

Cathedral in Touch

A Newsletter for our Community

26 Jan 2025 | 3rd Sunday of Epiphany



Leicester Cathedral
A beating heart for City and County



Unintended consequences

This month has seen me diving ever more deeply into issues around homelessness. Rebecca Pawley, the Homelessness Charter Project Worker, has moved on to another organisation, so before the Charter Management makes decisions about future directions, I've been buzzing around both getting under the surface and pushing things along.

Whichever issue I'm running with – and while there are issues very specific to each topic – there are some common threads which lead me to muse on how systems work in our society. Then, as a Christian, and in particular with Sunday's Gospel in mind – Jesus quoting Isaiah in the synagogue in Nazareth *'the Spirit of the Lord... has appointed me to bring good news to the poor... release to the captives... recovery of sight to the blind... let the oppressed go free'*. I have to ask myself how what I am noticing sits with that vision of God's now and future Kingdom.

One of the common threads I notice is the invisibility of marginalised people. We have seen this politically, where people feel disenfranchised or not heard, either because of their circumstance or lifestyle or just because they live a world away from the centre of power. I notice this invisibility in the way systems work – for example, no address can result in no access to mainstream support just at the point you need it most.

Another common thread I'm witnessing are unintended consequences. So, for

example, there is relief if a prisoner released from jail has a home to go to – but what are the circumstances of that home and the impact of his returning on those who already live there. Sensible procedures don't always result in good outcomes for all concerned.

And then there's the lack of joined-up-ness. Don't get me started on that! You've probably all got experience here – when you are personally dealing with different arms of the NHS, for example. I have two delightful 'cuckoos' living with me at the moment – homeless grandson and his heavily pregnant partner. They really are struggling to join dots between housing and the DWP.

Christ followed that reading from Isaiah by saying *'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing'*. Yes, this is about his coming as Messiah but its also about his teaching and living out a different model of community, not only where all are included but also with mutual accountability. My examples lie far from his vision but there are things I can do to begin to fulfil that prophecy. And we can all, as individuals and within our community, play a part in giving voice to and supporting initiatives, organisations and movements which take that holistic vision seriously and break down barriers.

In all of this we need, though, to be humble in the work of co-creation with people of lived experience. So

at the Cathedral in our work of **worship, welcome, and witness** – what does it feel like to be on the receiving end? What could we do differently to avoid unintended consequences, ensure voices are heard, dots are joined, and all included?

Canon Alison Adams
Canon Pastor



CANON-IN-RESIDENCE

ONE OF the clergy always holds this phone. Do feel able to contact us if you need but please be aware we cannot receive texts.

07399 523 330

-
- 4** News and Services

 - 6** Leicester Comedy Festival

 - 7** Job Vacancies

 - 8** Final LCR Update from Simon Bentley

 - 14** Prayer Thoughts

 - 16** Donating / Safeguarding

News & Updates

Light Up Leicester returns

From 12–15 March, a spectacular mix of large-scale projection, mesmerising light and sound installations plus amazing interactive performances will transform the city centre as part of Light Up Leicester 2025.

People will also be able to enjoy a brand new digital art projection and animation that will light up Leicester Cathedral, created especially by award-winning local artists MBD. The projection, called *Cathedral*,



Culture and Crown, will feature a dazzling mix of projection, animation, immersive audio and a bespoke soundtrack, providing a moving visual feast that celebrates the city's rich history and communities. Find out more [here!](#)

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 26 JANUARY

EPIPHANY 3

10.30am Cathedral Eucharist (doors open 10.00am)
3.30pm Choral Evensong

MONDAY 27 JANUARY

8.30am Morning Eucharist
12.30pm Lunchtime Recital: Alexander Berry, Organ
5.30pm Choral Evensong

TUESDAY 28 JANUARY

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 29 JANUARY

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

THURSDAY 30 JANUARY

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

FRIDAY 31 JANUARY

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

SATURDAY 1 FEBRUARY

9.30am Morning Prayer
5.30pm Evening Prayer

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

LEICESTER COMEDY FESTIVAL

05 – 23 FEBRUARY 2025

comedy-festival.co.uk



Wednesday 5 February 2025 | 7.00pm
(doors 6.30pm)

The Bible: The Greatest Story Trevor Told

Paul Kerensa has co-written sitcoms *Not Going Out* and *Miranda*, and religiously broadcasts Radio 2's *Pause for Thought* and Radio 4's *Daily Service*.

His mate Trevor has read this good book. Greatest story ever told. Via pub jokes, tales and jukebox singalongs, he'll turn it into standup - from God calling it a day to a bit of a revelation, plus your favourite biblical gameshow, *Catchphrases*.

Tickets from £8 available from www.comedy-festival.co.uk

Saturday 8 February 2025 | 7.30pm (doors 7.00pm)

Milton Jones

The award-winning comedian whose shirt style reflects his comic style, eclectic and surreal. You may know him from *Mock the Week*, *Live at the Apollo* and, for one night only, he will be taking a break from his jam-packed tour *Ha! Milton* to bring his unique humour to Leicester Cathedral.

Chris Stokes, who has recently supported Milton on his UK tour *Milton Jones is Out There* and his previous tour *Milton Jones and the Temple of Daft*, will be supporting him again for this performance. 16+

Tickets from £15 available from www.comedy-festival.co.uk

Sunday 23 February 2025 | 8.00pm (doors 7.45pm)

Leicester Comedy Festival Closing Gala

The Festival is almost over... Join us for a spectacular finale at Leicester Cathedral, with some of the best comedians on the circuit.

Tickets from £12 available from www.comedy-festival.co.uk



Job Vacancy

Dean's Assistant

Leicester Cathedral is looking to appoint to the role of Dean's Assistant, supporting the Dean of Leicester in the organisation of her workload and diary, as well as other administrative duties included in the governance of the Cathedral.

Duties include:

- Administrative support to the Dean's Office
- Comprehensive committee support for Cathedral governance meetings
- Providing part of the connectivity across Cathedral teams and engaging with external stakeholders

Full information available on our website.

Salary: £28,000

Tenure: Full time, permanent contract

Hours: 35 hours per week

Deadline: 5.00pm, Tuesday 28 January 2025

**LAST
CHANCE!**

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**



LCR Update

Building works approaching completion

As the scaffolding comes down, the new **Heritage & Learning Centre** (HLC) is slowly emerging. The external stonework façade, 'veil' of moulded glazed terracotta fins, and copper roof parapet look splendid.

Within the HLC, work is focused on the internal finishes – the sweet chestnut panelling in the first floor **Learning Space** works beautifully and this also features on the ground floor and stairwell.

Inside the Cathedral the new internal **south lobby** is almost complete. This will provide a better, more welcoming visitor entrance through the Vaughan Porch, along with vital weatherproofing during cold and windy weather.

With the building works approaching completion my role at the Cathedral will come to an end shortly, so this will be my final update.

Thank you for your interest in *Leicester Cathedral Revealed* and your support for the project. I'm sure, like me, you are looking forward to the Cathedral fully re-opening in the spring.

It's been a long road with plenty of challenges along the way, but I'm sure it will be well worth the wait and all the hard work!

Leicester Cathedral Revealed has repaired and restored the Cathedral building, securing the fabric for the long term and the new Heritage & Learning Centre will provide exciting and much needed new spaces and facilities.

The Cathedral will be renewed so it can be its very best as a place of worship, heritage, pilgrimage, hospitality, learning, sanctuary and celebration.

All good wishes for the future,
Simon

Simon Bentley
Project Director
simon.bentley@leicestercofe.org





Anti-clockwise from top-left:
Heritage & Learning Centre;
The Learning Space inside the HLC;
The South Lobby;
A WC inside the HLC



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.



Ogemdi
Chinwendu Anika

New life from old stumps

Prayer Thoughts



Dear Friends,

If you've ever walked through a garden, forest, or park, you may have come across a tree stump – a silent reminder of what once was. Its trunk, branches, and leaves are long gone, and all that remains is a scarred remnant. To the casual observer, it might seem lifeless, forgotten, and useless. And yet, sometimes – if you look closely – you see a tender green shoot emerging, defying expectations and breathing life into what seemed dead.

Isaiah 11.1 offers us this beautiful image: *"Out of the stump of David's family will grow a shoot. Yes, a new branch bearing fruit from the old root."* The prophet Isaiah spoke this at a time when Israel felt like a felled tree – cut

down, broken, and lifeless. There was loss, there was failure, and there was despair. And yet, Isaiah delivered hope: from the barren stump would come something new and unexpected. Not a mere sprout, but a branch – full of promise, strong enough to bear fruit.

I wonder how many of us feel like those stumps today. Perhaps there's an area of your life where you've been cut down – dreams that didn't materialize, relationships that feel broken, or seasons where everything seemed to stop growing. Sometimes, when we look at our circumstances, it feels like the story is over, like there's no room left for life or hope.

But the message of Isaiah, and

indeed the promise of God, reminds us otherwise. God specializes in bringing life where there seems to be none. He can cause growth in the most unlikely of places. What feels like an ending to us may just be the beginning of something new and beautiful.

Consider the stumps in your own life – the places that feel barren, abandoned, or hopeless. What would it look like to trust that God can bring a new shoot of life there? That even now, hidden beneath the surface, the roots are still holding strong, and God is preparing something new to break through?

In Jesus, we see the ultimate fulfilment of Isaiah's words. He is the shoot from David's line, the branch that bears fruit for all of creation. He came into a broken and barren world to bring life and hope, and He continues to do so today.

If God can bring new life from a seemingly dead stump, what might He be growing in you during this season of waiting? The next time you see a stump, let it remind you: God is still at work.

Prayer Pointers

1. Pray for areas in your life where you feel stuck or hopeless. Ask God to give you eyes to see where new life might be breaking through.
2. Pray for patience as you wait on God's timing. Waiting, though difficult, can be fertile ground for growth.
3. Pray for those around you who are struggling to see hope. May they be reminded of God's power to bring life where there seems to be none.

Blessings.



PRAYER DIARY

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

Sunday 26 January

International Day of Education

Monday 27 January

Our partner Diocese of Wyoming

Tuesday 28 January

Thomas Aquinas, priest, philosopher, teacher of the faith, 1274

Wednesday 29 January

All Saints, Scraftoft & Netherhall

Thursday 30 January

St Stephen, North Evington;
World Leprosy Day

Friday 31 January

Stocking Farm and Beaumont Leys

Saturday 1 February

Brigid, abbess, c.525

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.

