Divine light through music

Cathedrals are amazing! I love them for their inspiring architecture, beautiful music and liturgy, engagement with theology and ideas, and their open doors to the world. I am sure all of us can think of a moment when we have also felt some connection with God there – in prayer, in music, in a word, a kindness, a community gathering, dappled light seeping through coloured glass. It does seem to me though, that there is something very special about the way in which stone creates a bowl of ancient resonance to hold music and voice.

I am struck by the invitation to enjoy the moods and melodies of Indian classical music at the Guildhall in early November (Sat 4 Nov, 6.30pm at the Guildhall) as ‘a special evening exploring divine light through music.’ The Sitar Music Society are longstanding friends of the Cathedral and I know some of you will have attended their concerts in years past. You will know that the music is not only technically complex but also most evocative. ‘Exploring divine light through music’ offers a helpful way of thinking about music which is such a powerful medium that unlocks our emotions, feelings and minds. The Indian classical genre is no exception.

My first encounter with this type of music was in Delhi after a hectic day in a densely populated and polluted city followed by a journey in a couple of packed buses across the city centre on a winter’s night. The contrasts couldn’t have been greater. The music was so stilling and beautiful. It totally changed how I felt.

The ancient story of David in the court of an agitated, troubled – even tormented – King Saul who was soothed by his playing, reminds us that this calming effect is nothing new. David’s playing was a ministry and blessing to an anxious king.

I hope I can persuade you to give yourself a little time to find solace and salve, healing and rest in some music in these troubled times. How might moments like this become a spiritual practice of intentional coming into the presence of God or recognising God waiting for you in them? Words may or may not be part of your prayer, simply breathing in the life of God and exhaling our anxieties is enough.

If Indian classical music is not a genre you are familiar with, can I encourage you to come along to the Guildhall to experience it? For me it is ‘other’ and sublime, whilst at the same time being challenging because of its unfamiliarity. These are all words I might also use about God. Of course, music is not God, but there is something of God mediated through our senses. Perhaps I’ll see you there?

David took the lyre and played it with his hand, and Saul would be relieved and fell better, and the evil spirit would depart from him. And abundant life to all people; these things we ask in his Holy Name. Amen. 1 Sam 16.23

Canon Karen Rooms
Acting Dean of Leicester
MUSIC & LIGHT
A Concert of Indian Classical Music

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CANON-IN-RESIDENCE
ONE OF the clergy always holds this phone. Do feel able to contact us if you need but please be aware we cannot receive texts.

07399 523 330

Celebrate Diwali the classic 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

Music & Light
Leicester Guildhall, Guildhall Lane, Leicester LE1 5FQ

Time: 6.30pm - 8.30pm
Tickets: £15 full, £10 concession

A Concert of Indian Classical Music
Sitar Music Society Presents
in collaboration with Leicester Cathedral

https://leicestermuseums.org
News & Updates

Closer to reopening...
The grouting of the new limestone floor has been taking place over the past week – another step towards our reopening on Sunday 26 November!

The front image shows the uncovering of the Organ earlier this week, now that all the ‘dusty’ work of the project has been completed.

Fauré Requiem
Join us at 6.00pm in St Nicholas Church, Thursday 2 November, for an All Souls Service with Fauré’s Requiem, sung by the Cathedral Choir.
Vacancies

Leicester Cathedral is hiring!
For details, job descriptions, and to apply, visit leicestercathedral.org/vacancies

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 23 OCTOBER | 8.30am | Morning Eucharist | (St Nicholas) |
| | 5.30pm | Choral Evensong | (St Nicholas) |
| TUESDAY 24 OCTOBER | 8.30am | Morning Prayer | (St Nicholas) |
| | 1.00pm | Lunchtime Eucharist | (St Nicholas) |
| | 5.30pm | Choral Evensong | (St Nicholas) |
| WEDNESDAY 25 OCTOBER | 8.30am | Morning Prayer | (St Nicholas) |
| | 5.30pm | Evening Prayer | (St Nicholas) |
| THURSDAY 26 OCTOBER | 8.30am | Morning Prayer | (St Nicholas) |
| | 1.00pm | Lunchtime Eucharist | (St Nicholas) |
| | 5.30pm | Evening Prayer | (St Nicholas) |
| FRIDAY 27 OCTOBER | 8.30am | Morning Prayer | (St Nicholas) |
| | 5.30pm | Evening Prayer | (St Nicholas) |
| SUNDAY 29 OCTOBER | 10.30am | Sunday Eucharist | (St Martins House) |
| | 4.00pm | Justice Service | (St Mary de Castro) |
| | 6.30pm | St Nicholas Eucharist | (St Nicholas) |
| MONDAY 30 OCTOBER | 8.30am | Morning Eucharist | (St Nicholas) |
| | 5.30pm | Choral Evensong | (St Nicholas) |
Daffodils, chess, and bacon cobs!

Question: what do daffodils, chess, and bacon cobs have in common?

Answer: they were all part of the Junior Church activity morning that took place during half term!

Three families and a team of five volunteers spent the morning of Tuesday 17 October together, eating, chatting, crafting, painting, planting, and generally have fun and getting to know one another better.

The activities on offer included painting large, flat pebbles, and enjoying traditional board and card games like chess and Happy Families. We each planted a small pot with spring-flowering daffodils and grape hyacinth bulbs, topped off with a pansy, and then family groups planted up large containers which have now taken pride of place in the St Martin’s House atrium. Do have a look next time you’re in the building!

Jude, the Cathedral’s Discipleship Officer, helped us to think, reflect and pray about things for which we are thankful, things that worry us, and things we hope for. Together, we also used Lego to build houses, gardens and churches, praying for those who have worked on Leicester Cathedral Revealed, for the upcoming reopening of our Cathedral building, and for all of those – clergy, lay people, staff, volunteers, congregation members and local partners – working to build and transform our Cathedral community every day.

It was lovely to see parents and children getting stuck in and to hear the buzz of conversation as existing friendships were deepened and new ones begun.

Nathan and Neill kept us all well supplied with bacon cobs, cups of tea, and biscuits, while Kath and Linda were an encouraging presence in amongst all the activity.

I hope that this will prove to be the first in an ongoing programme of holiday activities, with the next one likely to take place in February half term 2024. To make sure you don’t miss out on the opportunity to get involved – as a participant or a volunteer – drop me an email and I’ll make sure you’re kept in the loop as plans develop!

Louise Davis
Children’s Worker
louise.davis@leicestercofe.org
Tigers Dinner

On Saturday 14 October 2023, members of the 4th/5th Battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment, known affectionately as 'The Tigers', held their Annual Dinner to commemorate those who had lost their lives on 13 October 1915 at one of the most horrific battles of the First World War. It took place at the Hohenzollern Redoubt, northern France, where all twenty of the Battalion’s Officers were killed or wounded and 453 other 'Tigers' lost their lives – almost one-third of the 628 lost in the whole war. On this remembrance occasion, the dining table has a line of lighted silver candlesticks, given the families of some of the Officers killed.

This year Anthony Wessel, a former National Service Lieutenant in the Regiment, was invited to say Grace before Dinner and he would remember his own Great-uncle Capt. Leslie Corah, who was one of those killed at Hohenzollern. But he also took the opportunity to compose a prayer that would refer to the reopening of Leicester Cathedral, where the Regimental (St George’s) Chapel is its treasured spiritual home. Anthony said:

"Dear Lord, our Father and Protector,

We remember with affection and respect the twenty Officers and 453 other ranks who were killed or badly wounded at the horrific battle of Hohenzollern on 13 October 1915.

And as we approach the re-opening of Leicester Cathedral and thus our Regimental Chapel, let us give both Thanks and Remembrance. We thank you, Lord, for all those people who have worked so hard to restore and prepare the Cathedral for the modern twenty-first century – the craftsmen and skilled workmen; but also the whole team involved in such a major project.

Thank you also for those who have taken care of the Regimental Chapel – our spiritual home – and have protected and nurtured it during its closure. In particular, we give thanks that our Regimental Colours, which have been professionally repaired by the conservators at Burghley House, will shortly take their rightful and honoured place in the Chapel. For the Colours are a memory of the many Regimental campaigns and battles in which we proudly distinguished ourselves.

In addition we remember and commend to you, O Lord, those members of our Regiment who are commemorated in the Chapel, many of whom gave their lives serving the Regiment, especially those at Hohenzollern.

We remember them all.

In the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank thee O Lord.

Amen."
We are proud of the beauty and dignity of our Regimental Chapel, but also the history it tells, the fascinating artefacts it houses and the people it commemorates. Of course war and Empire are sensitive areas of discussion, but those men in the Leicestershire Regiment were not colonialisirs – they were obeying commands given to the Army by their government. In all respects of integrity and values, they were just ordinary people like you and me.

In the 1935 publication *Footprints of the 1/4th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment August 1914-November 1918* we are also reminded of these men’s Christian faith; for we learn that at Hohenzollern ‘The Colonel stays in the front-line trench; he is in great pain [from a wounded leg] but he still directs operations, receiving reports and giving orders. He reads the Bible to Clive Harvey, one of the youngest subalterns, who is mortally wounded and comforts him as he dies’.

Lieutenant Harvey is one of those whose memory was perpetuated by a lighted candle at the Regimental Dinner, 108 years after he was comforted on his death bed by the words of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Surely the youthful Clive had a place awaiting him with Our Saviour.

Caroline Wessel
As a mixed-race person with Jamaican heritage, the way I have connected with my family history has been through cooking. The one thing that I remember the most was when my great-grandma would make one of her famous Jamaican soups, which she made most Saturdays. She would go to the Caribbean store at the market and get her vegetables, which were mainly yellow yam, scotch bonnet peppers, and chow-chow, then she would go to the butchers and get her meat. Depending on what soup she was cooking, she would either get oxtail, cow foot or ham hock. This was food that I wasn't really used to and only ate at her house. She brought these because they were cheap cuts of meat, which as a mum of six and with around 12 grandchildren – and even more great grandchildren – was a cost-effective way to feed the family.

I always remember the house being full of laughter and lots of food. No one ever left my great-grandma’s house with an empty stomach. Whenever I went there I always looked forward to the biscuits – she always had a few extra packets in her cupboards. The chances of her running out of teabags, biscuits, rice and flour was very slim but she always brought some when she went shopping, especially if they were on offer. She would always say it was for when she couldn’t get out to do her shopping. I think it was because of the poorer times she experienced when coming to the UK. Christmas was always held at her house where we would eat, drink and enjoy everyone’s company.

We still keep the traditions alive by having a traditional Jamaican breakfast on Christmas as our brunch which is made up of fried fish, ackee and saltfish, breadfruit, hardough bread, and bun and cheese. Personally my favourite is ackee and saltfish with hardough bread. I’m hoping this Christmas my mum will let me do more than peel the vegetables and grate the cheese.

I use food as a way to remember the times when my great-grandmother would cook for me as she inspired me because she would always make amazing dishes with foods that didn’t sound appetising. Cooking with my mum and grandma is something we do now because our family has the joy of giving through food.

I would like to keep our tradition alive with my children and grandchildren because I think it’s a big part of our family history and is a great way of keeping the memories and legacy of my great grandparents alive. I would also like to pass on my great grandmother’s recipes and even create one or two of my own. I hope they will do the same with their kids. 

Isaiah
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 cdent@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.
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

829,000 people in low- and middle-income countries die as a result of inadequate water, sanitation, and hygiene each year, representing 60% of total diarrhoeal deaths.

Poor sanitation is linked to transmission of diarrhoeal diseases such as cholera and dysentery, as well as typhoid, intestinal worm infections and polio. It exacerbates stunting and contributes to the spread of antimicrobial diseases.

For further info on Toilet Twinning, please contact David.Dewdney@LeicesterCofE.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.

Featuring exceptional artists:
Ustād Dharambir Singh (Sitar)
Roopa Panesar (Sitar)
Shahbaz Hussain (Tabla)

BOOK NOW
via (0116) 2532569
https://leicestermuseums.org
Hello everyone. May the love and grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the Prince of Peace, remain with us all in these difficult days.

I am writing near Randazzo in Sicily, in the shadow of Mount Etna, having taken the ferry across the beautiful Messina Straits from Calabria. “The mountain” is putting on a good show, with great white clouds billowing from her peak. (The above photograph is from nearby Brontë and was taken four years ago in winter.) However, overshadowing everything just now are the terrible events in Israel and Gaza. By the time this reflection appears in the newsletter, I dread to think how many more innocent people will have died.

There is no such thing as a “righteous” war. These days, the innocents, the infants and the children, the mothers, the grandmothers and grandfathers are all murdered ruthlessly by terrorists and “precision” munitions alike on both sides of the wall.

In 2023, when so much is possible, it seems incredible to me that we should still be dividing along ancient tribal lines; but this is occurring every day across the globe. I do not believe in the “power of progress” per se to wreak change.¹ But the tools

¹ The World of Yesterday by Stefan Zweig is well worth reading to see how thin our veneer of “civilisation” actually is – think of being Jewish in Vienna during the early years of the 20th century.

² Read beautifully the other Sunday in the Cathedral by John Thorpe.

³ Think Wrath of Khan.

⁴ I think you know the answer and no, it is not a grey squirrel! If you really do not know then may I suggest read Romans?

⁵ nice video here on YouTube.

⁶ Speech in Memphis, TN, 3 April 1968 – the night before he was martyred.

⁷ Thomas Merton, Book of Hours.
we all have to hand should allow us to see complex issues in a much more comprehensive, global manner. However, “give war a chance” seems to be the mantra of the day. Why might this be so? We turn to two readings from the Old Testament and to one very small but very powerful and consequential word.

Firstly, to Genesis Chapter 4 and the tragedy of Abel and Cain. God says to Cain “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.”

Then secondly, Ezekiel chapter 18, a remarkable chapter in a crazily remarkable prophetic book.

“Therefore I will judge you O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your sins; otherwise, iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the sins you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live!”

So early on in the Bible, the battle lines are clearly and chillingly demarcated. “Sin is crouching at your door”, seemingly small and insignificant, but ready to pounce and consume. The principle here is that if we allow sin access, then sin will eventually control us in every aspect of our lives. Sin is almost like some sinister creature out of Star Trek.

The consequences of sin taking over are declared in Ezekiel; iniquity, corruption, wickedness, injustice, you name it, ruling the roost, and bringing a country to its knees. Everything that was once fair has been ruined.

What is the way out of this dreadful situation? Who can save us from a life lived under the mastery of sin? Remarkably, Ezekiel points the way; “get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit!” How can we do this?

God cannot live with sin. Sin cannot be in his presence. I was going to suggest that this is a bit like the interaction of matter and antimatter (this has been in the news recently, as thankfully, antimatter, like matter, falls in the presence of gravity but this analogy does not work because the interaction causes both matter and antimatter to cease to exist; sin would not cause God to disappear in a similar fashion!

We are looking for the coming of God’s kingdom. We are looking not only for the New Jerusalem but we are also looking as Dr Martin Luther King Jr would have said, the new Leicester. Our mission, both individually and as the Cathedral family is to seek to undo the effects of sin by bringing God’s light and beauty into difficult situations. We must seek each other’s help when we encounter problems. Come, Lord Jesus. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those that sin against us. Please continue to pray for the peace of Gaza and of Israel.

‘Look: the hills and the valleys shine with promises And every burning morning is a prophecy of Christ. He is coming to raise, forgive, and to heal. Open wide your lives and forever love, not fear, those you meet.’

Martin
WAYS YOU CAN HELP LEICESTER CATHEDRAL

ONLINE GIVING
Donate online here.

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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.