



Leicester
Cathedral

What's On

Lent & Easter

March–June 2025



Welcome

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.

The Very Revd Karen Rooms
Dean of Leicester



Admission to the Cathedral is by a suggested voluntary donation of **£5 per adult**

Some events and activities have a separate charge





Visiting hours

Monday–Friday

9.00am–5.00pm

Saturday

10.00am–5.00pm

Sunday

12.00–3.00pm

Occasionally there are special services or events which may affect our opening hours.

The Tomb of Richard III can be visited between 10.30am–4.30pm from Monday to Saturday, and 12.00–3.00pm on Sundays.

Daily services

Monday

8.30am Morning Eucharist

5.30pm Evening Prayer/
Choral Evensong *

Tuesday–Friday

8.30am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Lunchtime Eucharist

5.30pm Evening Prayer/
Choral Evensong *

Saturday

9.30am Morning Prayer

5.30pm Evening Prayer

Sunday

10.30am Cathedral Eucharist

3.30pm Evening Prayer/
Choral Evensong *

Subject to change.

**Choral Evensong takes place during term-time.*



Special Services

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.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday 13 April

Cathedral Eucharist | 10.30am

Palm Sunday marks the first day of Holy Week, remembering Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a donkey, surrounded by crowds with palm branches.

We echo Jesus' journey by starting this service in Jubilee Square before walking to the Cathedral, where the service will include a version of the Passion Gospel – a telling of events leading to Jesus' death.

A Service of Music for Palm Sunday | 3.30pm

Music, poetry, and prayer are interwoven to help us reflect on the journey Christ made in the days leading up to his crucifixion.

Monday 14, Tuesday 15, and Wednesday 16 April | 7.00pm

Holy Week Evening Services

Join us for reflective services inspired by our *Stations of the Cross* exhibition.

Maundy Thursday 17 April

Diocesan Chrism Eucharist | 11.00am

With the Renewal of Ordination Vows, the Celebration of Ministries, and the Blessing of Holy Oils.

Eucharist of the Last Supper | 7.00pm

Remembering the Last Supper and re-enacting the washing of the disciples' feet, ending with a time of silent vigil.

Good Friday 18 April

The Three Hours | from 12.00–3.00pm

A three-hour devotion with prayers, hymns, music, addresses, and silence. You are welcome to join us for all or part of this service for Good Friday.

The Cathedral will be closed to visiting during the service.

Holy Saturday 19 April

Easter Vigil | 8.00pm

A journey from darkness to light, from the tomb to new life. With fire, incense, and the first Eucharist of Easter – followed by fizz and sparklers.

Easter Day Sunday 20 April

Easter Day Eucharist | 10.30am

Join us as we celebrate the new life of Easter.

Easter Choral Evensong | 3.30pm

With music sung by the Cathedral Choir.

Thursday 8 May | 5.30pm

VE Day Civic Service

Marking the 80th anniversary of VE Day, followed by bell ringing.

The Cathedral will close for visiting at 4.30pm.

Thursday 29 May | 7.00pm

Ascension Day Eucharist

A special service with music, readings, and hymns celebrating Christ's ascension into heaven on the fortieth day of Easter.



Music & Events

Lunchtime Recitals

Spring
Season 2025

**12.30pm | Free admission,
donations encouraged**

Monday 10 March
Philharmonia Fellow

Monday 24 March
Radcliffe on Trent Male Voice Choir

Monday 14 April
Holy Week Organ Meditation
David Cowen

Monday 28 April
Terra Invisus Contemporary Trio
Clarinet, Cello, Piano

Monday 26 May
Ambion Voices Ladies Community Choir





Thursday 6 March | 7.30pm (doors 6.45pm)

An Evening of Radiohead

Let Me In presents an evening of Radiohead performed live by a full band and string quartet. Tickets from £12 on **Eventbrite**.



Thursday 10 April | 7.00pm (doors 6.30pm)

Talk – Leicester Uncovered

Archaeology after Richard III with Mathew Morris

Join ULAS archaeologist Mathew Morris for a talk revealing a decade of discoveries in Leicester. From Roman cemeteries and medieval churches, to a castle and 17th century civil war defences, these new findings embody the city's diverse and fascinating history. Tickets from £6 on **Eventbrite**.



Thursday 1 May | 7.00pm (doors 6.30pm)

Talk – Who are the Plantagenets? with Kevin Schurer

DNA analysis was an important part of the identification of the skeletal remains of Richard III. However, often overlooked is that DNA extracted also showed a break in the male Y-chromosome line. This talk explores the consequences of this break and where it might have occurred. Tickets from £6 on **Eventbrite**.

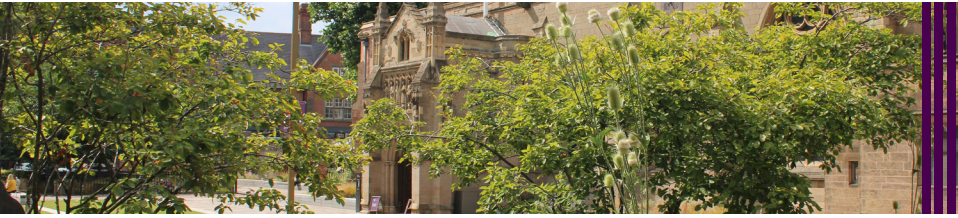


Old Town Festival Sat 26 & Sun 27 April | 12–5pm

A new event for 2025 incorporating the traditional **St George's Day Festival** with the Historic Roman Heritage of the City.

There will be a vibrant program of re-enactments, walkabout acts, street theatre, venue tours, storytelling, arts and crafts, Morris, and maypole dancing, plus much more across Leicester's Old Town district, including Leicester Cathedral, King Richard III Visitors Centre, The Guildhall, and Jubilee Square.





Community Events

Sunday 2 March | 12.00–1.30pm

Bring and Share Lunch

Cathedral Community Bring and Share lunch following the Cathedral Eucharist.

Tuesday 4 March | 6.30–8.30pm

Pancake Party

Come and join together for an evening of fun, games, and pancakes before the solemnity of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday.

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 the majesty of Luke Jerram’s *Mars: War and Peace* installation.

The annual dinner is presented in support of the Cathedral’s Guild of St Martin and Guild of St Katharine, fundraising for our mission, ministry, and music. This year marks the first dinner since 2019 to make full use of the Cathedral spaces and Cathedral Gardens (weather permitting!).

For more information and to purchase tickets please contact **David**.

Pepworth@LeicesterCofE.org or call 0116 261 5344.





10
years

2025 marks the 10th anniversary of the Reinterment of King Richard III at Leicester Cathedral – join us for a spectacular three week programme

12–15 March | 6.30–10.00pm
Late Night Openings

Thursday 20 March | 7.00pm
Talk with Dr Toby Capwell – The Scoliotic Knight: Reconstructing the Real Richard III

Saturday 22 March | 7.00pm
Concert – Music for Kings and Queens

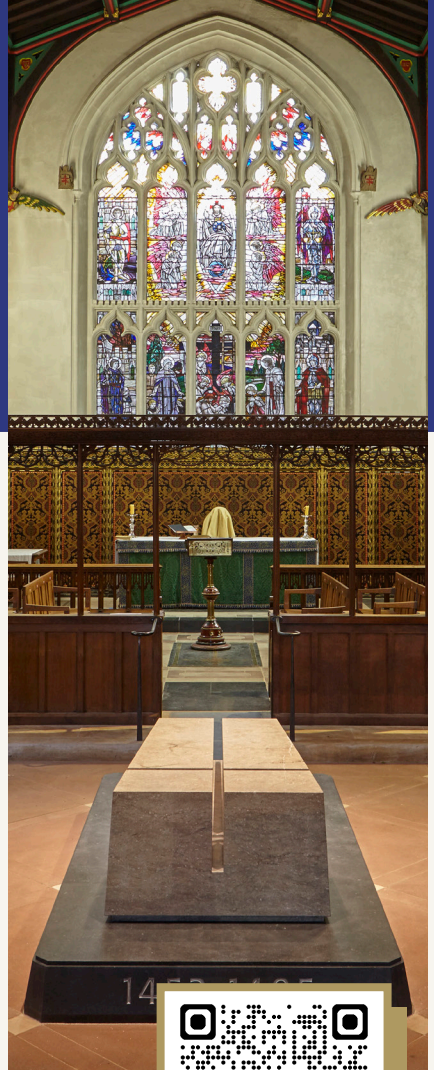
Sunday 23 March | 7.00pm
Service of Compline

Monday 24 March | 7.00pm
Talk with Annie Garthwaite – Richard's Women: Their impact on his life, death and legacy

Tuesday 25 March | 7.00pm
Talk – Dean's Discussion

Wednesday 26 March | 5.30pm
Civic Service on the Tenth Anniversary

Thursday 27 March | 7.00pm
Panel – Revisiting the Discovery and Reinterment



Scan for tickets and info, including on the exhibition



Friday 28 March | 7.00pm
Medieval Banquet

Saturday 29 March | 3.00pm
Richard III Afternoon Tea

Luke Jerram

MARS

WAR AND PEACE

Friday 16 May – Sunday 8 June

From the artist behind the beloved *Museum of the Moon* and *Gaia*, Luke Jerram's fusion of Mars imagery, light, and surround sound is coming in 2025

Wonder at the Red Planet as Luke Jerram's spectacular seven metre sculpture of Mars comes to the 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.

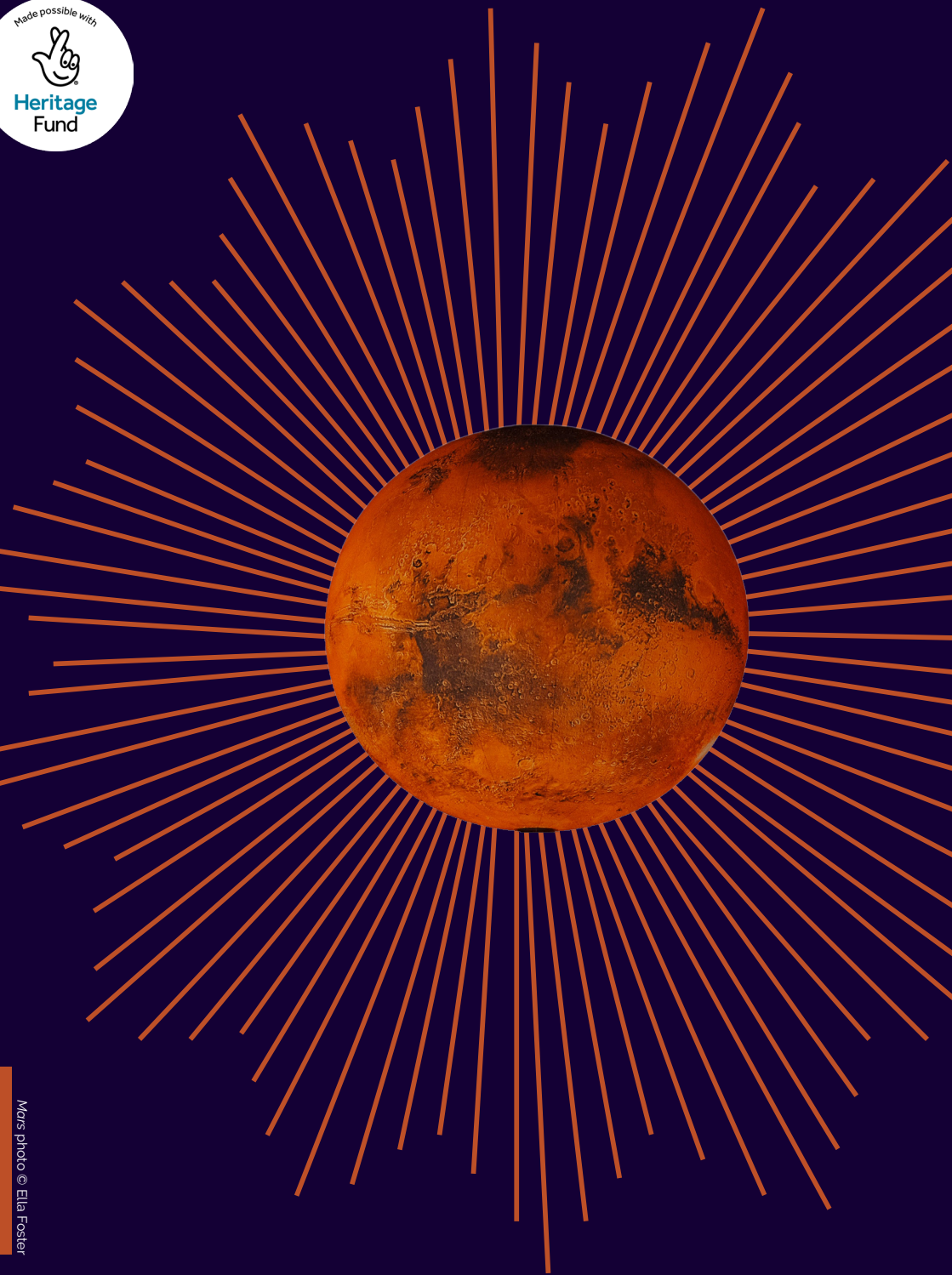
A soundscape by award winning composer Dan Jones features the sounds of seas, deserts, and NASA

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.







© Ella Foster & Exeter Cathedral

The Launch to Mars

Friday 16 May | 8.00–10.00pm

Be the first to see *Mars* in the evening whilst enjoying a bespoke themed cocktail made by the team at 33 Cank Street. Don't miss the opportunity to take part in this unique launch experience.

Tickets £15 on **Eventbrite**.



The London Concertante

Saturday 17 May | 7.30pm

(doors 7.00pm)

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

Tickets from £22.38 on **londonconcertante.com**.



God of War meets Prince of Peace

Tuesday 20 May | 7.00pm (doors 6.30pm)

Why is *Mars* in the Cathedral? Join our Canon Theologian The Revd Dr Tom Wilson and other Christian voices to think theologically about what Jesus, Prince of Peace, would say to all that Mars symbolises, whether war, human hubris, or overindulgence in chocolate...

Free – book on **Eventbrite**.



Kensington & Chelsea Festival 2023 © Dave Parry

Mindful under Mars

Wed 21 May | 7.00–9.00pm

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**.



Ceilidh under Mars

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

Celebrate the start of half-term and enjoy *Mars* in a completely unique way with live music, drinks, and dancing. Each session lasts for 90 minutes – the perfect spring evening activity.

Tickets from £8 on **Eventbrite**.

Soft Play and Family Fun

See page 17 for more info on our large soft play area and family craft events, all taking place under *Mars*!



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.

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

Tickets from £15.



The Sikh Contribution to the World Wars

Tue 3 June | 7.00pm
(doors 6.30pm)

Historian Gurinder Singh Mann sheds light on the extraordinary contributions of the Sikhs during the two world wars – who they were, their stories from battlefields across continents, and their legacy in Leicester.

Tickets from £6.



As You Like It The Festival Players

Friday 6 June | 7.30pm
(doors 7.00pm)

"All the world's a stage..." Shakespeare's most entrancing romantic comedy is brought to Leicester Cathedral.

Heroine Rosalind and her cousin flee persecution in her uncle's court to find safety and, eventually, love, in this delightful tale full of comedy and music.

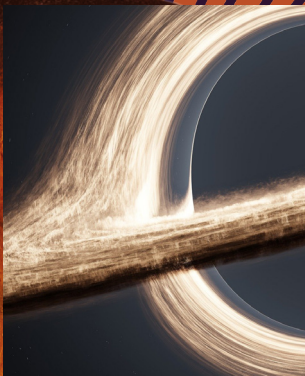
Tickets from £14 at www.thefestivalplayers.co.uk

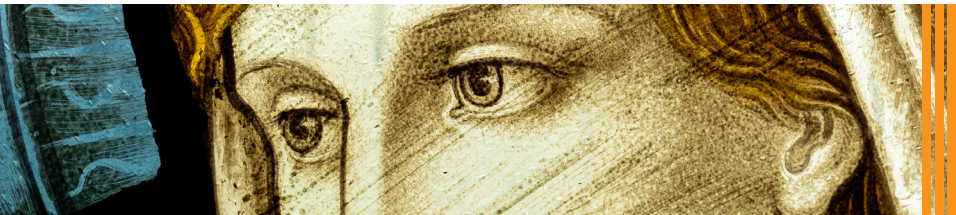
Interstellar under Mars

Saturday 7 June | 7.00pm (doors 6.15pm)

Mark the final night of *Mars* with a special concert by organist Roger Sayer. Returning to Leicester with his sell-out concert, the Oscar-nominated *Interstellar* suite will be brought to life on the Cathedral Organ, along with *A Space Odyssey* and Holst's *The Planets*.

With a Q&A on his time working with Christopher Nolan and Hans Zimmer. Tickets from £15 on [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com).





Discipleship

Thursdays 13 March, 10 April, 15 May | 7.00pm

Cathedral Book Club

Our Cathedral Book Club meets online on Zoom once a month. This season, we will be reading:

- March – *Wild Bright Hope: Reflections on Faith (The Big Church Read Lent Book 2025)*
- April – *Women of Holy Week: An Easter Journey in Nine Stories* by Paula Gooder.

Join us to help choose what we will read in future sessions. New members are always welcome – please email Jude.Taylor@LeicesterCofE.org.

Tuesdays 11, 18, 25 March, 1, 8 April

In person, St George's Chapel, 1.30pm | Online, Zoom, 7.00pm

Stations of the Cross – 2025 Lent Course

A five-week course journeying through Mark Cazalet and Richard Leaf's *Stations of the Cross*.

Together we will use art, discussion and Bible study to reflect on the last days of Christ's life, considering how themes such as injustice, reconciliation and the cross may relate to our own faith and discipleship in today's world.

Please visit our [Eventbrite](#) page to book your free place, or contact Jude.Taylor@LeicesterCofE.org if you have any questions.



Come and see the collection of Stations of the Cross in the Cathedral, created by Mark Cazalet for St Martin's, Kensal Rise, London, 2004. Images courtesy of the artist.



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.





Tours

Tours are subject to change so please check our website for up-to-date information.

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 and 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.

Themed highlight tours

All tours start at 11.30am and are £4.00 per person. Accompanied children under 16 free. Tours last about 30 minutes and can be booked via Eventbrite or at the Welcome Desk.

Cathedral Windows First Thursday of the month

Explore the beautiful windows of Leicester Cathedral in this illuminating windows tour. Find out more about the magnificent Great East window, the fabulous Richard III Redemption windows, the exquisite John Sarson memorial window and our James Thompson memorial window.

Evolution of Medicine Second Thursday of the month

Join us on an absorbing exploration of the evolution of medicine from the middle-ages to the Victorian era and its connections to the parish of St Martin.

Prayer and Pilgrimage Third Thursday of the month

Did you know that St Martin's church was on a pilgrimage trail in medieval times? Our enticing tour journeys back in time for an exploration of the act of pilgrimage and its evolution over time.

Carved in Stone Fourth Thursday of the month

Stone has many uses in our heritage buildings. Often grand and imposing but sometimes delicate and exquisite. Join us on our fascinating tour which takes us on an exploration of the stone in our beautiful Cathedral.



Children & Families

Tuesday 15, Thursday 17, Tuesday 22, Thursday 24 April | 1.30–3.30pm
Easter Holidays

Join us for FREE Easter themed craft activities. No need to book – just drop in. A play area will be available for babies and toddlers. All children need to be accompanied by an adult.



Soft Play under Mars (0–8 years)

Saturday 24 May | 10.00am–2.00pm

Experience the Cathedral like never before when the Nave is transformed into a large soft play area underneath gigantic Mars!

FREE – no need to book, just drop in! All children must 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 underneath Luke Jerram's magnificent *Mars*.

FREE – no need to book, just drop in! All children must 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 the Cathedral after hours – bring the family and join us for space-themed crafts and a special activity trail. Refreshments available to purchase.

Tickets on Eventbrite £5 per adult & £2.50 per child.



School Visits

EYFS – KS5

We welcome school visits from all faiths and denominations and our newly renovated Cathedral is fully accessible. Our brand-new learning programme is packed with topics covering Christianity, Richard III, art, music, and much more! Our sessions can be adapted to meet SEND requirements and our workshops follow the National Curriculum and the Leicestershire Agreed Syllabus for RE. For information about our workshops and school visits, please contact us via Cathedral.Education@LeicesterCofE.org – more details can be found on our website. **Please note: all school visits need to be pre-booked.**

Venue Hire

Leicester Cathedral is a working church, historical attraction, performance venue, and exhibition space. Our spaces available for hire are as multi-faceted as the Cathedral itself, with a dedicated

Have you considered hosting your event or exhibition in the Cathedral?

team working to utilise the space according to your needs. If you would like bring the creative vision for your event to life in our historic building then please do get in touch via our website's booking form.

Sign up to our Newsletter

Keep up to date with news from Leicester Cathedral with our weekly newsletter *Cathedral in Touch*.

To subscribe, scan the QR code or email Cathedral@LeicesterCofE.org

The newsletter is emailed out to subscribers via Mailerlite. If you do not see it in your inbox, please check your spam/junk inboxes or filters.

Scan here!



Supporting your Cathedral

Volunteering

We have a wide range of roles including assisting visitors, flower arranging, bellringing, to helping with our services.

To find out more please email Rebecca.Hale@LeicesterCofE.org or call 0116 261 5368.

Join a Guild

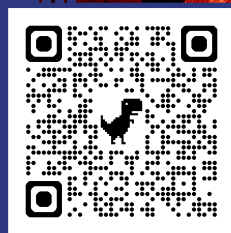
The Guild of St Martin supports our services and our outreach work, and The Guild of St Katharine supports our choirs and music in the Cathedral.

Find out about the benefits of becoming a member by emailing David.Pepworth@LeicesterCofE.org or calling 0116 261 5344.

Donate regularly

Your regular support however small or large helps us best plan ahead and best serve the city and county.

Email David.Pepworth@LeicesterCofE.org, call 0116 261 5344, or scan the QR code to find out the options to give regularly.





Leicester Cathedral Revealed has been made possible with The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Thanks to National Lottery players, we have been able to restore the Cathedral building, develop our events and activities programme, and reaffirm the Cathedral's place at the centre of the City and County.



All information is correct at the time of printing.

Stained glass window images and cinquefoil ceiling detail
© Alex J Wright

Cathedral Font and Christmas Tree
© Ranjit Singh Chaggar

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