This week I have been much involved in preparing for Ordinations which are taking place in two different churches in the diocese. It is always hugely moving and a privilege to get up close to those who are offering their lives to Christ and to help their ordained lives come into being. This year 12 ordinands are being ordained either deacon or priest. At the rehearsal one of them asked: ‘what is the actual moment when I become a priest?’ There followed a lively debate between Bishop, Verger, Precentor, Bishop’s Chaplain, the Director of Ordinands, and the other candidates, all putting forward views – was there really a moment or was it the whole Ordination Prayer that effected the change? In the end, the Bishop ruled that most obviously there is a key moment when he says the words ‘Send down the Holy Spirit on your servant for the office and work of a priest in your Church.’ That is when the Holy Spirit comes – that is the moment of becoming a priest. I remember 15 years ago at my own priest ordination feeling the importance of that moment, the weight of hands on my head and knowing that something was changing inwardly as well as outwardly.

There are similar moments in baptism and confirmation when we call on the Holy Spirit to do something that will bring change or newness of life. These are graced moments on the journey of faith which mark a change from one state to another, often with a profound effect on us and those around us. And when we are facing change or transition in our everyday lives, very often it can be helpful to call on God to help us across the threshold into a new place. This week we marked a significant moment in the life of our Cathedral governance as we took our first legal step towards becoming a registered charity. The Chapter had to disband and be reformed. Although some of the members were the same before and after the change, it was important to mark the moment with Scripture and prayer, calling on God, through the Bishop, to enable us to let go of what had been, to say farewell to those leaving, and only then to be equipped anew as a different body for the task ahead. I really felt a change had been effected, something new had started, God was with us.

While some moments such as baptism, confirmation, and ordination to deacon or priest are specific moments which happen only once in a person’s life, moments of conversion and deep connection with God can happen repeatedly and in more ordinary circumstances. Look back at your own journey of faith. Have you known moments of connection with God which brought about change in your life? If so, I imagine you will know exactly where you were or who was with you. The Holy Spirit leaves a mark!

As I write, it is St Peter’s Day. Peter the Apostle, one of the twelve disciples of Jesus, knew many moments in his life where God’s presence brought profound change. I wonder which he would pick out as the most important? Perhaps his initial calling by Jesus to leave his fishing nets and follow; or his lightbulb moment of realising the true identity of Jesus as Messiah and Son of God; or his renaming as Cephas (‘rock’); or
when he stepped out of the boat and walked on the sea. Or perhaps he would point to the moment on the beach when was restored and given a new ministry by Jesus after his repeated denials; or the anointing by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost; or his vision which led to the inclusion of Gentiles in the Church; or his miraculous angel-assisted escape from prison...

Peter was an ordinary, flawed human being but his response to the call of God led to repeated moments in his long journey of faith which changed and equipped him afresh. The 12 ordinands being ordained this week in our Diocese would say they too are very ordinary souls who have been touched with the very life of God. The same can be true for any of us. God is the one who calls. When we notice and respond by offering ourselves into God’s hands the most extraordinary things can happen! May you know the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit this moment and always.

Canon Emma Davies
Canon Precentor
News from Leicester Cathedral

Ordinations

This year’s ordinations are taking place over two services on Saturday 1 July at 3.00pm at St Mary, Melton Mowbray for the ordination of priests, and on Sunday 2 July at 10.45am at All Saints, Loughborough for the ordination of deacons.

Please pray for all those to be ordained, and for their families, friends and all those who will support them.

Pray for the communities where they will serve their curacy, for their training incumbents and context supervisors.

To be ordained Priest on Saturday:

- Mark Batchelor – Evington
- Matthew Green – Castle Donington
- David Lewis – The Emmaus Parish Team (St John the Baptist, Clarendon Park)
- Katherine Marjoribanks – Emmanuel Loughborough
- Sharon Plant – Leicester St Anne, St Paul and St Augustine
- Phillippa Taylor – The Martyrs
- Riffat Zamurad – Groby and Ratby

To be ordained Deacon:

- Cecilia Adjadjie – Knighton
- Bob Edge – Barrow-Upon-Soar with Walton-Le-Wolds
- Linda Harwood – The Oadby Great Glen Team Ministry
- Geoff Pinnington – Coalville with Bardon Hill and Ravenstone
- Dave Rollett – Ordained Pioneer Minister in the Akeley East Deanery

Cathedral Walking Group

Join us on Thursday 6 July when the Cathedral Walking Group will be visiting St Peter and St Paul’s Church at Preston, Rutland at approximately 2.00 pm.

But first, those who wish to join me for lunch will meet at the Horse and Jockey Public House, St Marys Road, Manton, Rutland, LE15 8SU.

After the visit we will go for a short ramble around local footpaths for about 1 ½ hours.

Book in now by sending an email to Mick. McQuade@ntlworld.com
Big Sing!

Tuesday 4 July | 2.00pm
St Andrew’s Church,
Jarrom Street, Leicester LE2 7DH

You are warmly invited to join this year’s Big Sing, a short celebration of the work that has gone on in our DioSing schools this academic year.

A choir of 200 children will be performing Let Loose by Andrew Oxspring. In this vibrant 45 musical, we’ll join a group of school children on their week’s residential visit to ‘Slippery Slopes Activity Centre’, where they experience a catalogue of mishaps on their way to learning one very important lesson…good friends are worth their weight in sweets!

Just turn up in the afternoon if you are free.

Summer Pilgrimage Walk

Saturday 8 July | Meeting at 9.00am
Starting from St Martins House, Leicester

Join us for a prayerful walk of about 2.5–3 hours as a community.

Together we will be guided through a series of reflections as we take a closer look at Leicester – connecting or reconnecting with its history and continuing developments.

We will get to explore its past, present, and future – taking in everything from canals, Abbey Park, and Cultural Quarter.

All are very welcome!

Please contact Jude (jude.taylor@leicestercofe.org) if you would like to attend.
Services this week

While the Cathedral is closed for building works, our services take place in St Martins House (Sunday mornings) and in St Nicholas’ Church, Leicester (Monday to Friday). The Cathedral will also be Together with other churches on some Sunday afternoons.

All are welcome to our services. Services of Morning Prayer are also live-streamed.

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Together with

Our thirty-eighth service out with parish churches in the City and County, as part of Together with Leicester Cathedral, will take place on Sunday 2 July 2023.

Join us at 6.00pm for a Choral Evensong for Petertide at St Peter’s Church, Church Langton (Stonton Road, Church Langton, Leicestershire, LE16 7SZ).

We are enjoying our visits to other parishes on Sunday afternoons for Choral Evensong with our Cathedral Choirs, clergy and members of our Cathedral community. It is wonderful to connect with people across the Diocese and to make new friends as well as continue existing relationships. Do join us if you can and spread the word to your friends too! The next few dates are below.

17 September: Choral Evensong, at St Mary’s Church, Charnwood, 4.00pm
24 September: Choral Evensong, at Benefice of Burrough on the Hill, 4.00pm
8 October: Farmer’s Harvest in a Barn, at Brooksby College with St Michael’s, 4.00pm

For information about future dates please visit the Cathedral website or contact Canon Emma Davies or Head Verger Bev Collett.
PLASTIC IN PARADISE

A TALK BY OUR ORNITHOLOGIST IN RESIDENCE

DR ALEX BOND
Principal Curator and Curator in Charge of Birds, Natural History Museum, London

SATURDAY JULY 1st: 6:00PM

World renowned scientist Dr Alex Bond returns to give a talk about his work on the impact of oceanic plastic pollution on sea birds and fragile ecosystems, and will discuss his most recent research expedition.

The event will end with a Q&A

Please be aware, due to the nature of Alex's work, some of the images in this presentation will be graphic, but warning will be given before each image is shown.

FREE EVENT: St Nicholas Church, Leicester City Centre, LE1 4LB
MEET AN ORNITHOLOGIST
(A BIRD SCIENTIST)

Drop-in:
Saturday
July 1st
2pm-6pm

Come and meet one of the world's top scientists. Ask him about his work, hear him read his recent children's book, or just have a chat!

young scientists and budding bird watchers are very welcome but must be accompanied by an adult

FREE EVENT FOR ALL AGES

Dr Alex Bond
Principal Curator & Curator in Charge of Birds at the Natural History Museum, London

At St Nicholas Church, Leicester City Centre, LE1 4LB
Mythical Creatures, Grotesques and Gargoyles

Following on from a previous article on the Green Man, a similar theme of mythical creatures, grotesques, and gargoyles is now continued.

The wyvern is one of the mythical beasts often included in heraldry since the medieval period. In the heraldic coat of arms, the wyvern forms part of the crest of the Arms of the City of Leicester. This was the crest of Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, who was also Earl of Leicester (1278–1322). A member of the House of Plantagenet, he was a man of royal birth with immense power and wealth. The Leicester Wyvern is depicted without legs and often has blood stains to denote the fate of Thomas of Lancaster who was executed for treason. About a century later the cinquefoil ermine was chosen as the coat of arms of the town of Leicester.

In Leicester there are a number of depictions of wyverns such as at the Town Hall, the Clock Tower and the old HSBC Bank on Granby Street.

At Leicester Cathedral there is a wyvern just outside the little door leading into St Katharine’s Chapel on the north side of the building, which is often unnoticed.

The wyvern is generally represented with its tail coiled in a knot.

We are very proud of the new grotesques on the south west side of the building. They were commissioned to replace the old worn and weathered grotesques as part of the Leicester Cathedral Revealed project and carved by sculptor Allen Necchi. The first two to be commissioned in 2018 are a fox and a tiger, representing the sporting connections in Leicester – the Fox for Leicester City Football Club, and the Tiger the Leicester Tigers Rugby Club.

The four newest additions include a Wyvern, a White Boar, a Long Wool Sheep, and a Peregrine.
Falcon, arriving in May 2022. The Wyvern has been part of the Arms of the City of Leicester since it was confirmed during a Heraldic Visitation in 1619. The white boar is the emblem of King Richard III, re-interred at Leicester Cathedral in March 2015.

The long wool sheep was introduced into Leicester in the mid-1700s and has been of great historic and genetic value in the founding or improving of other breeds of sheep. The long wool sheep produced a high quality fleece. The Peregrine Falcon represents the peregrines who continue to make their home in the tower at Leicester Cathedral.

The difference between a grotesque and a gargoyle is that the grotesque is a decorative carving which has no functional architectural purpose. It was used from medieval times to ward off evil and as a reminder of the separation of the earth and the divine. The gargoyle on the other hand, is a waterspout projecting from a parapet of a wall or tower, often carved into an animal or human shape.
Hello everyone,

I hope you have had a good week. I have still struggled to be cool and comfortable at night but have found there has been some respite in the evenings and the strong breeze has helped.

I have a confession to make about last week’s reflection. It was poached. I would say at least two thirds of it was, word for word, what I had written two years ago... I debated whether to spill the beans last week but decided to wait to see if I received any feedback or comments. There was one big difference between the two reflections. Two years ago we were hosting Gaia. The reflection focus was on a different area – the role angels play in healing and protections. Most of the text fitted in well with what I wanted to express in last week’s reflection. At least one person may have noticed my lack of originality and left a very subtle clue to indicate this. The clue is there for all to find.

It came as a surprise to me that exactly the same words could be used to describe what was happening two years ago as with last week. It did not make me feel encouraged that God was working in our world to bring healing and develop faith.

The following ongoing event/story on the other hand has really caught my soul. God is working in a realm which is unfamiliar to me in day to day living but which I have experienced before. This is being quoted with the family’s knowledge and consent, but you are asked NOT to Print or POST details further.

Andrew, our son, lives in Manchester and worships and serves God at Audacious Church, Manchester. The style of worship and ministry are very different to ours at the Cathedral. Very occasionally Andrew will forward me one of the prayer requests to pray for. Usually it arises from a feeling or prompting he receives.

A couple of weeks ago I received such a request. What follows is, I think, a moving and inspirational story of a family who just refused to see bad or negative in a desperate situation.

Andrew sent me the following message:

Here’s one for your prayer list. Emma and her husband Kevin serve on my team at Church. We have just heard that Kevin is on life support in a hospital in Gent, Belgium.

Emma, Kevin’s wife sent the following message to their Church family in Manchester. She writes:

I will struggle with this so please stay with me... On Sunday, Kevin collapsed whilst watching Kaden play football in Belgium. This was
due to a brain haemorrhage in a very delicate place in the brain. Kevin is currently in an induced coma in an ICU unit in Belgium. His condition is critical but stable.

Tonight at 6.30 we are asking everyone who feels comfortable to, to pray with all of his family and friends. Myself and the boys are in a situation we cannot control and are doing the only thing we know we can, put this all in the hands of God.

Tomorrow will start the process of reducing his sedation to see whether his body will respond. So every single prayer, good wishes over the next 24 hours and beyond will be appreciated.

We believe miracles can happen.

Thank you to everyone who has sent messages and shown the family love and kindness. You are all amazing.

Emma continues:

I hope you don’t mind me sharing my vulnerability. Today has been a tough day.

Kevin’s lungs/oxygen are the biggest concern right now. This is mainly down to the balance of treatment between the body and the head.

We need his body to start responding to the medication and improving the amount of oxygen getting into his blood.

The doctors have limited options open to help with this due to the head injury.

This afternoon was hard. After coming back from the hospital, I took myself off to pray, to cry down by the water. I fell on my knees. I then went to my room to have some quiet time.

This song, In Jesus name (God of possible) by Kate Nicholes, came on a playlist. I’ve never heard it before and the words were simply perfect for the current moment.

God is fighting for us
God is on our side
He has overcome
Yes, he has overcome
We will not be shaken
We will not be moved
Jesus, you are here.

I will live, I will not die
The resurrection power of Christ
Alive in me and I am free
In Jesus’ name.
I will live, I will not die
I will declare and lift you high
Christ revealed and I am healed
In Jesus’ name.

Everything’s changing
God is fighting for us
Pushing back the darkness
Lighting up the Kingdom
That cannot be shaken
In the name of Jesus
Enemy’s defeated
And we will shout it out.

I will live, I will not die...

We declare that there is healing in the name of Jesus
We declare in the mighty name of Jesus in this place
I declare anyone listening to this music tonight
I declare in Jesus’ name, c’mxon we sing it out!

God is fighting for us
Pushing back the darkness
Lighting up the Kingdom
That cannot be shaken
In the name of Jesus
Enemy’s defeated
And we will shout it out
Shout it out.

We need God and Kevin’s body to move, now...

The next we heard was that Kevin was no worse and his condition was becoming more stable with every check the doctors and nurses made.

Emma continued:

For us this is a tiny step forward. We are not out of the woods by any stretch of the imagination.
However our immediate prayer is that Kevin’s body can sustain this improvement as the medication takes effect.

If you have five mins tonight, please play this new song and say a prayer over the current situation. The lyrics are simply perfect.

I’m conscious this is emotional for everyone. Sending out the biggest hug to you all from the whole family & our KB.

Love you xxxxx

That was ten days ago. Andrew has forwarded to me an update every day. Not every day has been all positivity. The updates have been raw and honest coming from the heart of whichever family member has written them. Gradually as time has moved on their extended family have gathered in Gent. The family have formed relationships with consultants and other staff at the hospital. They can’t help but have witnessed to their hope in a faithful compassionate God. Even on the toughest of days, and there has been some, their message to the workers back home has been encouraging, positive yet realistic.

There was another Zoom prayer session last Sunday which I managed to join, and against all the odds and predictions Kevin is slowly re entering into this world. This story is only just beginning and no one can say how it will continue or how it will end, but for sure God is there in the pain, in the mess, and a grieving family are ever-hopeful that God can win this battle. Their faith is shining bright and it can’t help but be infectious. Whatever the outcome of this story God will win because this family spoke of a God who cares and a hope that never gives up.

Please keep Kevin. Emma, their three boys and all their extended family in your prayers over the coming weeks. I will keep you posted as the story unfolds.

Thank you.

Diana
Vacancy
Dean of Leicester

This is an exciting time for a new Dean to join the Cathedral. After two years of being closed the renewed Cathedral will be revealed: a space for all, welcoming and inclusive; once again taking its place at the beating heart of the city, county and diocese.

We are seeking a new Dean who will be:

• An experienced, courageous leader comfortable in their own faith and identity and who can support and inspire people on the edge of their comfort zones.

• Someone who is able to move seamlessly between intercultural and interfaith worlds and relationships. A strong advocate for social justice, at ease in the public square and who can build on existing partnerships in all areas.

• A gifted preacher and teacher in mission who is grounded in prayer and the rhythm of worship and open to embracing different styles and cultures. Excited to grow the current Cathedral community to reflect Leicester’s younger and Global Majority Heritage profile.

• A leader who understands the need for good governance, possesses sound financial awareness unafraid of income generation, and an ability to balance the spiritual with the commercial.

We are committed to nurturing a culture of diversity and inclusion and want to encourage applications from a diverse range of people. Previous cathedral experience is not essential.

To find out more click here.

The closing date for applications is 20 August 2023
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 ACTING DEAN 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 Kath Rowberry, 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.