

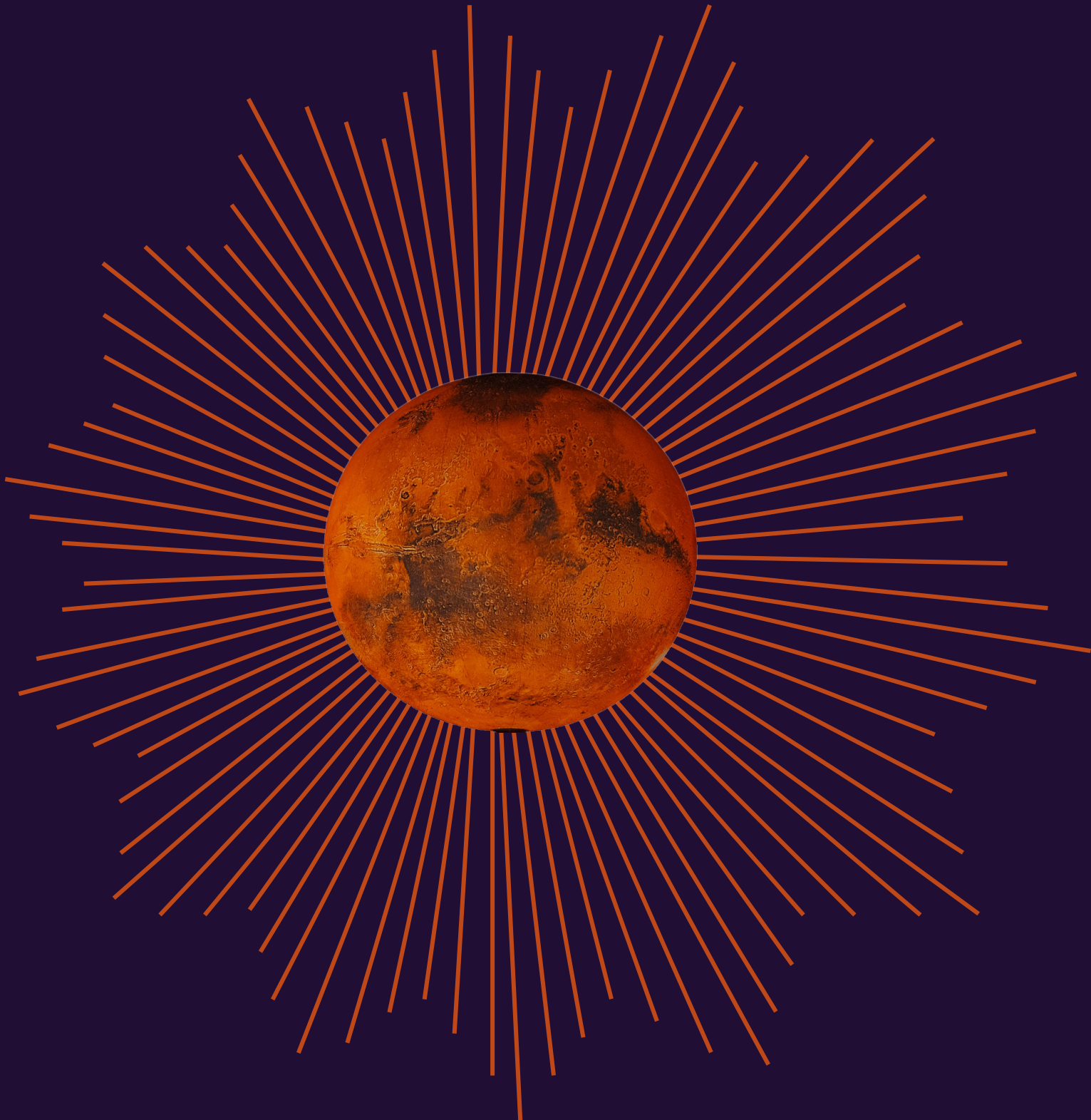
Cathedral in Touch

A Newsletter for our Community

23 Feb 2025 | 2nd Sunday before Lent



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



ABC

I expect you, like me, are being asked about the process for appointing the next Archbishop of Canterbury, and how the process works. This week the public consultation about the appointment opened inviting us all to share our thoughts on what qualities, values, and vision the future Archbishop should embody. I thought therefore, to explain a little about it all.

The Role

The Archbishop of Canterbury is the 'Primate of All England' (the 'first bishop' of England), the metropolitan archbishop of the ecclesiastical province of Canterbury which covers the southern two-thirds of England, and the bishop of the [Diocese of Canterbury](#). While no one is recognised as head of all the churches that constitute the [Anglican Communion](#), the Archbishop of Canterbury is regarded as its titular leader – the first among equals – and exercises considerable spiritual authority beyond the province of Canterbury. The Archbishop of Canterbury presides over the [Lambeth Conferences](#), the 10 yearly meeting of the bishops of the Anglican Communion, and is president of the [Anglican Consultative Council](#).

The Process

Unlike a secular recruitment process, no one applies to be the Archbishop of Canterbury. Following a full and open public consultation, candidates are invited into a months-long process of prayerful discernment. This spiritual approach ensures the nomination is about discernment under God, anticipating his provision and

recognising his anointing of a particular person to give leadership.

The selection process unfolds over several months and involves multiple stages to ensure the needs of the Diocese of Canterbury, the Church of England, and the global Anglican Communion are met.

This process is led by the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC), 17–20 people representing the Church of England and Anglican Communion. Their role is to prayerfully discern whom God may be calling to this vital ministry and to nominate a chosen candidate. The chosen individual must secure the support of at least two-thirds of voting members. The CNC will meet in May, July, and September.

The name is passed to the Prime Minister who submits the name to the King for final approval.

Defining what is needed

A broad extensive public consultation is undertaken to gather input to inform the CNC's consideration of the needs of the mission of the Church of England and the wider Anglican Communion. This public consultation runs alongside consultation with key stakeholders from in and around the Church. The consultation is live now and closes on 28 March and you are invited to offer your views online Complete the [online consultation form](#) or by post to Canon Stephen Knott, The Archbishops' Secretary for Appointments, Canterbury Crown Nominations Commission (CNC), Lambeth Palace, London, SE1 7JU.

The themes that emerge through this consultation will sit alongside the 'Statement of Needs' produced by the Diocese of Canterbury, as well as other information provided by the National Church and Anglican Communion. This information will inform the Canterbury Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) of the needs of the mission of the Church of England and the wider Anglican Communion.

Our part

We can offer our views and encourage others to do the same by taking part in the consultation by 28 March. This includes suggesting names of people we think are suitable. We can also pray for all those involved in this discernment.

*Heavenly Father,
shepherd of your Church,
send us a faithful pastor
to lead with wisdom, courage, and love,
proclaiming your Gospel,
celebrating the sacraments,
and guiding your people in unity and truth.
Strengthen your Church, we pray,
and direct us in your ways;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

The Very Revd 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** Mars: War & Peace

 - 11** Lent & Easter 2025

 - 14** Richard III Anniversary Events

 - 16** Prayer Thoughts

 - 18** Donating / Safeguarding

News & Updates

One Roof Leicester looking for Gardening Volunteers

One Roof Leicester (a charity providing accommodation and supporting homeless and vulnerably-housed people in Leicester) is currently looking to fill a regular volunteering role, and are

in search of three or four new gardening volunteers to help their existing gardening volunteer team look after the gardens in ORL Homes during the spring and summer months.

A role description can be provided. If you, or someone you know, is interested, please contact karyn@oneroof.org.uk for more information.



Lunchtime Recitals

Spring Season 2025

12.30pm | Free admission, donations encouraged

Join us at the start of your week for lunchtime recitals performed by musicians from the city, county, and beyond

Monday 24 February

Christopher White Violin **Melanie Reinhard** Piano

Monday 10 March

Philharmonia Fellow

Monday 24 March

Radcliffe on Trent Male Voice Choir



The week

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

MONDAY 24 FEBRUARY

- 8.30am Morning Eucharist
- 12.30pm Lunchtime Recital: Violin and Piano
- 5.30pm Choral Evensong
- 6.30pm Vigil of Prayers for Peace in Ukraine

TUESDAY 25 FEBRUARY

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

WEDNESDAY 26 FEBRUARY

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

THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY

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

FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY

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

SATURDAY 1 MARCH

- 9.30am Morning Prayer
- 5.30pm Evening Prayer

SUNDAY 2 MARCH

SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

- 10.30am Cathedral Eucharist (doors open 10.00am)
with Bring and Share Lunch
- 2.00pm Memorial Concert for Charles Paterson
- The Cathedral is closed from 1.30–3.00pm*
- 3.30pm Choral Evensong



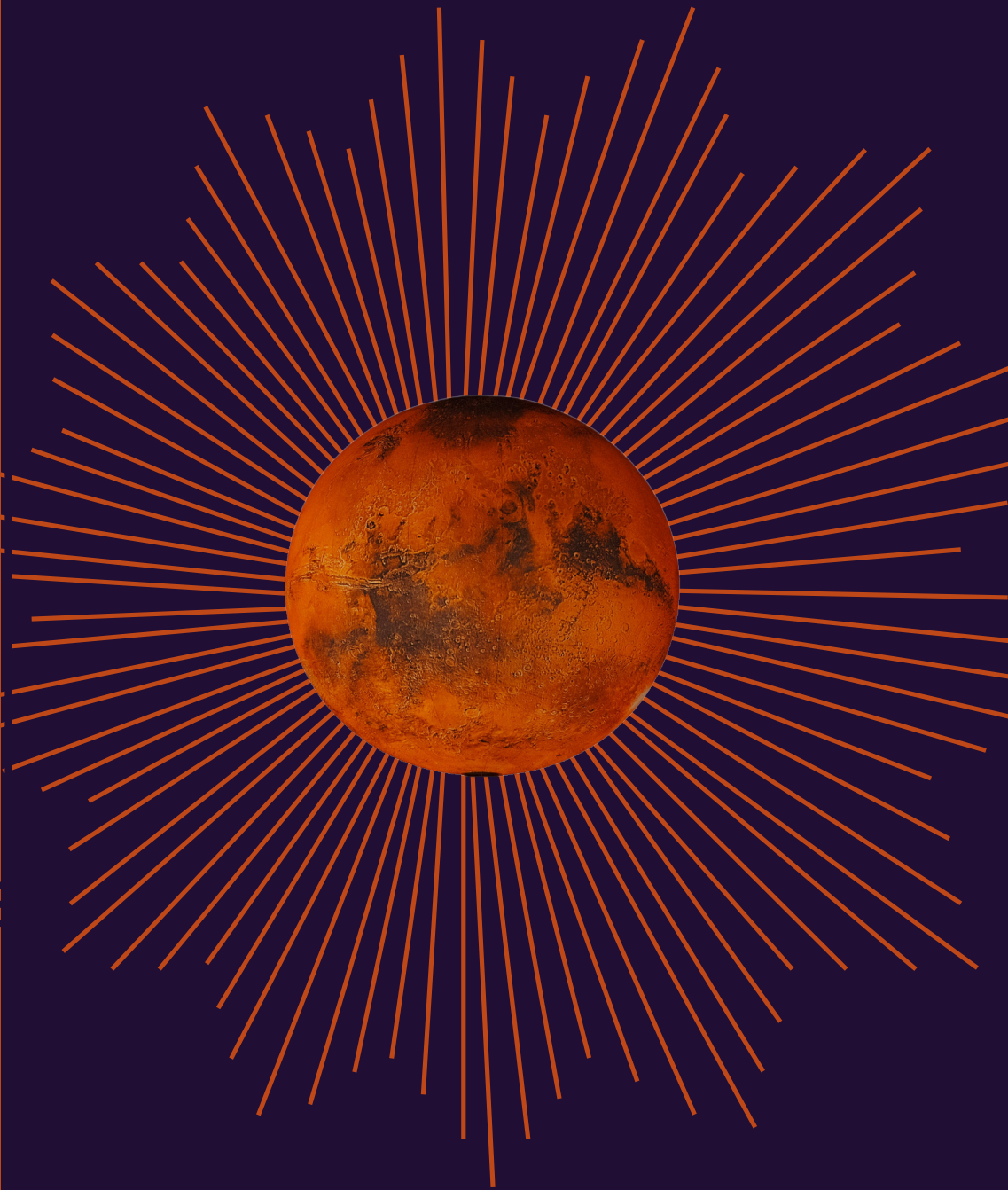
Luke Jerram

MARS

WAR AND PEACE

Following *The Museum of the Moon* and *Gaia*, Luke Jerram's *Mars* is coming to Leicester Cathedral

Find out more on our website here



**16 May -
8 June**

Wonder at the Red Planet as Luke Jerram's spectacular seven metre sculpture of Mars comes to Leicester Cathedral for the first time

Mars was named by the ancient Romans for their god of war because its reddish colour was reminiscent of blood – the artwork features detailed NASA imagery of the Martian surface and is on rotation, in the style of his other astronomical artworks of the Moon and Gaia.

A soundscape by award winning composer Dan Jones features the sounds of seas, deserts, and NASA missions, as well as distant bombing and people marching, as if to war.

Plan your visit during Cathedral opening hours to explore the installation. No booking is required to view it during the day. Entry is by voluntary donation, with a suggested donation of £8 per person to help support future events and installations like this.

Join us after hours for a unique programme of events that contemplate not just celestial beauty and the wonder of space, but also highlight injustice and the effects of war.



Friday 16 May | 8.00–10.00pm (doors 8.00pm)

The Launch to Mars

Be the first to see the amazing installation in the evening whilst enjoying a bespoke cocktail made for the occasion by the team at 33 Cank Street in Leicester. Don't miss this opportunity to see Luke Jerram's stunning artwork come to life as part of this unique launch experience.

It's the first chance to see *Mars* at night!

Tickets £15 (to include one bespoke cocktail made just for the occasion – alcoholic and non-alcoholic options) from Eventbrite.



Saturday 17 May | 7.30pm (doors 7.00pm)

London Concertante: Four Seasons & The Lark Ascending by Candlelight

The acclaimed ensemble return with their sell-out performance of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* and Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending* performed with candlelight.

Tickets from £22.38 on londonconcertante.com.



Tuesday 20 May | 7.00pm (doors 6.30pm)

God of War meets Prince of Peace

Why is *Mars* in the Cathedral? On Tuesday 20 May, join our Canon Theologian, Revd Dr Tom Wilson, and a variety of Christian voices to think theologically about what Jesus, Prince of Peace, would say to all that Mars symbolises, whether war, human hubris in space exploration, or overindulgence in chocolate.

Free event – please book on Eventbrite to reserve your space.



Wednesday 21 May | 7.00–9.00pm (doors 7.00pm)

Mindful under Mars

Experience the wonder of Mars with a selection of mindful activities to leave you with a sense of peace and reflection. Refreshments available to purchase.

Tickets £8 on Eventbrite.



Friday 23 May | 6.30pm (doors 6.15pm) & 8.30pm (8.15pm)

Ceilidh under Mars

Celebrate the start of half term with us at our Ceilidh under Mars. Enjoy *Mars* in a completely unique way with live music, drinks and a friendly caller to guide you through the group dances.

The ceilidh sessions will last for 90 minutes and are the perfect spring evening activity whether you're a complete beginner or an experienced Ceilidh dancer.

Tickets from £8 on Eventbrite.



WATER

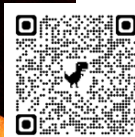


Tuesday 3 June | 7.00pm (doors 6.30pm)

The Sikh Contribution to the World Wars: A Story of Valour and Sacrifice

Join us for an enlightening and inspiring lecture by renowned historian Gurinder Singh Mann. Known for his extensive research on Sikh history and heritage, Mann will shed light on the extraordinary contributions of the Sikhs during the First and Second World Wars. A must-attend for history enthusiasts, students, and anyone interested in the legacy of the Sikh community's global contributions.

Tickets from £6 on Eventbrite.



Thursday 5 June | from 6.30pm

The Cathedral Annual Dinner

A celebratory evening featuring a drinks reception with canapés, sumptuous three-course meal, live music, auction, and talk – this year taking place under *Mars*. In support of the Cathedral's fundraising, 2025 marks the first dinner since 2019 to make full use of the Cathedral spaces and Gardens (weather permitting!).

For more information and tickets please contact

David.Pepworth@LeicesterCofE.org or call 0116 261 5344.

Family Fun under Mars

Soft Play under Mars

Saturday 24 May | 10.00am–2.00pm

Experience the Cathedral like never before when the Nave will be transformed into a large soft play area underneath the gigantic planet!

FREE – no need to book, just drop in! All children need to be accompanied by an adult and supervised at all times.

May Half-Term

Tue 27 May | 1.30–3.30pm & Thurs 29 May | 10.00am–12.00pm

Enjoy some special planet themed crafts to celebrate Luke Jerram's magnificent *Mars*.

FREE – no need to book, just drop in! All children need to be accompanied by an adult and supervised at all times.

Family Fun under Mars

Mon 26 & Wed 28 May | 4.30–7.30pm (doors 4.30pm)

See *Mars* and experience the Cathedral after hours – bring the family and join us for space-themed crafts and a special activity trail. Refreshments will be available to purchase. Tickets on Eventbrite.





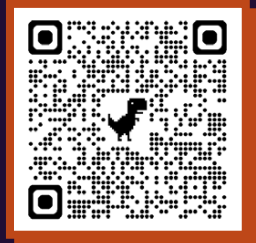
The Queen's Six Mapping the Stars

Friday 30 May |
7.30pm (Doors 7.00pm)

The internationally acclaimed *a cappella* group, based at Windsor Castle, perform under *Mars* as part of their 2025 tour *Mapping the Stars*.

Known for their breathtaking harmonies, they sing a diverse repertoire, from Renaissance polyphony to contemporary pop.

Tickets from £15 on [Eventbrite](#).



As You Like It

Friday 6 June | **7.30pm**
(Doors 7.00pm)

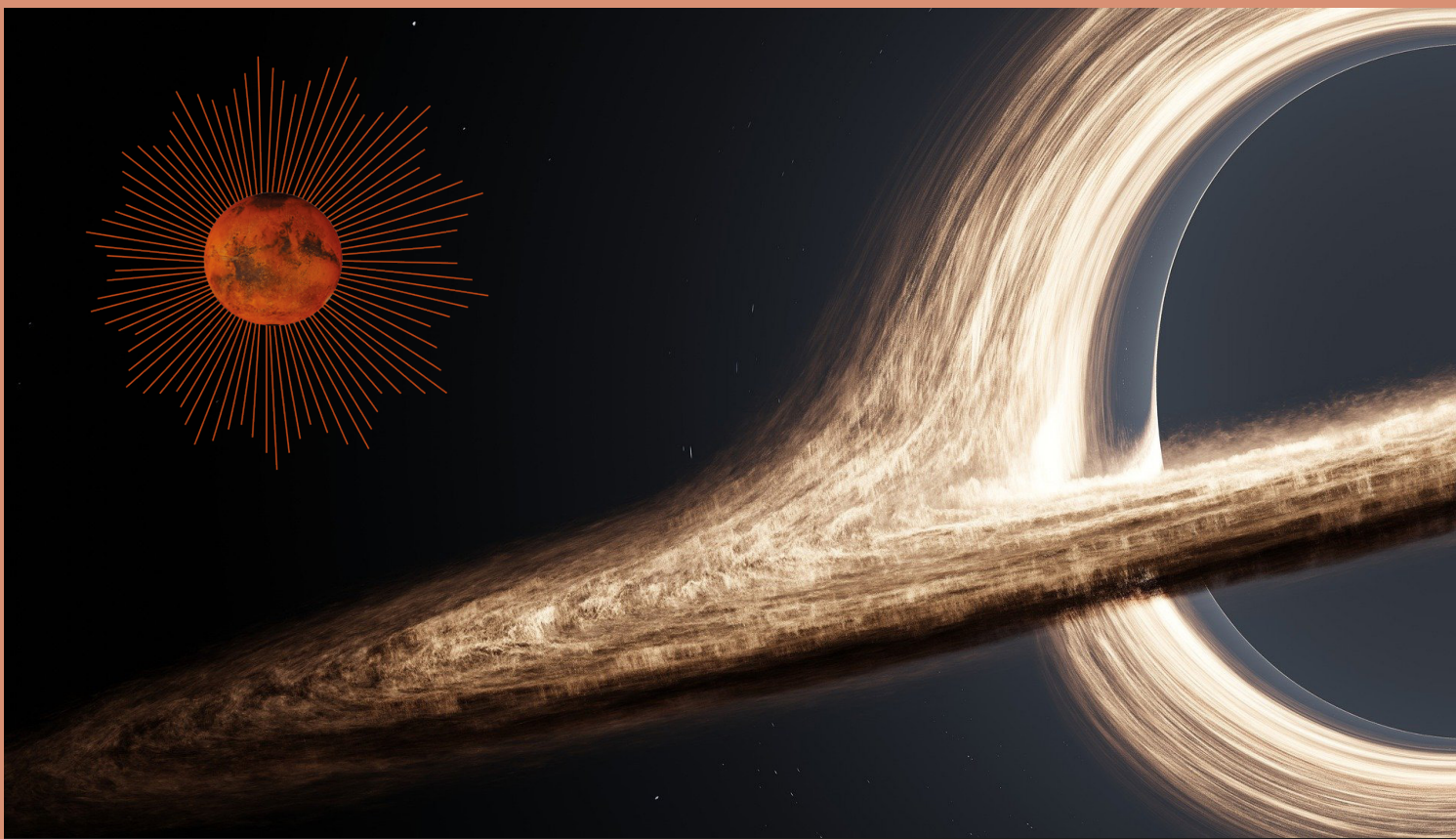
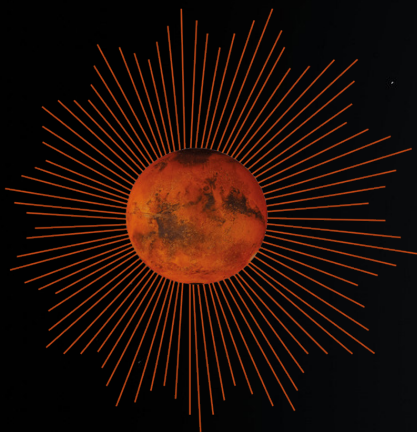
“All the world's a stage...”

The Festival Players perform Shakespeare's entrancing rom-com. Rosalind, the daughter of a Duke, is banished from court. Along with her cousin Celia, she escapes to the Forest of Arden and disguises herself as a man and teases Orlando, who does not recognise her as the girl he loved at a distance.

Meanwhile, the pastoral world of the Forest is inhabited with a colourful array of folk, all looking for love, in this delightful tale full of comedy and music.

Tickets from £14 on [Eventbrite](#).





Hans Zimmer's

INTERSTELLAR

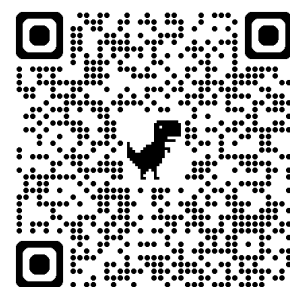
Saturday 7 June | 7.30pm (Doors 6.15pm)

Mark the final night of *Mars* with a special concert by organist **Roger Sayer**, returning to Leicester with his sell-out performance bringing the Oscar-nominated *Interstellar* suite to life on the Cathedral Organ.

Hear highlights from the film's iconic score, alongside intergalactic favourites from *A Space Odyssey* and Holst's *The Planets*, all while experiencing the majesty of Luke Jerram's *Mars* installation.

Sayer will take the audience on a journey through time and space, including a discussion and Q+A about his experience working with Christopher Nolan and Hans Zimmer.

Tickets from £15 on **Eventbrite**.





What's On

Lent & Easter

March–June 2025



**The Very Revd
Karen Rooms**
Dean of Leicester

The Lent and Easter seasons offer spaces for engagement with the rich heritage of our Christian faith.

For nearly two millennia Christians have observed the six weeks of Lent to prepare for Easter. It is a time of soul searching, coming to terms with the reality of who we are, trying different ways of praying (and fasting), and deepening our relationship with God.

This year our Lent will focus on an installation of **Stations of the Cross** by artist Mark Cazalet, painted on breadboards and everyday kitchen surfaces and accompanied by poems and questions for reflection from Richard Leaf. Do come and see them. As a community, we will live the **Holy Week** last days of Jesus and then celebrate the joy of **Easter** in music, words,

and powerful symbols at the heart of our faith. Come to be part of that story this year.

We are also looking forward to opening our new **Heritage & Learning Centre** building after Easter. We are so very grateful to our donors and friends for years of faithful and generous support.

Come to see our renewed and newly **revealed** spaces. Come to explore our **Leicester heritage** and to mark the tenth anniversary of the reinterment of **King Richard III**. Come to experience Luke Jerram's giant **Mars** suspended in the Cathedral nave. Come to be mindful, playful, crafty, and curious.

There is something here for everyone. We look forward to welcoming you.

Ash Wednesday 5 March

Lunchtime Eucharist | 12.30pm

Said in traditional language, with ashing, join us to mark the start of Lent in this said service of Communion. The service will last approx. one hour.

Choral Eucharist | 7.00pm

With choral music, hymn singing, and ashing, join us to mark the start of Lent in this sung service of Communion.

What is Ash Wednesday?

The first day of Lent, it starts a season of penitence, fasting, and prayer in which the Christian church prepares for the celebration of Christ's death and resurrection in Holy Week and Easter. During the services, you will be invited to receive the sign of the cross in ash on your forehead as a symbol of penitence.

Find out
about
all our
special
services
and
events
on our
website!





Exhibition

Stations of the Cross

5 March – 21 April 2025

Visit during Cathedral opening hours

The Stations of the Cross are an ever-evolving form of devotion and contemplation in the Christian tradition. Originating in Jerusalem, as Pilgrims arrived wanting to follow Jesus' path from Pilate's house to Calvary, the practice was brought home to those unable to visit the Holy Land.

Different Christian traditions have included different stations; scriptural, imaginative or educational, all designed to bring us closer to the person of Jesus, the path he trod, the effect this wrought on those closest to him and on those he encountered for the first/only time.

Artist Mark Cazalet has painted images on Bread boards (Jesus being the Bread of Life) in dialogue with devotional poems and prompts from Richard Leaf, for Pilgrims treading the path themselves.



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 – 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.

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](https://www.eventbrite.com)!

NOTTINGHAM SHAKESPEARE COMPANY



THE TRAGEDY OF **MACBETH**

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

£20/£18

NOTTINGHAMSHAKESPEARE.CO.UK

NSC



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](#).



Ogemdi
Chinwendu
Anika

The Seal of the Holy Spirit



Prayer Thoughts

Dear Friends,

In Ephesians 1.13, we are reminded of a profound truth: *“When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.”*

What does it mean to be sealed with the Holy Spirit?

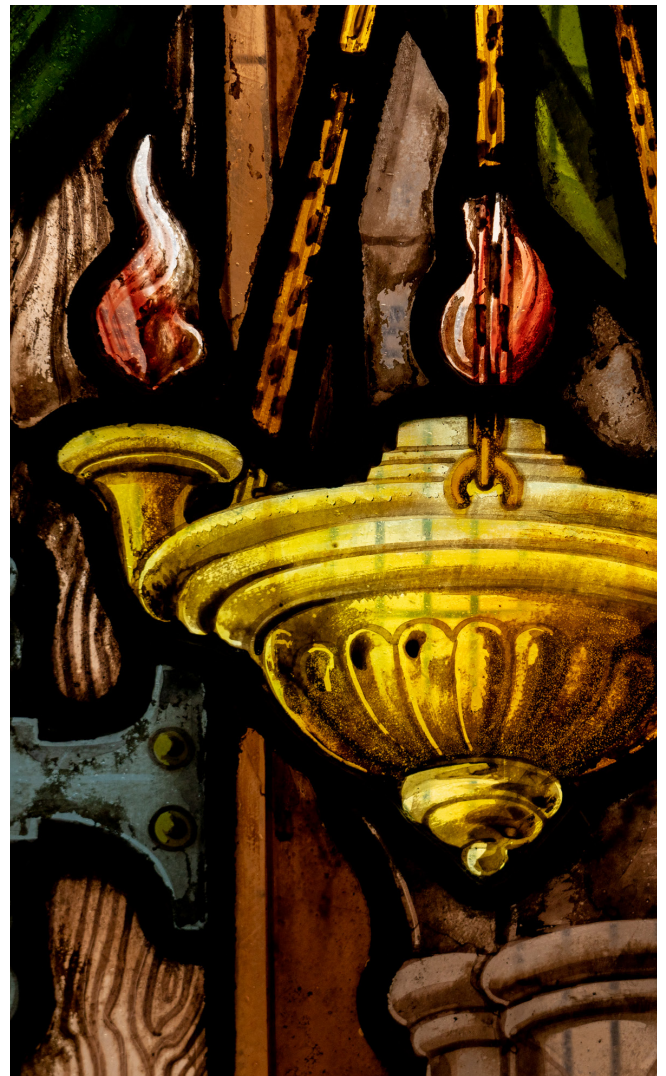
A seal is a mark of identity and ownership. In ancient times, a seal was used to authenticate letters, contracts, or possessions. When we are sealed with the Holy Spirit, it is God’s way of saying, *“You are Mine.”* This seal not only signifies assurance but also serves as a powerful reminder of the Spirit’s ongoing role in our sanctification.

Sanctification — the process of being set apart and transformed into Christ’s likeness — is a collaborative work between the Holy Spirit and us. Galatians 5.22–23 highlights the evidence of this transformation: *“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”* These fruits grow in our lives as we yield to the Spirit’s guidance.

Meaning that, this transformation isn’t

automatic. While the Holy Spirit empowers us, we must actively choose to walk by the Spirit. As Galatians 5.16–17 reminds us, *“Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh.”*

Even with the Spirit living within us, our sinful nature (“the flesh”) still battles against the Spirit’s work. The fruits of the Spirit develop only when we willingly surrender and align our lives with God’s will. Without surrender, we risk





producing the "acts of the flesh" described in Galatians 5.19–21 — selfishness, anger, envy, impurity, and other behaviours contrary to the Spirit's nature.

Have you paused to examine the fruit of your life lately? Do your actions and thoughts reflect the fruits of the Spirit, or do they reveal something else?

Take a moment to honestly evaluate your heart and actions:

- Are you patient when inconvenienced?
- Do you show kindness to those who test your limits?
- Are your thoughts filled with love and peace, or clouded by bitterness or pride?

If you find areas where the "fruit of the flesh" still lingers, remember that the Holy Spirit is ready to help. Surrendering these areas to him may not be easy, but it is freeing. As you invite the Spirit to work within you, his transformative power will cultivate fruit that glorifies God and impacts others.

Let us live as people marked by the Holy Spirit, bearing fruit that reflects his work in our lives and pointing others to his love.

Prayer Pointers

1. Thank God for sealing you with the Holy Spirit and for his transformative power in your life.
2. Ask the Spirit to reveal any "fleshy fruits" evident in your thoughts or actions.
3. Surrender those areas to the Spirit's work, asking him to cultivate love, joy, peace, and other fruits in your life.
4. Pray for humility and a willingness to cooperate with the Spirit's guidance daily.

Blessings.

PRAYER DIARY

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

Sunday 23 February
Bishops' Lent Appeal Charity
2025: The Leprosy Mission

Monday 24 February
Our partner Diocese of Wyoming

Tuesday 25 February
Knighton (St Mary Magdalen
and St Guthlac)

Wednesday 26 February
St Mary de Castro, Leicester

Thursday 27 February
George Herbert, priest, 1633

Friday 28 February
St Peterm Braunstone Park

Saturday 1 March
David, bishop, patron of Wales,
c.601

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.

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.

