

Cathedral in Touch

A Newsletter for our Community

Sunday 31 March 2024 | Easter Day



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



Welcome



One of the most powerful orthodox icons is that of *The Anastasis*, or Resurrection, in The Chora, Istanbul.

The risen Christ stands over hell and is pulling Adam and Eve out of their graves.

Even death and decay are blessed by the powerful liberating presence of Christ.

Even here, Jesus is Lord. Because in his life and in his death he has entered into the hell of our suffering and pain and infused them with his light, his life, his love.

This icon reminds us that in rising from the dead and out of darkness, Jesus has grabbed hold of humanity – both Adam and Eve – with strong hands. He is gripping them tightly. He will not let them, or us, go. Through his resurrection Jesus catches hold of us and pulls us towards himself and towards life.

This is the good news of Easter. Christ takes on himself the darkness of our humanity and love wins. The life of God is unstoppable. Forgiveness and life are possible.

May the energy of this truth take hold of you this Easter.

Alleluia. Christ is Risen!

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

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News & Updates

Cathedral Outing 2024: Scarborough!

Our much-loved Cathedral summer outing is back, and this year's destination is Scarborough!

Join us on Saturday 24 June for sea, sand, socialising (definitely), and sun (possibly!). The cost for the coach is £25 per adult and £15 per child; we also have a family rate of £50 for up to two adults and three children.

Sign up using the sheet by the refreshment area after the 10.30am Easter Sunday service on 31 March.

For more information, please email Cathedral@LeicesterCofE.org



Confirmations

Are you interested in being confirmed? A Service of Confirmation (in which a person confirms the promises made when they were baptized) will be held on Sunday 19 May, led by Bishop Saju.

We will be running a short course prior to this service to help prepare those who will be confirmed.

This will take place at St Martins House on Sunday lunchtimes (starting Sunday 14 April), from 12.00–1.00pm, led by Canon Emma, Jude (Discipleship Officer), and other members of our Cathedral community.

It will be a great opportunity to reflect together on our faith

and what we believe as we prepare to take this significant step in our journeys of faith.

If you are interested in being confirmed, please contact Jude (jude.taylor@leicestercofe.org) by Friday 12 April.

Services this week

SUNDAY 31 MARCH

EASTER DAY

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

MONDAY 1 APRIL

Cathedral open from 10.00am–4.30pm.

Morning and Evening Prayer will be said privately.

TUESDAY 2 APRIL

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

WEDNESDAY 3 APRIL

Stations of the Resurrection exhibition opens

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

THURSDAY 4 APRIL

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

FRIDAY 5 APRIL

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

SATURDAY 6 APRIL

- 9.30am Morning Prayer
- 5.30pm Evening Prayer

SUNDAY 7 APRIL

EASTER 2

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

MONDAY 8 APRIL

THE ANNUNCIATION

- 8.30am Morning Eucharist
- 5.30pm Evening Prayer



Create A Polish Easter Basket

All Are Welcome!
(FREE EVENT)

Saturday 30
March
St. Nicholas
Church

Workshop Starts:
2pm and 3pm

Egg Basket
Blessing:
2:45 and 3:45

Holy Week & Easter 2024

What's On

Easter Day Sunday 31 March

Easter Day Eucharist | 10.30am

Join us as we celebrate the new life of Easter with the Bishop of Loughborough.

Easter Choral Evensong | 3.30pm

With music sung by the Cathedral Choir.

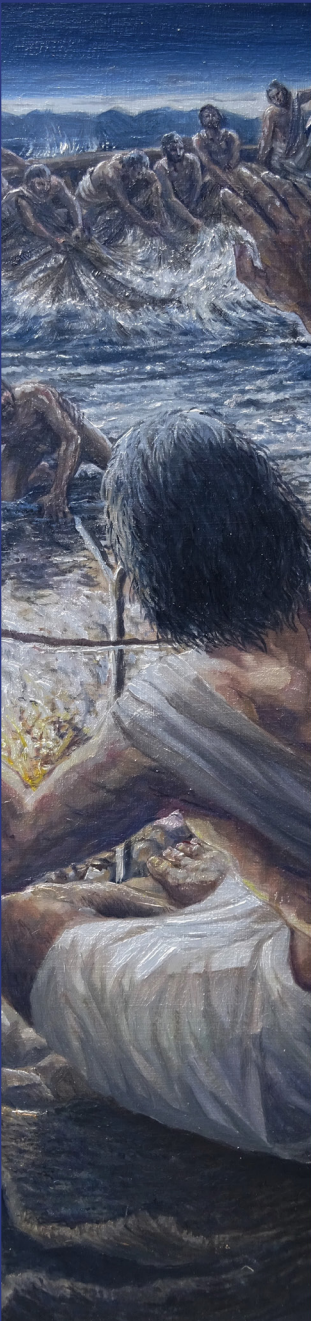
Sunrise Easter Breakfast

with Easter fire and hymns
drop in from 6 - 10am
St Nicholas Church, Leicester



Happy Easter!





Iain McKillop's **Stations of the Resurrection**

Hope beyond tragedy: an exhibition of perspectives on Christ's resurrection

3 April – 20 May

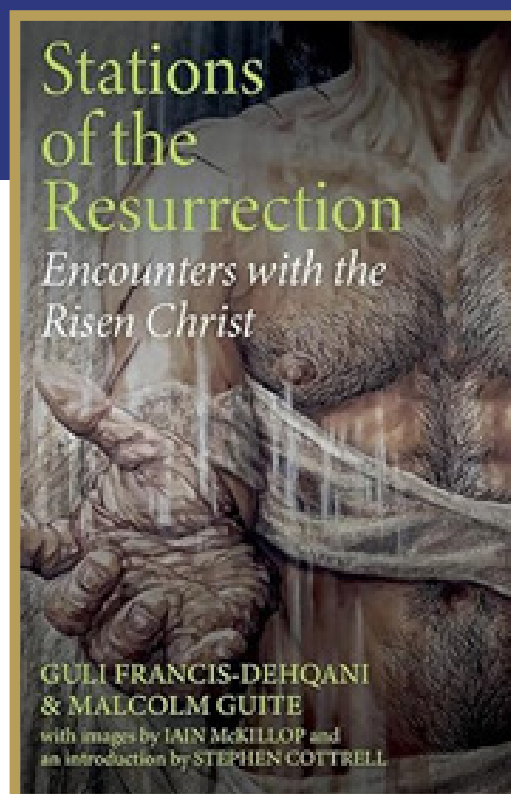
Resurrection Stations explore the accounts of witnesses who were convinced of Jesus' return to life. McKillop, the acclaimed British painter and art-historian, hopes to make us consider the evidence of the Gospel accounts, the implications of Jesus' resurrection, and what aspects might convince us to trust in God and Christ's teachings today.

Free entry

The set of over 20 paintings are accompanied by the book ***Stations of the Resurrection: Encounters with the Risen Christ***, offering reflections on each of these episodes from the bestselling poet Malcolm Guite and the much-admired writer and bishop, Guli Francis-Dehqani.

An ideal take away to remember your visit, the book is available from both the Cathedral shop outlet and Christian Resources Leicester.

**Only £11.99 to visitors of the
Cathedral (RRP £13.99)**



ULAS blog

The story is in the stratigraphic sequence



The ULAS team cleaning skeletons from the Cathedral in preparation for analysis. Image: ULAS

In this blog, excavation director Mathew Morris, brings us up to date with the archaeological assessment work.

Saying it's been a wet winter is an understatement! It's been terrible for archaeological excavations, with flooded sites, high water tables and mud, glorious mud! For *Leicester Uncovered*, this has been a bit of a blessing, with staff, rained off other projects, devoting a considerable amount of their winter cleaning the skeletons from the Cathedral. They have done an amazing job and now 92% of the assemblage is ready for analysis (with the remaining skeletons expected to be finished in the forthcoming weeks).

The assessment of the materials recovered from the Cathedral excavation is progressing rapidly and over the next few months we will have blogs from our different specialists, each taking a more detailed look at their areas of work. This assessment needs to establish the significance of the material being looked at. It is, therefore, important to be able to identify where it all fits in the site's stratigraphic sequence (the chronological order of the archaeology). This relies on the accuracy of the on-site recording and

the ability to reconstruct the site digitally after the excavation has finished.

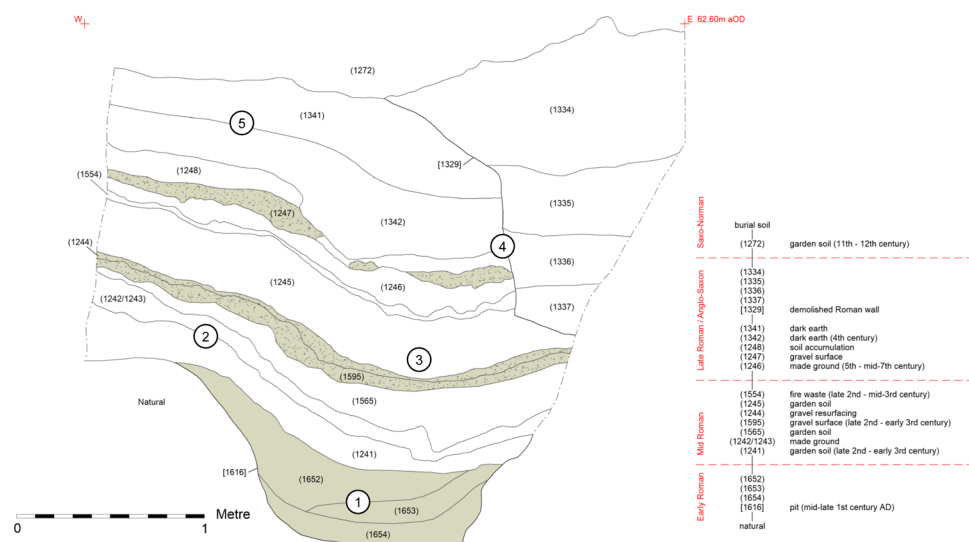
Altogether, 1,791 unique features and layers were recorded during the excavation (in addition to the 1,237 skeletons). Each of these has a context sheet, the written record providing the description and interpretation of the feature, its relationship with surrounding contexts, what finds were recovered from it and references to other records. Each context also has photographs and drawings and/or a 3D model (created using structure-from-motion photogrammetry), as well as survey co-ordinates tying it into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Each skeleton has a similar set of records too. This is a lot of data to process and a database is a key first step in the post-excavation process, giving everyone access to the cross-referenced records.

From here we can start digitally rebuilding the site. Central to this is constructing a Harris Matrix, a diagram showing the temporal succession of the

contexts (from oldest at the bottom to youngest at the top) and thus the sequence of deposition, construction, grave digging and other activities on the site. As more data is fed back from the specialists, this diagram can be fine-tuned and divided into chronological phases, breaking up the data into smaller, more manageable chunks from which the story of the site can be revealed.

Take the photograph and drawing, right. They show a cross-section through the different layers beneath the burial soil in one area of the site, down to the natural (geological) ground level; the diagram to the right of the drawing is its Harris Matrix.

This shows an incredible sequence of archaeology spanning some 1,100 years from the latter half of the 1st century AD through to the early 12th century.



1. At the bottom of the sequence is a pit [1616]. This was dug into the natural ground during the early Roman period (sometime in the mid-late 1st century AD), probably to quarry the sand and gravel for construction material. Over time it has weathered and filled in.
2. Overlying the pit is a succession of garden soils interleaved with gravelled yard surfaces and other evidence of nearby habitation. These date from the later 2nd century through to the 4th century and show that this area remained an external space throughout

A photograph and drawing of a cross-section through the pre-burial archaeology at Leicester Cathedral, showing the stratigraphic sequence of layers from the 1st century AD through to the early 12th century. Images: ULAS

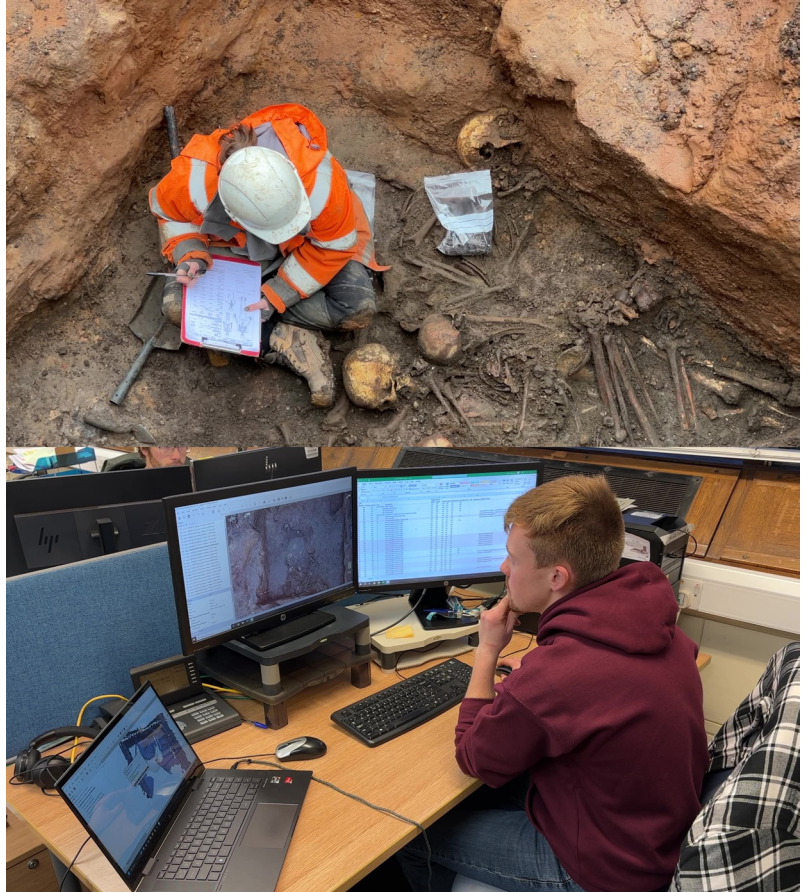
- the Roman period, sometimes under cultivation and at other times in use as a gravelled yard area.
3. The early pit has created a lot of problems throughout the Roman period, causing subsidence in the overlying layers.
4. The higher gravel surface (1247) appears to be contemporary with a

stone wall [1329], probably a boundary wall between properties. At a later date, sometime after the Roman period, the wall was demolished and all of its stonework removed. This is typical of Roman buildings in Leicester, which became a good source of recycled building material in the medieval period. It is even possible that this wall was demolished to make way for St Martin's Church, or recycled to build the original church building.

5. From the 4th century onwards, thick layers of soil continued to form across the area. It is unclear at the minute whether these soils represent habitation, cultivation or abandonment of the area but as we gather more data this will become clearer. Finally, the area was incorporated into the church's burial ground in the early 12th century. It remained part of the burial ground until, in 1939, the Old Song School was built on the site.

This is just a quick interpretation of one drawing, of many, but already we can see a story of changing land use over two millennia starting to emerge, and we have a framework in which we can place all our other evidence, be it pottery, animal bone, environmental remains or more unique artefacts like coins, brooches and hair pins. This is also why we are so careful to make detailed records of the archaeology as we dig it. Excavation is inherently destructive and at the end of the process the paperwork and the finds are the only material record of what was once there.

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



From paperwork in the field to processing 3D models in the office, accurate and detailed records are crucial for the success of the project. Image: ULAS



The Leicester Cathedral Revealed project has been made possible thanks to the National Lottery Heritage Fund and National Lottery players.



Ogemdi
Chinwendu
Anika

The Price of Redemption

Prayer Thoughts



Dear Friends,

As we journey through this Holy Week, I find myself reflecting on the profound truth of Christ's sacrificial death and glorious resurrection – a truth that lies at the heart of our Christian faith. It is a truth that speaks to the depths of our souls, offering redemption and reconciliation with our Heavenly Father.

Recently, I had a conversation with a friend where I attempted to explain the concept of atonement and the significance of Easter. However, I realized that my explanations were unclear, leaving confusion in their wake. This prompted me to prayerfully seek understanding and clarity, as admonished in 2 Timothy 2.15, so that I may effectively share the message of Christ's love and redemption with others.

In my pursuit of clarity, I came across a profound explanation of atonement – a preacher succinctly described how all of humanity, including ourselves, had incurred a debt to God by breaking his laws – a debt that we were utterly incapable of paying. Yet, in his infinite mercy and love, God sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to pay the price of our debt through His sacrificial death on the cross. Jesus, fully God and fully man, bore the weight of our sins, endured the agony of the cross, died, was buried, and triumphantly rose from the grave after three days, securing our redemption and restoring our broken relationship with God.

As Christians, we commemorate this holy week with reverence and gratitude, recognizing the immeasurable price paid for our sins and the boundless love

displayed by our Saviour. It is a week of solemn reflection, as we contemplate the depth of Christ's sacrifice and the magnitude of His love for us.

I wonder, as we journey through this Holy Week, how can we more fully embrace the reality of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection in our lives? How can we allow his love to transform us from the inside out, shaping our thoughts, words, and actions?

As we celebrate Easter morning, let us do so with hearts overflowing with gratitude and praise, knowing that through Christ's sacrifice, we have been redeemed and reconciled with God. May his love compel us to live lives that reflect his grace and mercy to a world in need of his saving grace. Happy Easter.



PRAYER POINTERS

Pray for a deeper understanding of Christ's sacrifice and its significance in our lives.

Lift up those who may be seeking clarity and truth, asking for God's guidance and revelation.

Pray for a spirit of gratitude and reverence as we commemorate Christ's sacrifice and celebrate his resurrection.

Join us at **St Margaret's Church, Leicester**, to celebrate...

The 60th Anniversary

of the Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust

The Trust will give us a presentation about its work, followed by questions and discussion. Conducted tour of the church also available after the presentation.

Please let us know if you can come, so we know how many people to cater for
Church Office – stmargaretschurchleicester@gmail.com
Janet Arthur – chairman@LHCT.org.uk – 07840 543288

There is no charge to attend. A donation on the day to the church for the refreshments will be appreciated.

Cakes, tea
& coffee



*St Margaret's Church, St Margaret's Street, Leicester
LE1 3EB. Limited parking is available on the
south side of the church – please park with care.*



Thursday
11th April
5.30 – 7pm



LEICESTERSHIRE
HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

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 Designate and Chapter of the Cathedral are wholly committed to the safety, well-being and protection of everyone having contact with our community.

We all share responsibility for Safeguarding.

If you have concerns about the welfare or behaviour of an adult, young person or child, please speak to one of the Residentiary Canons or to Linda Green or Amanda Fitchett, our Safeguarding Co-ordinators.

The Residentiary Canons can be approached in person or contacted on **07399 523 330**.

The Safeguarding Co-ordinators do not publish their contact details. Please speak to a verger if you wish to contact them. You do not need to explain the reason for your request.

All concerns will be responded to proportionately and with discretion.

