What to say? What to do? In the face of the appalling and heart-rending situation in the near East right now? Made even more poignant given that these lands are deeply part of our and others’ faith history. I guess many of you, like I, are very confused – wanting to engage yet finding it very hard, particularly in the face of the images we are seeing.

I would suggest that there are three tangible things we can do – the first of which frames the other two. In true Biblical tradition, we can lament. Lament contains within itself both grief and sorrow – ‘We sat down and wept’. But lament also acknowledges confusion and unknowing – even complaint against God. ‘I cry aloud to God’ and ‘How long, O Lord?’ Lament is a grown-up way of responding to events beyond our comprehension or control. There is much to lament, not least the lives cut short through this brutal violence. We can lament past actions which have brought us and the global community to this place. We can acknowledge our collective short-sightedness. Or our turning away from God’s purpose. We should never curtail or suppress our lament but, rather, enable its expression in order to inform the future.

One of my family members rarely, if ever, touches base with national or global news, finding it confusing and unsettling. I do know, from what he drops out in conversation – and this worries me – that he inhabits ‘echo chambers’ of one sort or another. I’m not sure which echo chambers might attract him on this current issue (and I’m not sure I want to find out either!). However I think our faith really invites us to be well engaged in a balanced manner.

Christ, by his example, calls us honestly and clear-sightedly to face what is going on and make connections. I don’t know about you, but, while I don’t always relish facing the news, I do so, as an act of Christian commitment, and also consult a range of reputable news channels to get a balance. I have no answers but I am, I hope in a godly way, engaged.

My second action is that we can and should pray. Pray for peace, for justice, for a lasting solution, for those many families within both the Israeli and Palestinian communities experiencing deep mourning – and for those people of influence and wisdom both in the Holy Land and beyond, who, officially or otherwise, might hold the keys to unlocking a more hopeful future. Collectively and individually they bear quite a burden and responsibility. If we believe anything about the power of prayer, we have to believe that our prayers into the current situation do indeed matter. And so, let’s pray!

My third action might seem strange as an action – we have to hope. That sounds passive but actually is a dynamic action. Something we choose to do. Hope is different from optimism: hope faces even the bleakest of realities but refuses to be bowed down. Hope recognises that the tiniest flicker of light in the darkness requires precious and active nurture. For many, not least those living first-hand the devastating effects of the conflict, the current Israeli-Palestinian situation might seem to lack any hope. We who are removed from that immediacy must surely beware platitudes but, equally, we may be able to help to hold the hope and, in so doing, hold the global community better to account.
And, finally, let’s remind ourselves of Biblical history. The ancient prophets spoke into bleak situations, both warning of potential disaster but also articulating hope in the face of devastation. When everything was ruined around them they spoke of a different and bright future. And, in so doing, helped it into being. Manchester is but one place within the UK where the current pain will be particularly felt. The Bishop of Manchester has written these words, “This is a time to draw together in the face of atrocity, to unite against those who would divide us, and to model in Manchester the love that transcends our diverse histories and heritage."

Implicit in that statement is hope. Our two Archbishops articulate well the long-term goal of a two-state solution where “Israel and its people can live in security within its internationally recognised borders, and Palestinians have their own state and live in their lands in security, and with peace and justice.” Here is something indeed to hope for, way beyond any short termism politics. And, where we might glimpse visionary leadership able to speak into the current situation, then we are called to both lament, hope and pray for those leaders – in Israel or Palestine or elsewhere - who might be able to take things forward.

So, drawing upon all our Biblical knowledge with the awareness that God is in here for the long term and is well able to take our anger, frustration and confusion, let’s quite simply, come together reflectively and continue not only to pray but ask, with the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem:

_Almighty and Everlasting God: Our days are in your hands; we lift up all those in the Holy Land who are victims of violence and injustice, that you might empower your Church to bring healing to the wounded, relief to the suffering, and comfort to those who mourn; we pray also that you would soften the hearts of all those involved in the recent conflicts, that they would be led to work for justice and lasting peace in the land where your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, first came to bring hope and abundant life to all people; these things we ask in his Holy Name._

Amen.

Canon Alison Adams Canon Pastor
Buildings Challenge: Raising money for Toilet Twinning

How well do you know Leicester? If you were shown pictures of parts of buildings near the Cathedral, how many could you recognise? Well now is your chance to prove your knowledge! For the princely sum of £2 (all of which goes to our Toilet Twinning project), you will be given 30 pictures, a map showing the streets where the buildings can be found and a sheet to record your answers. Copies will be available at the end of the 10.30am Sunday Eucharist or contact David.Dewdney@LeicesterCofE.org for further details.

Please note that the closing date for entries is Sunday 12 November.

David Dewdney

Christians in Leicester & Leicestershire Against Modern Slavery

Christians in Leicester & Leicestershire Against Modern Slavery (CLLAMS) are local Christians working closely with the Diocese to raise awareness and tackle modern slavery. Here you can join in conversation, find information and get help to run local awareness-raising activities.

CLLAMS' Facebook page provides up to date information and they can be contacted for advice.

For plenty of information around the nature, causes and extent of Modern Slavery, together with other resources and information, please visit the Clewer Initiative website. This is a Church of England body, working across all Dioceses.
Leicester Cathedral is hiring!
For details, job descriptions, and to apply, visit leicestercathedral.org/vacancies

Vacancies

Music & Liturgy Administrator

This role requires good administration skills, highly developed people skills and professionalism in dealing with others – especially Choir parents, schools and other partners. A personal interest in cathedral music and worship will bring added value.

You will be instrumental in

- choir administration, including for recruitment and for DioSing
- liturgy/worship administration – e.g. the production/printing of service orders for Cathedral services
- other duties as described in the job description

Application Deadline: 12 noon, Friday 20 October 2023

Events Officer

As Events Officer, you will work closely with colleagues across Visitor Experience, and partners to develop a programme of high profile and small-scale events in the Cathedral and its Gardens in order to establish Leicester Cathedral as a significant arts and events venue.

You will be instrumental in

- increasing footfall to the Cathedral, generating income, and
- delivering the key elements of the Activity Plan for Leicester Cathedral Revealed, while balancing our position as a place of worship and leading visitor attraction.

Application Deadline: 12 noon, Monday 23 October 2023

Visitor Welcome Assistants

Visitor Welcome Assistants will be on the front line of the Cathedral’s interaction with the public and will facilitate a positive visitor experience through the following key responsibilities:

- Providing the best possible welcome to all Cathedral visitors
- Encouraging visitors to donate on entry to the Cathedral – helping the Cathedral meet its financial targets.

You will play a key role in supporting the Cathedral’s long-term sustainability plans through encouraging donations and supporting our commercial initiatives, balancing our position as a place of worship and leading visitor attraction.

Application Deadline: 12 noon, Monday 23 October 2023
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 16 OCTOBER**
8.30am  Morning Eucharist  (St Nicholas)
5.30pm  Evening Prayer  (St Nicholas)

**TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER**
8.30am  Morning Prayer  (St Nicholas)
1.00pm  Lunchtime Eucharist  (St Nicholas)
5.30pm  Evening Prayer  (St Nicholas)

**WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER**
8.30am  Morning Prayer  (St Nicholas)
1.00pm  Lunchtime Eucharist  (St Nicholas)
5.30pm  Evening Prayer  (St Nicholas)

**THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER**
8.30am  Morning Prayer  (St Nicholas)
1.00pm  Lunchtime Eucharist  (St Nicholas)
5.30pm  Evening Prayer  (St Nicholas)

**FRIDAY 20 OCTOBER**
8.30am  Morning Prayer  (St Nicholas)
5.30pm  Evening Prayer  (St Nicholas)

**SUNDAY 22 OCTOBER**
10.30am  Sunday Eucharist  (St Martins House)
6.30pm  St Nicholas Eucharist  (St Nicholas)

**MONDAY 23 OCTOBER**
8.30am  Morning Eucharist  (St Nicholas)
5.30pm  Choral Evensong  (St Nicholas)
Together with...

Our forty-first service out with parish churches in the City and County, as part of Together with Leicester Cathedral, will take place on Sunday 5 November 2023.

Join us at 6.30pm for a Duruflé Requiem Service at the Church of St James the Greater (216 London Rd, Leicester, LE2 1NE).

After we have re-entered the Cathedral building in November 2023, we will still hold Together with services regularly, but on a less frequent basis!

We have so enjoyed our visits to other parishes on Sunday afternoons for Choral Evensong with our Choirs, clergy and Cathedral community. It is wonderful to connect with people across the Diocese and to make new friends as well as continue existing relationships, and we are delighted to be able to continue this programme.

Do continue to join us if you can and spread the word to your friends too!

17 December: Seven Lessons and Carols Service, at Holy Trinity, Barrow-upon-Soar, 6.00pm

For information about future dates please visit the Cathedral website or contact Canon Emma Davies or Head Verger Bev Collett.
LCR Update
Time lapse videos shows progress during September

Updated video from the time lapse cameras outside the Cathedral show the specialist groundworkers continuing construction of the ground floor and first floor structure of the new visitor and learning centre extension.

The videos can be seen here:

Birds Eye View
External

Updated video from the time lapse camera inside the Cathedral shows snagging work on the new limestone floor in preparation for grouting, cleaning, and sealing. If you look closely, you may be able to spot ongoing stonework restoration on the south-western and then the north-western arch of the Sanctuary, and work on the floor of the Great South Aisle to prepare for the arrival of a new base plinth for the font that will relocate from the west end of the cathedral. The new plinth will be made from dark Kilkenny limestone and inscribed.

The video can be seen here.

Simon Bentley
Project Director
simon.bentley@leicestercofe.org
Bring the whole family and join us for a morning of fun, games, craft and reflection during half term!

This is a great opportunity to take part together in a variety of games and activities, and spend time with other families connected with Leicester Cathedral. We’ll provide everything you need for a fun morning out, including hot and cold refreshments!

If you are able to make a £5 donation per family towards the cost of running the morning, that would be lovely, but we are committed to making our activities accessible to all, regardless of circumstance so this is entirely voluntary.

For more information, or to let us know you’re planning to come, please email Louise, the Cathedral children’s worker at louise.davis@leicestercofe.org.

Please note: all children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult who will need to stay for the whole session.

A note for adults!

If you are unable to help out practically but would like to make a donation towards the running of the morning, or provide a homemade cake (or similar!) please contact Louise.

Thank you!

(Vehicle access to Church Lane is via Brinsmead Road. There is a small car park behind the centre and plenty of parking on Brinsmead Road. The centre is just off Welford Road and served by several bus routes.)
Black history is not only an important part of my life, it’s an important part of the reason the world is the way it is today (you can decide what way that is). However, it seems to be that ‘society’ over the years dictates how that importance is seen and appreciated therefore affecting its meaning to different people.

Being a young black man growing up in the 21st century I can say confidently that I know my identity and am proud of it and that is firstly down to (most of) the modern-day society being increasingly more willing to embrace and accept differences between each other.

How does that help me be confident in MY identity?

Well to put it simply, this acceptance allows me (and others I’m sure) to be comfortable in expressing myself without worrying about how people will look or treat me. Not being forced to think or act in certain ways because of my skin colour. Being able to question and challenge any injustices. Just being able to get on with my life.

Go back just 30 or 40 years, and most black people couldn’t walk to the shops without fear or being abused or attacked which leads on to my other point about what my identity.

“It’s hard to appreciate the destination you’re at without acknowledging the journey that got you there, however simple or complex it was”. – Hubert (2022)

To summarise the quite inspirational quote, my identity as a black man means nothing if it wasn’t for the history that made it my identity. My mum, for example, moving to the UK all those years ago. My grandparents and great-grandparents living under German colonisation in East Africa before and during the world wars. What Mandela fought for in South Africa. Martin Luther King Jr’s dream. Nanny de Maroon and all the freedom fighters during the dark days of slavery. Steven Lawrence. George Floyd. Barack Obama. Arthur Wharton.

The list goes on but all in all whether revolutionary or tragic these people and moments make up my history, my family’s history, black history, everyone’s history.

Hubert
Friends of Leicester Cathedral
Supper at the Chef and Spice

Monday 27 November 2023 | 7.00 for 7.30pm
1 Andrewes Street, Hinckley Road, Leicester, LE3 5PG

In celebration of the re-opening of the Cathedral, we invite you and your friends to join us for another fun and food evening. The owner of the Chef and Spice allows organisations like ours to have a charity event at the cost of £20 per person, of which £10 will be given back to The Friends.

Colin Entwistle looks forward to receiving your bookings! Detail of how to pay are given below.

During the evening there will be a raffle for which Colin will be pleased to receive prizes.

We look forward to welcoming you and your friends to this fundraising event.

Payment details

By Bank Transfer to: Friends of Leicester Cathedral
Acct No: 87203081, Sort Code: 60-60-06
Reference: CHEF followed by your name.

Please send an email to Colin at candent@btinternet.com advising the number of tickets and names of those booked. You will receive an e-mail acknowledgement.

By cheque made payable to: The Friends of Leicester Cathedral

Please send to Colin Entwistle, Chapter House, 2 Quarryman’s Court, Markfield, Leicestershire LE67 9XQ, including the names of those booked. If you have an e-mail address, please also provide this for an acknowledgement to be sent. Otherwise, please include an SAE.
One of the first mentions of a toilet was found at Knossos, on the site of the Minoan palace built for King Minos on the island of Crete. This palace – the mythological site of the Minotaur and the Labyrinth – was constructed around 1950 BC. The skill of the hydraulic and sanitary engineering far surpasses that of the Chaldeans, Egyptians or Greeks. The Knossos latrines were found to be remarkably modern. One on the ground floor had a wooden seat and may have had an earthenware pan like a modern ‘wash-out’ closet, as well as a reservoir of flushing water. In England there was nothing comparable with this until the 18th century.

A small bathroom from around 1350 BC has been excavated in the city of Akhenaten at Tel-el-Amarna, in Egypt. The toilet has a limestone slab at one end with a low rim which only held about an inch of two of water (as seen right).

On Hadrian’s Wall at Hallstead Fort, evidence of an elaborate system of stone water tanks and drains was discovered.

To coincide with our seasonal Toilet Twinning campaign, Irene Turlington has written a series of articles, working with David Dewdney, looking at poverty, illness and hygiene in Victorian Leicester and St Martins.
contaminated by seepage from cesspits or holes from privies which had been dug right into the water seam.

In 1831 Leicester had a population of approximately 38,904 – by 1901 this had increased to 221,579 due to the demand for workers in the rapidly expanding hosiery and boot and shoe industries, as described in Ned Newitt’s The Slums of Leicester’ (The Breedon Books Publishing, Derby: 2009).

Due to the growing workforce, houses for the workers were based in cheap, badly built cottages centred around a densely packed courtyard, accessible through a narrow entry. Many cottages lacked proper drainage. Red Cross Street in St Martin’s parish was in the heart of one of the slum areas.

Leicester Corporation appointed the Chartist George Brown as ‘Inspector of Nuisances’; only then did Leicester begin to change. Brown recommended the payment of Doctors Buck and Barclay, and they became the first medical officers appointed by a local council in Britain. They proposed five bye-laws including: the prohibition of pig keeping within 30 to 40 ft. of dwellings; cesspools and privy holes were to be emptied on a regular basis; the keeping of night soils in yards was to be prohibited; stench traps were to be fitted on drains; and new streets were to have proper drains. Dr Buck emphasised the need for a regulation to stop the building of back-to-back houses with means of through ventilation.

Pail closets were introduced around 1851. The Board of Health demanded that every new building should be connected where possible to the main sewage network.

By 1872 pressure was alleviated by the introduction of the ‘Rochdale system’ for the removal of night soil. This meant the use of pail closets instead of the extension of water closets.

A sub-committee was set up to explore methods used in connection to the use of pail or tub closets used in other parts of the country, such as Halifax Rochdale, Manchester, Salford and Nottingham. It was recommended that a trial of the Manchester and Rochdale system was used in some of the crowded courts on Sanvey Gate and Palmerston Street in Leicester. The utilisation of galvanised buckets containing disinfectant used in the Rochdale system was proved to be the best system from a sanitary point of view, as it promoted purity of the air surrounding the houses in the courts in the poorer districts.

Eventually, public toilets became commonplace amongst all but the wealthy classes. In London, public pay-toilets costing one penny to use were commonplace in 1851. They are the origin of the common British euphemism for using the toilet ‘to spend a penny’.
Permanent chlorination of the water supply to treat infectious agents began in Lincoln in 1905.

The modern closed tank cistern toilet design was introduced and began to replace older designs with elevated tanks. In the 1930s, houses in certain areas were improved by sculleries and outside toilets being built, such as at Thames Street in Leicester where offensive sewage often ran down the street in the 1850s. (Ned Newitt; p.15 *The Slums of Leicester* (Breedon Publishing Books: 2009).

One in three people across the world do not have a safe or hygienic toilet.

494 million people still have to defecate in the open, for example in street gutters, behind bushes or into open bodies of water.

Women and girls risk being attacked or bitten by snakes if they go to the toilet in the open, especially if their culture dictates, they must go out at night.

For further info on Toilet Twinning, please contact David.Dewdney@LeicesterCaF.E.org
Featuring exceptional artists:
Ustād Dharambir Singh (Sitar)
Roopa Panesar (Sitar)
Shahbaz Hussain (Tabla)

BOOK NOW via (0116) 2532569
https://leicestermuseums.org

Celebrate Diwali the classical way with a special evening exploring divine light through music. Enjoy the moods and melodies of Indian classical music in the stunning settings of Leicester Guildhall.

SATURDAY 4th Nov 2023
Leicester Guildhall, Guildhall Lane, Leicester LE1 5FQ
Time: 6.30pm - 8.30pm
Tickets: £15 full, £10 concession
What a week it’s been – where does one begin? It does not feel right to speak about anything else other than the current events unfolding in the Middle East, before our eyes.

My heart goes out to all the families in Israel and Gaza going through their worst possible nightmare and to all those around the world with loved ones caught up in the middle of the current crisis.

The shells continue to drop and lives continue to shatter. Life is as fragile as glass. One minute, we are here and the next we are not. The irreparable devastation, heartbreak and despair that follows a war runs through generations and generations to come. Yes, the pain and horror will live on long after the dark smoke in the sky clears away. But for now, let us pray for it to stop. The birds no longer sing, instead death and despair have become the lullabies that guide the little ones to sleep. I have not been able to stop watching the news, hoping and praying that the fight will cease.

I cannot imagine what it must be like for those families in Israel asleep in bed, in their own homes, after a normal day – only to be awakened by violence, gunshots and blood. Nor can I imagine what may have gone through the minds of the young people dancing outside under the heavens – at a music festival for peace – happy and joyful, only to be massacred.

Can you imagine what the people of Gaza are going through with the blockade which has stopped
food and basic human necessities from getting to them?

There are babies and children caught up in this who must be confused and wondering why their worlds have changed so suddenly. It doesn’t feel right. It’s not right.

In a world full of sin and wickedness, people say that war is inevitable, but is it? Could we not live in harmony and stop the slaughter? Must we drag innocent babies and children into it? This is a stark reminder of the atrocities happening in other parts of the world and it’s appalling, heart-breaking and wrong. I am from Nigeria and there are similar stories of such unnecessary killings in the Northern part of Nigeria by Boko Haram.

Let us pray that God gives the leaders the strength to put a stop to this and touch their hearts like he touches the hearts and minds of men like St Paul.

We all have a role to play. We can put a stop to it all. How? Through Love. By loving ourselves and loving our neighbours as ourselves. Instead of hate, rage, jealousy or revenge, let us love. It feels right to re-iterate the Bible’s description of love from 1 Corinthians 13:

“If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three remain faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

May God bless the innocent lives caught up in wars and fights across the world. May peace reign over all the earth in Jesus’s name we pray, Amen.

Chiamaka
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.