

Cathedral in Touch

A Newsletter for our Community

2 June 2024 | 1st Sunday after Trinity



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



Pray your part

Our experience of the announcement of the July General Election echoed other moments of major news. We know there are significant shifts in climate and yet the breach of a river or reservoir takes us by surprise. We know a loved one is terminally ill, and yet their rapid deterioration and passing is a shock. We knew an election was due, but when it was announced, we hadn't quite been expecting it.

While this sounds like a theme for Advent, I want to invite you to lean in and engage with this political moment in the nation's story. I am often asked whether or not it is appropriate for Christians or the Church to be engaged in politics. Surely it is none of the Church's business?

I start with the Hebrew scriptures and the narrative of a small Middle Eastern nation framing their story as a theocracy. That is, a nation led and ruled by God, whose kings were held to account against commandments and principles that were grounded in an understanding of the very nature of God. What was expected of this rule was justice, righteousness, steadfast love, and faithfulness. The weak and those in need were to be provided for, the 'alien' welcomed, trading to be fair (honest scales), the application of law impartial, and the security of people maintained. God's dealings with a whole nation is the story of the Old Testament. How people live together and function as a society matters to God.

Jesus continued to teach love for God and love for neighbour. His teaching challenged religious and political power in Jerusalem leading to his execution. It mattered to him that the sick were provided for, people on the edge were integrated into community, and people had enough to eat. Paul's letters in the new Testament, and the story recorded in the book of Acts show us that the invitation to follow Christ impacted their common life and public relationships: it was not a private and individualised faith.

This means most Christians believe they have a duty to the poor, primarily through direct assistance to the needy. This is held in the 3rd expressed calling of our Diocese, 'Loving Service of the World'. *'Others believe that the Church must play its part in bringing about a more just world because personal acts of charity do not suffice to meet the demands of justice'* (Ivereigh: Faithful Citizens, DLT 2010, p1). Poverty is addressed through food banks *and* a Real Living Wage. Care of the elderly is offered through friendly pastoral visiting *and* good adult social care. Politics for me is engaging the resources of the state, as well as the third sector, for the common good.

So can I encourage you to use your vote and your voice in the weeks ahead and to find ways to talk about the priorities as you see them? These will be different for each of us. We do not need to persuade one another to vote one way or another: Christian people are members of all political parties. What I think might be important though, is that we do not retreat from acting in public and playing our part in our common life: being salt in the world.



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

Graham Wright

Sadly, we have to announce the death of Graham Wright, who has been a faithful member of our Cathedral community for decades.

Graham has held different roles over the years, serving as a Songman, Warden and more latterly as a volunteer Welcomer. Graham and Dorothy

regularly attended Sunday morning worship and social events, including those organised by the Friends of Leicester Cathedral.

We do not yet have a date for the funeral, but will publish this when it has been fixed.

We shall miss Graham. May he rest in peace.



Great response to Creative Cathedral

Thank you to everyone who came to our drop-in Creative Cathedral sessions over half-term and made these fantastic white roses.

Keep an eye out in the

newsletter to hear all about the fun activities we have planned for the summer holidays.

Share our sign-up link with friends and family to spread the word!



How quickly they have grown!

Our trio of peregrine falcon chicks have lost most of their down feathers.

With the first chick having hatched on 25 April, they should be ready to begin

taking flight in the next couple of weeks.

Keep up with the latest from our bell tower on leicesterperegrines.org.uk.



Services this week

SUNDAY 2 JUNE

TRINITY 1

- 10.30am Cathedral Eucharist
- 3.30pm Evening Prayer
- 6.30pm Eucharist at St Nicholas Church

MONDAY 3 JUNE

- 8.30am Morning Eucharist
- 5.30pm Choral Evensong

TUESDAY 4 JUNE

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

WEDNESDAY 5 JUNE

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

THURSDAY 6 JUNE

- 8.30am Morning Prayer
- 12.30pm Lunchtime Eucharist
- 5.30pm D-Day 80th Anniversary Service

FRIDAY 7 JUNE

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

SATURDAY 8 JUNE

- 9.30am Morning Prayer
- 5.30pm Evening Prayer

SUNDAY 9 JUNE

TRINITY 2

- 10.30am Cathedral Eucharist
- 12.00pm Questions Together
- 3.30pm Choral Evensong with Safeguarding Co-ordinators
- 4.00pm *Together with* Choral Evensong
at St Hugh's Church, Market Harborough
- 6.30pm Eucharist at St Nicholas Church

St Martin's and the 1645 Siege of Leicester

The team from University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) are nearing the end of their assessment of the archaeological material from the Leicester Cathedral Revealed excavation and will soon have lots of new information to share. In the meantime, excavation director Mathew Morris takes a moment to reflect on the anniversary of one of the most violent events in the Cathedral's history.

As I sit writing the assessment report, I am drawn to today's date, 31 May. 379 years ago today, during the first English Civil War, Leicester was attacked by the army of King Charles I. The siege and sacking of the town in 1645 played out over eight days – from its encirclement by Royalist troops on 28 and 29 May, to the artillery bombardment and call for the town's surrender on the 30th, and the final midnight assault on the defences and the capture of the town on the 31st, then the looting until the royal army departed on 4 June.

Image 1: Prince Rupert summoning the garrison of Leicester to surrender to the Army of King Charles I – 30 May 1645. St Martin's is the church tower with the spire on the right of the image. Image: John Throsby (1790) / University of Leicester Special Collections

This was a brief but brutal chapter in the story of Leicester and the Church Warden's account books show that the parish church of St Martin was stuck in the middle of the fighting. Entries include a charge "for mending the locks of church doors, broken by the King's army" and for "laying

down many graves which were taken up at the burying of divers great officers of the King's army, which was slain at the storming of this town." There is also a note that 30 shillings "was taken out of the poor men's box by the soldiers at the taking of Leicester."

The entries are frustratingly meagre. Why were the doors broken open? Was it to loot the church? Had civilians taken refuge inside? Or was it because its thick stone walls made it an ideal bastion for the garrison's last stand? Was their fighting in the graveyard? And where were the graves dug?



By accident or design, churches were often caught up in the fighting during the English Civil War. Their thick walls, lofty towers and walled graveyards gave them great military potential. At Leicester, St Margaret's Church and its graveyard were incorporated as a strong point in the town's outer defensive works. It was also the scene of fierce fighting during the siege and the town's governor Colonel Theophilus Grey, severely wounded, was captured in its graveyard. At St Mary de Castro too, crude Civil War era musket loops hacked through its medieval boundary wall can still be seen today. Whilst in the town's north suburb, on Woodgate, St Sunday's Church perished as a fiery prelude to the attack when the town's garrison burnt it down to prevent it being occupied by Royalist snipers.

St Martin's fate in the siege's aftermath was in stark contrast to events three years earlier when, as the pre-eminent church of the borough, it had hosted Charles I during his Royal progress to Leicester. Then there was pomp and pageantry not violence and death, flowers and sweet-scented herbs were spread over the church floor and there was a throne for the king, who had processed on foot through the streets from his residence at Lord's Place on the High Street (where Set and Toy Town are today) to attend the Sunday service. Accompanying him were the Mayor and Aldermen and the local militia, men who would all soon stand in opposition to him, with fateful consequences for the town.

Image 2: Charles I leaves Cavendish House, Leicester. Cavendish House mysteriously burnt down after the king's departure and can still be seen as a ruin in Abbey Park today. Image: Henry Reynolds Steer (1858–1928) / Leicester Museum & Art Gallery



It was an uneasy peace before the storm and four weeks later, on 22 August 1642, the King would raise his standard at Nottingham, declaring civil war against his people.

Fast forward to the morning of 31 May 1645 and as dawn broke over Leicester, the King's 'blood guilt' was clear to see. With the defences breached the garrison retreated back through the town's narrow lanes. Fierce street battles and house to house fighting ensued, from the market place through the lanes around St Martin's to the High Cross (Jubilee Square today), as soldiers and townsfolk battled for their lives. Shots from windows killed Royalist soldiers, enraging their comrades "and many hundreds were put to the sword". Dead bodies lay in every street and it was said "that the honest women to preserve themselves from violence, did throw scalding water upon the soldiers of the King which was one cause they dealt so unmercifully with them" and "ere day fully opened scarce a cottage was un plundered."

Image 3: As the town fell, there was fierce fighting through the streets of Leicester as the garrison retreated to make a final stand at the High Cross. Image: Charles West Cope (1862) / UK Parliament



The entries in St Martin's account books are a reminder of the savagery of war, recording a church broken into and "miserably plundered" and a graveyard used for the burial of the war dead. Casualty figures vary wildly but over 700 people are believed to have died that night and were buried in Leicester's churchyards, including at least nine royalist officers buried at St Martin's; and this makes me wonder if we could find evidence of these events amongst our skeletons.

The likelihood of being able to successfully identify war dead from the Civil War is exceedingly remote but the stories skeletons can tell will add new depth to our understanding of the people of Leicester during this period, and it is remotely possible that one of those skeletons will show signs of battle injuries and a radiocarbon date will place their death in the 17th century and we might have evidence of that bloody night 379 years ago.

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Mathew Morris MA ACIFA
Project Officer
Archaeological Services (ULAS)
University of Leicester

Image 4: An archaeologist excavates the remains of a wooden coffin at Leicester Cathedral. The biographically information picked out on the lid with brass upholstery studs reveals that this anonymous person was 56 when they died in 1641, a year before the outbreak of the Civil War. Image: ULAS



Election of a member of Chapter

As part of implementing a revised Constitution and Statutes for the Cathedral, the membership of Chapter is changing. One space is to be filled by election and nominations are now invited.

Nominations may be made by persons who are included on the electoral roll of the Parish and/or the community roll of the Cathedral. If you are in any doubt as to whether you are on one of these rolls, please contact Adaeze.Ebodili@LeicesterCofE.org.

The following information can be found [on our website](#):

1. Chapter member role description
2. Chapter Terms of Reference
3. Details of who is eligible to be elected
4. Nomination Form

Completed nomination forms should be sent to:

By email:

Adaeze.Ebodili@LeicesterCofE.org

By post

Adaeze Ebodili, Leicester Cathedral,
St Martins House, 7 Peacock Lane,
Leicester, LE1 5PZ

Nominations will be open from Friday 21 May 2024 and must be received by 12 noon on Friday 21 June 2023. If a ballot is required, voting will open on Monday 24 June 2024 and close at 12 noon on Monday 8 July 2024.





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!

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

**Pick
up a
booklet!**

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 sung by the Cathedral Choir. The Cathedral Bells will be rung from 6.30pm for the national peal.

Sunday 9 June | 4.00pm

Choral Evensong Together with St Hugh's Church

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

Thursday 13 June | 6.30–8.30pm

Leicester Uncovered: Leicester Cathedral Revealed

The construction of our new heritage learning centre has revealed a fascinating snapshot of life in Leicester over the past 2,000 years, including a possible Roman shrine, an Anglo-Saxon building and a burial ground in use from the late Saxon period to the 19th century. Join archaeologist **Mathew Morris** from University of Leicester Archaeological Services for a talk about the recent archaeological excavations and what they tell us about the lives of the people of St Martin's parish and the story of Leicester. **Tickets:** £5.50 Full / £3.50 Concession – available from [Eventbrite](#).



Book Club

Next on Thurs 6 June

Meeting online over Zoom, in June we've decided to 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**



Martin Dyer

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

Proverbs 27.19

Prayer Thoughts



Footnotes

- 1** OK then what is Trinity Sunday all about? Nothing to do with *The Matrix*??
- 2** You can ask me why.
- 3** It is but one reason I have 30,000 photos.
- 4** Both are very good in their different ways. churchofengland.org and 24-7prayer.com
- 5** Hermit crabs in French are called Bernard-l'ermite (don't know what they are called in Breton!). Which Bernard is not entirely clear but likely to be St Bernard de Tiron, who was an interesting character! Check him out.
- 6** *In Memoriam AHH* – Tennyson

Greetings and much love to you all from here at the very End of the World (Pen-ar-Bed in Breton and Finistère in good old French)!

This is our last full day in Île Tudy – we shall be heading home to sunny Leicester this coming Tuesday, and who knows? We might even see some of you in the Cathedral next Sunday!

In some ways, I shall be quite sad to leave. Although we have been coming here for twenty years, Île Tudy never ceases to amaze and astonish. It is an old friend, but one whose expressions and moods are constantly changing in tune with the wind, the tide, the clouds and the sun. The light is so clear, washed clean by the Atlantic perhaps, but certainly very different from New Walk! Today is a typically wonderful Breton day. Wind from the west

perhaps 20kts in the gusts that come along with the large fluffy clouds. It is hot in the sun but cold out. We had rain this morning, but it has dried out completely since and I am now writing this piece in the garden and Sally Ann is in her beloved hammock doing a Codeword puzzle (although there are some large threatening clouds approaching fast which may send us scuttling back inside once again!).

My routine here is well established. I get up shortly after dawn, wash, shave and dress as quickly as possible, grab a slurp of grapefruit juice and then down to the beach, walking north-east, towards the rising sun and St Marine about 5km distant, with the intention of doing 10km before breakfast.**2** My progress is slow, very slow, as I paddle in the waves, often up to

my knees, getting soaked! There is always something new to see, some trick of the light or the cloud or the waves and the colours are constantly changing. I try to "capture" everything on my phone, but it is futile!³ Whilst walking I listen to the Morning Prayer service on the Daily Prayer app followed by the 24/7 devotional.⁴

Whit Sunday last week was particularly eventful and allowed me to channel my inner David Attenborough. Firstly, on one small section of the beach it was evident that every shell contained a small visitor – literally every shell was moving! **Hermit crabs** everywhere!⁵ Also, there were **jellyfish**, some small (about 2cm) and some not so small (50cm).

But then to cap everything, two wolves appeared. I had my headphones on and so I did not hear them initially, but then became aware of their presence, tripping along about two meters behind me, one on either side. It was quite unnerving. Their owner (they weren't wild) explained they were *chien-loups*, dog-wolf hybrids, and that they were tame. However, they were certainly not dogs – the wolf side had clearly won out – and it was noticeable the owner brought

them out when there was no-one else around!

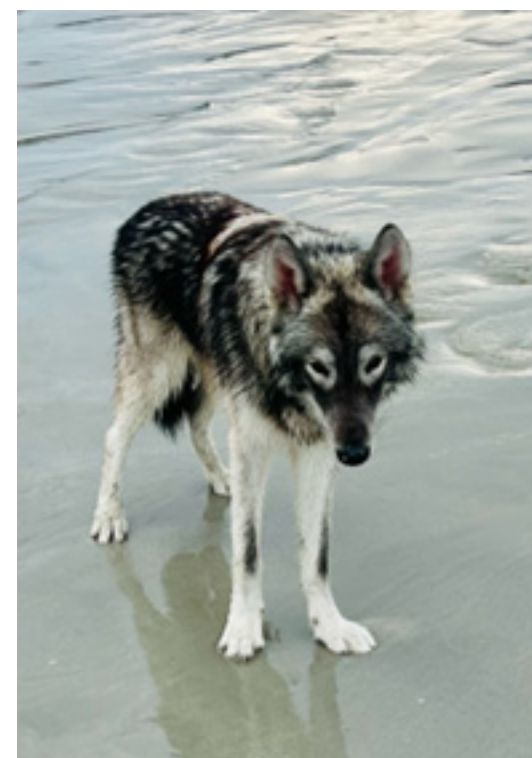
As it happens, one of the readings for Whit Sunday had been the prophetic vision of Isaiah 11!

*And the wolf will
dwell with the lamb,
And the leopard will lie down
with the young goat,
And the calf and the young
lion and the fatted steer together;
And a little child
will lead them...*

*They will not hurt
or destroy in all
My holy mountain,
For the earth will be full of the
knowledge of the Lord
As the waters cover the sea.*

It is an amazing vision.

I was not comfortable with the wolves. And if you look closely at the hermit crabs you will see that some of the larger ones have a smaller cousin or whatever in their grasp and are busily devouring him or her. Nature is by no means "nice" but rather "red in tooth and claw".⁶



Click on these two images to watch Martin's videos

But were things meant to be this way?
Is Nature just as fallen and requiring
redemption as humankind?

Romans 8 suggests this is the case:

For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

In other words, the Messiah, our lovely Jesus of Nazareth, is coming back, not only for us and for our sisters and brothers but also for the amazing totality of life on our beautiful planet.

And what news from Haiti? Since I wrote last, there has been awful weather there (including most unusually a tornado) disrupting their satellite communications, and I have had no direct messages from Mole St Nicholas, until earlier this week when the brutal death of two young American missionaries in Port-au-Prince was reported. They were killed by "bandits" at a youth meeting they were leading.

The cycles of disease, death, and destruction continue in Haiti, in Israel and Palestine, in Ukraine, in Sudan and so on and so on.

It wasn't meant to be this way.

Come Lord Jesus come.

Until that day may we shine with your
Glory.

And may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the Love of God and the communion of the
Holy Spirit be with us all today and always.

À très bientôt!



PRAYER POINTERS

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

Sunday 2 June

1st Sunday after Trinity

Monday 3 June

Diocese of Mt Kilimanjaro
(partner diocese)

Tuesday 4 June

Gartree Deanery

Wednesday 5 June

World Environment Day

Thursday 6 June

Foxton with Gumley &
Laughton

Friday 7 June

Wistow, Fleckney & Kilby

Saturday 8 June

Thomas Ken, bishop,
nonjuror, hymn writer,
1711

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

Together with...

Our forty-eighth service out with parish churches in the City and County, as part of *Together with Leicester Cathedral*, will take place on Sunday 9 June 2024.

Join us at 4.00pm for a service of Choral Evensong at **St Hugh's Church, in the Parish of the Transfiguration, Market Harborough** (Granville St, Market Harborough, LE16 9HF).

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



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.

