

Cathedral in Touch

A Newsletter for our Community

9 February 2025 | 4th Sunday before Lent



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



Humility

The person of Jesus Christ is the heart of the Christian faith and the focus of Christian worship. Every Sunday we offer worship and praise in music and song to him as Lord. The Gospel reading is welcomed as if Christ is actually among us. The gospel book becomes the centre of our attention: we stand in greeting and we listen to his words. In bread and wine, at the Altar in the centre of our space, we remember him.

Then he took a little child and put it among them: and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.

Mark 9.36–7

Jesus placed a child among his disciples. The future Church, who were vying for status and reputation, are invited to consider losing their lives in order to follow him. The child is who matters, not them. Shift your focus away from yourselves!

A recent YouGov poll indicates that only 25% people trust the Church of England. This reflects the huge shift away from being a trusted establishment institution: a status held back in the 1950s at the start of Queen Elizabeth II's reign. This shift in trust has been deepened by churches' conditional welcome of LGBTQI+ people and failures to protect vulnerable adults and children. The recent publication the Makin

Review of the Church's handling of one particular safeguarding case led to the resignation of the Archbishop. Our churches are largely not thriving or growing, many feel the answer is to just have a local priest again, but the cultural shift is far, far deeper than that.

Whether the Church is at the centre of society or gathering in small groups for fear of persecution, Jesus reminds us that our reputation and status is unimportant. What matters is keeping the child, the vulnerable, and the victim at the centre of our attention. They matter. The Church and its status and reputation do not.

Many cultures – think of ancient Rome for example – have founding stories of the rivalry between brothers. The Judeo-Christian story is no different – Cain and Abel. However what is unique to us is that the voice of the victim Abel, is heard and valued higher than the voice of the victor. Our Easter faith draws us to the place of the victim, a crucified Saviour and a death which insists we see everything from the victim's perspective.

Safeguarding practice is at the heart of our faith and practice. Loving our neighbour, keeping them safe, helping them flourish. The child, the vulnerable, the victim need to receive the attention and centrality of focus that we give in our liturgy to the reading of the gospel. Every day it is our calling to be a Church and Cathedral who turn towards and pay attention to the child in our midst.

General Synod meets this coming week and safeguarding dominates the agenda. On Monday evening comes a debate in response to Makin Review. On Tuesday morning there is a key conversation around the future of safeguarding in the Church and its independence. You will hear about 'Options 3 and 4'. There is a great deal of disquiet about Option 4 having a detrimental effect on day-to-day safeguarding practice and the ease of reporting safeguarding concerns. Wednesday brings discussion and final approval for the Clergy Conduct Measure and discussion about The Safeguarding Code of Practice (Managing Allegations). All of this will receive significant news coverage and media comment.

May we be people who keep the child, the vulnerable, and those damaged by the behaviour of others in the centre of our concern and prayers this week. Can we the Church lay down our life and reputation and instincts for self-preservation in humility? How can we honour the child and keep her at the very centre of our attention, and thereby welcome Jesus and the one who sent him?

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

News & Updates



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.

Job Vacancy

Children & Families Worker

We are looking to appoint to the role of Children & Families Worker.

The role focuses on the provision of high-quality children's work to assist with children and their families coming to a deeper sense of belonging at the Cathedral, and to help them grow in their Christian life, faith, and practice.

Duties of the role include:

- Plan a termly programme for our Sunday morning Junior Church
- Ensure safeguarding regimes are upheld and a culture of safeguarding is embedded throughout
- Identify and plan occasional workshops for children (or children and families)

[Full information available on our website.](#)

Salary: £13.47 per hour

Tenure: Permanent / Hours: 8 hours per week

Application deadline: 5.00pm, Friday 21 February 2025



The week

SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY

4 BEFORE LENT

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

MONDAY 10 FEBRUARY

- 8.30am Morning Eucharist
- 12.30pm Lunchtime Recital: Grupo Bossa
- 5.30pm Choral Evensong

TUESDAY 11 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 12 FEBRUARY

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

THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY

- 8.30am Morning Prayer
- 12.30pm Lunchtime Eucharist
- 5.30pm Choral Evensong
- 7.00pm Cathedral Book Club (online)

FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY

- 8.30am Morning Prayer
- 12.30pm Lunchtime Eucharist
- 5.30pm Evening Prayer
- 7.30pm Concert: Valentine's Moonlight Sonata by Candlelight

SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY

- 9.30am Morning Prayer
- 10.30am Volunteer Recruitment Open Day
- 5.30pm Evening Prayer

SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY

3 BEFORE LENT

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

THE
TRAGEDY
OF **MACBETH**

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

£20/£18

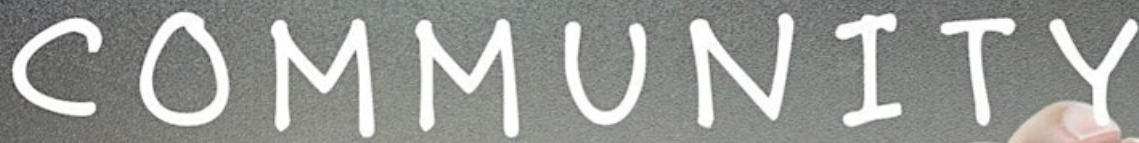
NOTTINGHAMSHAKESPEARE.CO.UK

NSC

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!](#)



COMMUNITY

Equality Action Public Lecture 2025 **Communities: After the Riots**

Equality Action will welcome **Baroness Ruth Lister**, a leading voice in social policy, as the keynote speaker for their Annual Public Lecture 2025.

This year's topic will explore how we can rebuild trust, promote inclusion and strengthen our communities in the wake of division and unrest.

As Emeritus Professor of Social Policy at Loughborough University and a Labour member of the House of Lords, Baroness Lister has spent her career championing equality, tackling poverty and promoting social justice. She is the Honorary President of the Child Poverty Action Group, a respected author on poverty and citizenship, and an active advocate in roles such as Vice Chair of Compass and Patron of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum.

This is a unique opportunity to hear Baroness Lister share her insights and engage in a meaningful conversation about the challenges and solutions to achieving social justice. A Q&A session with a panel of experts will follow the lecture.

- ♦ Date: Thursday 20 February, 6.30–8.30pm
- ♦ Venue: Loughborough University, Edward Herbert Building (EHB) Room EHB110A, Epinal Way, Loughborough, LE11 3TU
- ♦ **Free to attend, booking essential** – book now on [Eventbrite](#)

Lunchtime Recital

Grupo Bossa! with Lee Allatson and featuring Carmelia Marques. An exciting new jazz ensemble specialising in the subtle and emotive music that is bossa nova.

Sit back and enjoy the immersive and contemplative sounds of *Grupo Bossa!*, a mix of vocally driven and electro-acoustic music.

The recital will feature a delicate, acoustic-based set perfect for lunchtime relaxation so do come along and enjoy Bossa nova in the beautiful setting of Leicester Cathedral.

Featuring the vocal talents of Portugal's Carmelia Marques, backed by specialist ensembles including Porto's own maestro of jazz, Fino Lopes (guitar/bass), Midlands based World music percussionist, Lee Boyd Allatson (drums), Leeds Jazz alumni, Ryan West (tenor sax) and the Leicestershire jazz scene's go-to pianist, Peter Houtman.

Grupo Bossa! showcase traditional songs by the likes of Consuelo Velázquez, Osvaldo Farrés and of course, the 'father of bossa nova', Antonio Carlos Jobim, as well as the infectious rhythms of bolero and samba. The band also perform Latin American reworks of jazz standards and pop tunes, as well as the Portuguese folk style of 'Fado': a traditional music unique to the Iberian peninsula, with melodies echoing the Moorish history of the region.

Join us at 12.30pm on Monday 10 February 2025.

Free admission, with donations welcome.



**GRUPO
BOSSA!**

Volunteer Recruitment Open Day

Saturday 15 February 2025
10.00am–3.00pm

Come to our drop-in day and find out about the range of volunteer roles available in our beautiful building and community.

Minimum age of 16.

Roles include

Visitor welcome and hospitality

Guided tours

Flower arrangers

Choir chaperones

School visits

Bell ringing

Helping at services

Caretaking





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](#).



**Chiamaka
Okafor**

Prayer Thoughts

I would like to share some thoughts about self-love and care, especially in the midst of busy lives filled with constant giving. Many of us, as spouses, parents, and caretakers, often put the needs of others ahead of our own. But I have come to learn that you cannot fill from an empty cup. Taking care of yourself is not only important for you, it helps you care more deeply for everyone around you.

The Bible tells us in Matthew 22.39, *"Love your neighbour as yourself."* This verse reminds us that caring for ourselves is a vital part of loving others. When we take time to nurture our own hearts, minds, and bodies, we are

heavy to bear, and we feel overwhelmed by troubles. In those moments, a few quiet minutes of prayer or reflection can make a big difference. Reading Psalm 139.14, *"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made,"* helps remind me that we are valued and cherished by God. Even a small act of self-care can help renew our spirit and remind us of our worth.

Self-love means giving yourself permission to rest. It is not about being selfish. It is about recharging your inner self so that you can be a source of light and love for others. Imagine a candle: if it is not lit, it cannot shine light on those around it. In the same way,

when you take the time to fill your cup, you are better prepared to pour out love and kindness to your family and friends.

Sometimes, even the smallest actions can have a powerful effect. A quiet moment with a cup of tea, a short walk in nature, or a

few moments spent reading a favourite Bible verse can bring peace to a busy day. Philippians 4.13 tells us, *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."* These words are a reminder that even in our weakest moments,

better equipped to share our love and strength with our families and communities.

Life can be challenging. There are days when the weight of our responsibilities seems too



God's strength is there to lift us up and help us keep going.

This year, the theme I am embracing is self-love. I want to encourage everyone to take a moment, every day, to care for themselves. It may seem hard at first, especially when there is so much to do, especially when it's in your DNA to put others first. But remember that by caring for yourself, you are also caring for those you love. If you keep giving and waiting for permission to rest, you are making a mistake. Self-care can be as simple as taking a break to breathe deeply, saying a short prayer, enjoying a peaceful moment of quiet, or stopping anything that takes your peace away.

We all have our struggles, and it is easy to get caught up in our daily routines and forget that we deserve the same love and care we so freely give to others. But by making self-love a priority, you create space for joy, hope, and a renewed strength. When your cup is full, you are more patient, more compassionate, and more resilient in the face of life's troubles.

Let us encourage one another to find those small moments for self-care. By nurturing ourselves, we are better able to nurture those around us. Together, let's take heart in the promise of God's word and the strength that comes from within. Remember that self-love is not a luxury. It is a necessity. Don't wait for others to see you or love you. See yourself and love yourself. And as we fill our cups, we can share an endless supply of love, hope, and kindness with the world.

God bless.



PRAYER DIARY

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

Sunday 9 February
Racial Justice Sunday

Monday 10 February
Our partner Diocese of Wyoming

Tuesday 11 February
St Andrew's, Jarrom St, Leicester

Wednesday 12 February
St Nicholas', Leicester

Thursday 13 February
St Andrew with St James',
Aylestone

Friday 14 February
Broughton Astley & Croft with
Stoney Stanton

Saturday 15 February
Sigfrid, bishop, 1045; Thomas
Bray, priest, 1730

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.

