THE PALL

The Pall on display was made by Jacque Birss and was specially commissioned to cover the coffin containing the mortal remains of King Richard III in the period between its entry into the Cathedral on 22 March and its re-interment on 26 March 2015.

In medieval times a pall was used to cover the coffin of a high status person, prior to their burial, and would usually have been reused many times. This pall consists of a series of figures sewn onto black velvet, and features seraphim, representations of grotesque from medieval times, and also embroideries of important characters associated with the discovery and reinterment of Richard III. It was partly paid for by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.
Comings and goings

As a teenager I spent a huge amount of holiday time sitting around campfires, living close to nature, and in community with groups of people of all ages and backgrounds. Each time the camp drew to a close, the community would rise and individually walk slowly away from the fire repeatedly chanting softly ‘It’s time for man [sic] to go home.’ As the fire’s embers died, the ashes were scattered, symbolising the community’s dissolution. Powerful stuff.

We are at this kind of crossroads moment as a Cathedral community right now. Time-honoured ways of doing things are making way for something new. In June the old Chapter handed over to the new Chapter, who, with committees under them, hold different responsibilities and will work in new ways. Roles are changing, new staff are being appointed and volunteers recruited, while others are gently letting go. The whole way in which we do Cathedral will, while recognisably the same, will also shift, as we move back into our beloved but reconfigured building. And, as ever in the summer, young adults are leaving our Choir to do amazing things, while children are excitedly joining us.

It is vital both to notice and to honour these moments of change. For within all of this are valued individuals for whom the shift is hugely important. We have said farewell to some folk already and will, in September, articulate more of these transitions before God – and that is significant. I left my last paid employment/ministry (in the prison), realising that there really wasn’t there even a system for shaking hands and saying ‘farewell’. You just left and handed in your key fob! For me, believing my ministry there and its completion to be of God, that lack of closure was deeply unsettling. My dear husband came to the rescue, accompanying me through that last day, even to walking round all the units and saying my own farewells to prisoners and officers alike. It was Easter Day – that Eucharist was joyous and tearful. God’s blessing on our comings and goings is so important.

All of us have crossroads moments. But I hope we might support one another through them. Moving country, moving house. Taking up new employment, retiring, discerning new ways of contributing to wider society. Facing changes to life circumstances, health, ageing, diminishing of mental abilities. Starting or leaving school, college, Choir, university. Beginning a career, taking up a new job, leaving another. And so on.

Tears are almost inevitably shed, even if the transition is full of hope. When life seems to be closing down this can seem more difficult. While people only this week are again laughing at me and saying I need a speed limit, I know myself that physical slowing down can lead to a spiral of potential negativity. It would be presumptuous of me to advise anyone how to address this, save to point out that we live in the presence and hope of eternity. That lens and mind-set gives me hope when my legs fail to climb the mountains I so love, or when my fingers struggle with Beethoven’s speedier moments. What can I do – not what can I not?
The Cathedral community has a hope-filled future. We just don’t know entirely what it looks like. We are awash with ideas, dreams and plans which will coalesce into practical details in due course. Many voices have inputted into this thinking. Some of us will be deeply involved, some less, some will join us, for we are a pilgrim people on the move. But we all have a part to play.

Back to my camping exploits. At the scattering of the ashes, the camp leader would take a handful, to feed onto the new fire of the next gathering. As a camp chief in adult life, I invariably had a box in the garage labelled ‘Alison’s ashes’. My husband thought this wasn’t quite nice! The serious point is that, while there is discontinuity, there is also continuity – for individuals and for the community. The inputs, efforts and energy of those who are laying down responsibilities is not lost, for from them the next version of Cathedral emerges, built upon the foundations they have laid. This goes for singers, officers, staff, volunteers... And all of us. Nothing good is ever lost and we give thanks for what has been freely offered and hold you who are moving on close to our hearts.

Canon Alison Adams
Canon Pastor
News from Leicester Cathedral

Aiming for Silver and beyond to Net Zero

What can you do?
God gave us this wonderful planet to live on and care for and we are destroying it.
The Cathedral, like the rest of the Church of England, is committed to becoming Carbon Net Zero by 2030, for this we need your help. I would encourage everyone to undergo their own Carbon footprint audit by measuring your own carbon footprint using the Climate Stewards website.

The Cathedral’s next step along this path is to turn our Bronze Eco Church Award into Silver, which our net zero group have started working towards. If you have a passion for helping us with reducing our Carbon footprints and helping protect our wonderful planet please talk to Bev Collett or Anne Dewdney (bev.collett@leicestercofe.org)

For ideas to help reduce you impact on the climate take a look at the Count Us In website.

Some simple things include leaving a wild area in your garden, bee and butterfly friendly plants, adding bird feeders, bug hotels, and using reusable coffee cups.          Bev C and Anne D

Pilgrimage Walk – new date

Please note that this summer’s pilgrimage walk has been postponed from Saturday 8 July, and will now take place on Saturday 30 September, meeting at 9.00am from St Martins House.

All are very welcome! Please contact Jude (jude.taylor@leicestercofe.org) if you would like to attend.
Artefact handling session

Saturday 22 July 2023
1.00–4.00pm
St Martin’s House Reception
7 Peacock Lane
LE1 5PZ

Mathew Morris, the archaeologist who found Richard III, will be at St Martin’s House with some of the finds from the recent archaeological dig at Leicester Cathedral.

Come and join us at this special Festival of Archaeology event.
All ages welcome.
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.

MONDAY 10 JULY
8.30am  Morning Eucharist  (St Nicholas)
5.30pm  Evening Prayer  (St Nicholas)

TUESDAY 11 JULY
8.30am  Morning Prayer  (St Nicholas)
1.00pm  Lunchtime Eucharist  (St Nicholas)
5.30pm  Evening Prayer  (St Nicholas)

WEDNESDAY 12 JULY
8.30am  Morning Prayer  (St Nicholas)
5.30pm  Evening Prayer  (St Nicholas)

THURSDAY 13 JULY
8.30am  Morning Prayer  (St Nicholas)
1.00pm  Lunchtime Eucharist  (St Nicholas)
5.30pm  Evening Prayer  (St Nicholas)

FRIDAY 14 JULY
8.30am  Morning Prayer  (St Nicholas)
5.30pm  Evening Prayer  (St Nicholas)

SUNDAY 16 JULY
10.30am  Sunday Eucharist  (St Martins House)
6.30pm  St Nicholas Eucharist  (St Nicholas)

MONDAY 17 JULY
8.30am  Morning Eucharist  (St Nicholas)
5.30pm  Evening Prayer  (St Nicholas)
Together with

Our thirty-ninth service out with parish churches in the City and County, as part of Together with Leicester Cathedral, will take place on Sunday 17 September 2023.

Join us at 4.00pm for a Choral Evensong at St Mary’s Nanpantan, Charnwood (170 Nanpantan Road, Nanpantan, Loughborough, LE11 3YE).

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.

**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.
Farewell to Choristers

Today we say an official goodbye and thank you to a number of our singers who will be leaving the Choir sometime between now and the start of university term in the autumn.

**Sofia Tansey** was the youngest singer to join the Choir following our *Sing for the King* recruitment campaign in spring 2013, whilst a pupil at Kirby Muxloe Primary School. She was Head Chorister of the Junior Girls’ Choir for two years, before moving up to the Seniors in the summer of 2018. Sofia has sung many memorable solos, but I’ll never forget the way she held those attending the most recent Guild of St Martin Dinner completely spellbound with a rendition of an unaccompanied folk song and her solo in *Ag Críost an Síol* at Dean David Monteith’s installation in Canterbury. Sofia has been offered a place to read Geography at St John’s College, Durham, and I’m delighted that she plans to carry on singing there (perhaps even with one of the choirs I used to sing with!).

**Anna Cowen** joined the choir a year later than Sofia, but was part of the same vintage cohort of Junior Girls that learned two eight-part unaccompanied anthems in the first month of their final year in that choir. That cohort was arguably also worst hit by Covid, much of their GCSE years being disrupted by lockdowns of one kind or another and at Christmas of her Lower Sixth year, Anna decided to leave the choir to enable her to focus on her A-level studies. Not wanting to let her go that easily, but respecting her decision, we invited her to come on the trip to Truro last summer, and were delighted when decided that she did want to rejoin in the autumn term. Anna has sung all the big solos with great assurance and her confidence and musical leadership have played a large part in inspiring the younger members alongside whom she sings. Next year, Anna will be doing a Lifeguard apprenticeship with Everyone Active, training to be a swimming teacher and personal trainer alongside working as a Lifeguard.

**Cheera Au** was the last of this year’s leavers to join the choir, nearly two years after Anna, and we have Anna to thank for the fact that she found her way to us, as they were already friends. Cheera was by that stage also learning the organ with Anna’s father and came with glowing references! Of her various beautiful solos, I think the one that will stay with me particularly is her singing of the Gloria from the Mozart Sparrow Mass at the Cathedral’s patronal festival in 2021: the choir was not long out of lockdown, a strong cohort had left for university the previous summer and there were some big shoes to fill. Cheera had, by this stage, been having singing lessons for a year or so and gave what is quite possibly the most memorable performance of the piece I’ve ever heard. She has also continued
with her organ studies and gave a beautiful rendition of a Brahms Chorale Prelude after a Monday Evensong at St Nicholas last term. Cheera has a place to read Biochemistry at the University of Leicester.

We also say goodbye today to Katli, whose family are moving to Brighton over the summer. Katli was recruited through the first Be A Chorister For A Day event organised by Rosie Vinter and, along with the other probationers from that intake, sang her first service on Christmas Eve, 2019. Now just completing Year Eight, Katli has more than fulfilled the potential we saw in her, giving a consistent and reliable musical lead to the younger choristers, as well as being a good role-model generally. Having heard her develop into a confident soloist with the Junior Girls’ Choir, I’m sorry that we won’t now get to hear her sing the big solos of the Seniors’ repertoire, but I’m pleased that we’ve been able to make contact with a church choir in Hove who are very keen to take on such an experienced and talented young singer.

Sofia, Anna, Cheera, Katli, thank you for all that you have given to the musical life of Leicester Cathedral during your time in the Choir. We wish you all the very best for the exciting future that lies ahead and you go with our love and prayers.

It is also appropriate at this point to express, on behalf of the Cathedral community, our heartfelt thanks to the families of these and indeed all our singers for the support they have given, and continue to give, to the Choir. As well as the (grand-)parental taxi service, without which there would be no singers, without which there would be no choir, we are also much indebted to our team of Chaperones, including Sofia’s mum Rachel and Cheera’s mum Yan. Thank you for all that you do; it really isn’t taken for granted.

Chris Ouvry-Johns
Director of Music
The Coronation of Richard III and Queen Anne took place on 6 July 1483 at Westminster Abbey. Anne was crowned Queen Consort at the same time as Richard III.

Richard III had assumed the kingship on 26 June 1483. However at that time arrangements for Edward V’s coronation were far advanced. Richard decided that his coronation would take place only ten days later on 6 July. Therefore the individuals and institutions responsible for all aspects of the coronation would have been under great pressure to complete all the changes to the preparations on time.

The Great Wardrobe was responsible for providing the fabrics and garments for the new king and queen and their households. They also supplied suitable pieces of cloth of gold for draping a variety of surfaces, including the royal sears, embroidered cushions and the woollen cloth the monarch walked on from Westminster Hall to the Abbey. There were two curtained closets constructed near to the altar and shrine of Edward the Confessor in the Abbey where the king and queen could change their robes in private.

Richard III’s scoliosis was always hidden and only those very close to the king would assist him with dressing and changes of clothes, such as the Duke of Buckingham.

The illustration of Richard III and Queen Anne on the right which appears in the Rous Roll appears to show Richard wearing armour at his coronation, which he didn’t do. Anne is depicted wearing robes showing her coat of arms, which again she did not. The sketch below at the National Portrait Gallery also shows Richard and Anne wearing very similar coronation robes.

Apparently, the king wore sabatons of gold tissue that were part of a 15th century knight’s armour, that covers the foot with a tapered point longer.
than the actual toes of the wearing. This footwear merely resembled armoured footwear which didn’t mean that Richard wore amour at his coronation.

The members of the Great Wardrobe were under enormous pressure to complete the making of the royal robes and for providing their households with suitable clothing and materials for them to wear at the celebratory events and ceremonies. The book Liber Regalis provided for two sets of clothing for Richard, which included crimson robes for his anointing and purple for his crowning. The garments worn by the monarchs during the Anointing Ceremonies had laced up slits that would easily be opened at the places where the King was anointed.

It was decided that Anne would also have two sets of clothing as her husband, even though the Liber Regalis specified that the queen consort would only be provided with one set. The provisions regarding colour still applies in modern day coronations. For example Queen Elizabeth II entered Westminster Abbey at her coronation in 1953, wearing a train of crimson velvet, but she left wearing a purple train after she was crowned. In Pamela Furmidge’s paper The Coronation of Richard III: Part II, a full account of the making of the coronation robes can be seen.

Timberlake Smith also gives a detailed account about ‘John Caster, the King’s skinner within the Great Wardrobe (died 1484)’. In 1483, John Caster had to oversee the furring of the coronation robes of Richard and Anne. He received a reward of 26s 8d for his special attention and great labour. As an example of the amount of crafts people involved in the Great Wardrobe, between April 1483 to February 1484 the Great Wardrobe wage bill included payment to 73 tailors working 412 days and 91 skinners for 801.5 days’ work.

The coronation ceremonies began on Friday 4 July. Richard and Anne left Baynard’s Castle and took up residence in the Tower of London, in keeping with tradition. After eating a modest fish dinner, Richard performed the customary ritual of creating a number of new Knights of the Bath. They spent the night in prayer and were brought before Richard, after they had made their confessions before hearing matins and mass. Spurs were fastened to their heels, before Richard – personally girded on their swords – bestowed the accolade by striking them on their necks. He then kissed them and said the words ‘Be ye a good knight’.

The newly created knights served the King and Queen at an elaborate dinner, before retiring to prepare for the afternoon procession to Westminster. Everywhere was a blaze of colour designed to allow as many citizens as possible to see their new King and acclaim him.

Richard was dressed in blue cloth of gold, purple velvet and ermine. He rode a horse trapped in purple and crimson cloth of gold, beneath a canopy of red, green and gold carried by four knights. The long riding gown that Richard wore during the procession from the Tower of London to Westminster, the day before the coronation, was made of purple velvet with ‘eight and a half timber [eight and a half yards] of purple velvet furred with thirteen backs of ermine [i.e. 353 back skins], and three timber and seventeen belly furs all sewn with 3,300 powderings of bogey shanks’ (bogy shanks were leg pieces of imported lamb skins originally imported from Bougie).
It feels like every time I turn on the news there’s been either a mass shooting somewhere in America; a loss of lives in either Israel or Palestine; another migrant boat has capsized; a bombing in Ukraine or Russia; or a demonstration in Paris; the threat of nuclear attack, and more and more signs of severe unrest across the world. Many have lost their homes and loved ones and are lost. Many of these conflicts have been going on for decades and there’s expectation that they will go on for decades more. That’s sometimes difficult to swallow.

The world has become a global village and these signs of unrest or actual conflict can no longer simply be contained in one area but impacts all countries in one shape or another and I feel that it’s essential to open our minds to that. There’s desperation and concern about inflation and the state of the economy. Young people all over the world are inheriting a world with serious environmental issues and in many parts of the world, face a bleak future where many wonder what the future holds for them.

Breathe. God is in control. Jesus, take the wheel. Jesus, see me through. Jesus, you are my husband, friend, parent, Lord, and all. These are words that bring calm to my heart after listening to the news and to my days after a hectic day at work. They are words that I know will see me through all trials and tribulations. They are my safety net and my safe zone.

I feel it’s important to have something that we can lean back on when we feel that we need a breather, and there are many ways to help and contribute towards the tackling and resolution of the different diverse sets of issues and challenges that the world faces. Many opened their doors to Ukrainian refugees, contribute through trusted channels, offer prayers, etc. I feel that although we may not be in a position to change the world on our own, we can make little contributions that would go a long way. After all, little drops of water, make a mighty ocean.

There may be a lot going wrong in the world at the moment, but there’s a lot going right and a lot to be grateful for. Being grateful allows us to see the positive more than the negative. A friend of mine lost her mother to Alzheimer's disease recently. I knew her mother, who often visited from Nigeria and would spend a couple of months with her and her family before returning back. My friend was grateful. Her words to me were that she was glad, they were given a long time to come...
to terms with her eventual loss. She has fond memories of the times she spent with her mother as a child but especially, as an adult and holds onto the fact that her mother must be in a better place with the love of her life, her father, whom she lost when she was still a teenager. She described her mother in many beautiful words and continued to laugh as she recalled their shared experiences.

I am grateful to still have my parents and be gifted with the opportunity to take care of them in ways that I can, now that they are older. 1 Timothy 5.1–2 says,

"Do not rebuke an older man harshly but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers; older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity."

There are many blessings around us and many ways we can bless others. It's not all gloom; we live in a beautiful world, God wants us to be happy, and although we may not have all that we want, the world has so much to offer. We must grab it, cherish, enjoy it and be happy.

Be happy and enjoy your weekend.

Chi
Updated time lapse video shows progress during June

Updated video from the time lapse camera outside the Cathedral shows the specialist groundworkers continuing construction of the basement for the new visitor and learning centre extension. Having completed the lower basement areas, the footage shows work to form the upper basement floor and walls. The stairwell is visible in the top left.

The video can be seen [here](#).

Updated video from the time lapse camera inside the Cathedral doesn’t appear to show a great deal to start with! There is work on the floor boxes providing power and data connections and restoration work to the column bases. It is difficult to see the works in the Great South Aisle to install a template setting out the new position of the font and to break through the wall at the east end to form the internal entrance to new visitor and learning centre, as the views are obscured by the nave columns. Towards the end of the video you can see the use of a special lift to install the pendant lighting in the nave.

The video can be seen [here](#).

Simon Bentley
Project Director
simon.bentley@leicestercofe.org
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.