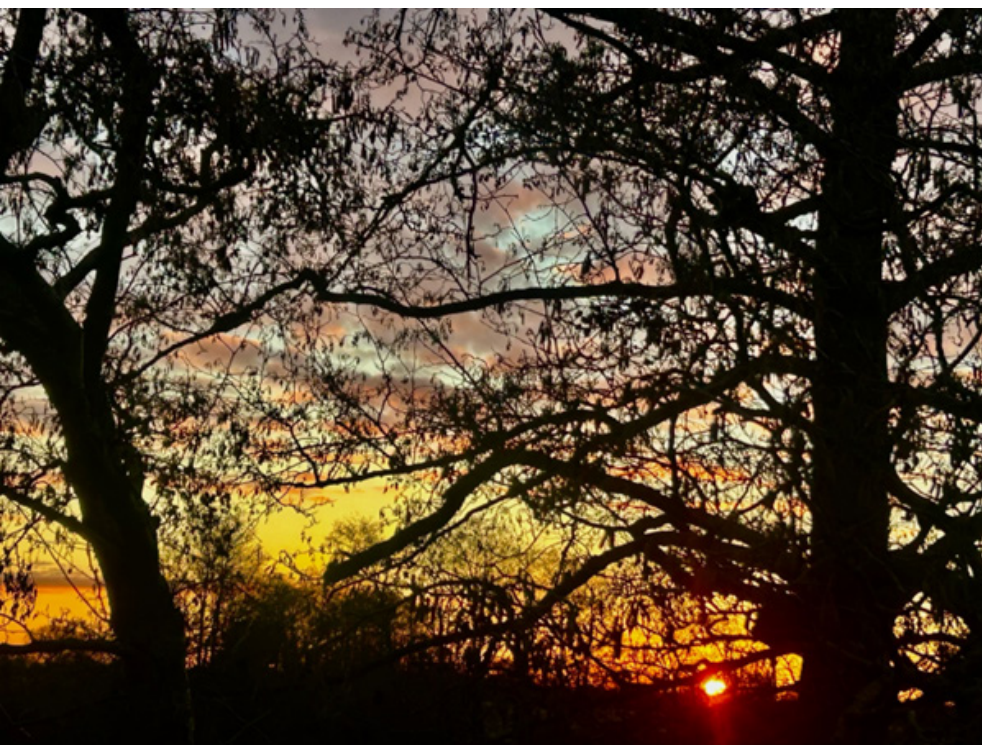
Hello, hello, hello! How are you? It seems absolutely ages since I wrote to you last and a lifetime since Christmas, but in truth it is only the regular four weeks. I simply cannot wish you a happy new year now, it is too late; that will have to wait till 1 April, which, as all right-thinking people know, is when the new year really begins (only moved to 1 January in 1752 in England!)

And dark, cold, wet (and windy) January still limps along, with only another six thousand, one hundred and fifty nine days to go to the end of the month (according to [Brian Bilston](#)). But look – the mornings are getting lighter, earlier.

the fire with a sleepy cat on your lap, a good book, and nice cup of tea! But it is a surprisingly busy time. For one thing, in another part of the northern hemisphere, a bright new shiny golden age has apparently begun and bigly too; we wait to see how this will work out. Safe to say, it will not be boring – buckle up for the ride! One striking moment so far has been Bishop Budde's brave sermon in the National Cathedral in Washington ([YouTube](#)) and the predictable reactions it elicited from both sides of the abyss: [religionnews.com](#).

We move swiftly on.

January has been a busy time in the Cathedral too. This week has been the week of prayer for Christian unity (in the northern hemisphere only – southern hemisphere celebrate unity between Ascension day and Pentecost, which does not sound very unified!). Jude has started his discipleship course focussing on John's gospel (highly recommended both the gospel and the course). And it is also the season (if that is the right word) of Epiphany, comprising three moments of revelation concerning the nature of Jesus of Nazareth.



It feels like this should be the month for curling up in front of

In the Eastern church, Epiphany is termed Theophany, which

means something different, namely the direct manifestation and encounter of God with humankind (there is also hierophany to contend with, but I think I will stop there!). In our western tradition, Epiphany comprises three components, the adoration of the Magi, the wedding at Cana and the turning of water into rather fine wine, and Jesus's baptism by John in the river Jordan. Chris Oxley gave a wonderful sermon on Epiphany, St John's gospel and Christian unity and a lot more, last Sunday (19 Jan 25); it is [well worth watching](#), revealing how Jesus is the fulfilment of God's promises, disclosed in the Old Testament.

Why is Epiphany so important? Well, some would claim that God has no Son. But in the first few words of St John's gospel, we see Jesus affirmed as precisely that, words that echo the opening words of the beginning of the book of Genesis.

In the beginning, before all time, was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself. He was continually existing in the beginning with God. All things were made and came into existence through Him; and without Him not even one thing was made that has come into being. In Him was life and the power to bestow life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines on in the darkness, and the darkness did not understand it or overpower it or appropriate it or absorb it and is unreceptive to it.

(Sometimes the Amplified version of the Bible can be illuminating!)

Now the facts that God has a Son, and that his Son took on human flesh



PRAYER DIARY

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

Sunday 2 February
Race Equality Week

Monday 3 February
Our partner Diocese of Trichy

Tuesday 4 February
St Aidan; World Cancer Day

Wednesday 5 February
Wyggestons and Trinity
Almshouses, with Agnes House
Carehome

Thursday 6 February
Martyrs of Japan, 1597

Friday 7 February
Leicester, St Anne, St Paul & St
Augustine

Saturday 8 February
St Margaret, The Abbey
Benefice, Leicester

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

and became just like you and me for our salvation are simply mind-blowing. It is what we say together in the Nicene Creed every Sunday (btw the Nicene Creed will be 1,700 years old between May and August of this summer – I am not suggesting we make a cake (think of the candles!), but we could sing happy birthday during the Eucharist perhaps?. And all of the above is good, great, wonderful, exceptional news. But, and actually a big but here, there is more, much (much) more!

Because if we found the Nicene Creed difficult, what happens next in the show during the Sacrament is totally wild. Jesus asks us to participate in a strange, bizarre meal where we eat his body and drink his blood. Personally, I don't think that we literally eat and drink the body and blood of Jesus although others might disagree; note the manner in which we (via Thomas Cranmer I think) neatly deflect that issue during our Eucharistic service! Jesus does not want us simply to believe in him (even the demons do that and they tremble!) or simply to follow him; no, we want much more – for us to live in him and for him to live in us, a wonderful intimacy! In some ways, this is quite daunting, challenging stuff, A-Level Christianity if you will. But I think it is what Paul means when he writes in 2 Corinthians:

“If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

In other words, if Jesus is living inside us by his Spirit, then we cannot remain the same as we were before, every aspect of our lives must be transformed.

Now please don't think for one picosecond that I have this all worked out. I don't. Ask Sally Ann. My life is riven with anxiety and

pride and lusts that get in the way of the gentle promptings of the Holy Spirit. But at the beginning of 2025 I am trying to put into place those disciplines that nurture intimacy with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. There is much more I could say on this, but there is a limit to the amount of space that Andrew Radford will allow me in the newsletter [Ed. Correct, alas!]. I will finish with the words of Jesus from John 17 in his prayer for believers:

“Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

May the Lord be with us and in us all our days.



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

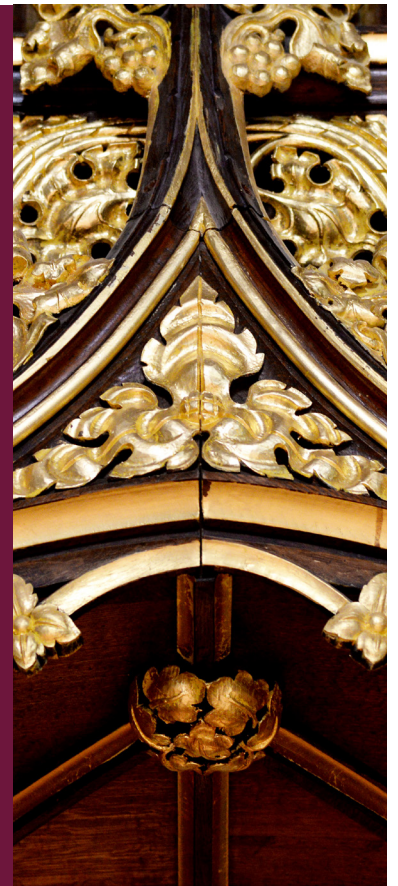
Account Name: Leicester Cathedral Chapter

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.

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.

