

# THE CHAPTER LETTER



Sunday 4 February to Saturday 17 February 2018

**Christine Wilson, *Dean*** **Sal McDougall, *Precentor*** **Paul Overend, *Chancellor*** **John Patrick, *Subdean***

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This weekend we are celebrating Candlemas which signals the end of the 40 days of Christmas. It is one of those pivotal moments in the Christian year as we shift our attention away from Christmas and Epiphany and turn towards the 40 days of Lent.

In the Candlemas story of Christ's Presentation in the Temple, we recall Simeon and Anna patiently awaiting the fulfilment of God's promises. Mary's sorrow is foretold and the Christ child is held aloft in the prophet's arms as he is recognised as the one who will bring hope and deliverance to humankind. Simeon joyfully declares: "my eyes have seen thy salvation!"

We are at that mid-point between Christmas and Easter. Looking back to Jesus in the arms of his mother in the stable, recalling the moment Jesus is held in Simeon's arms in the Temple and looking ahead to Mary cradling her crucified son as he is lifted down from the cross. In these scenes Christ is revealed as both God and man, as both human and divine, as saviour and sacrifice, prince of peace and suffering servant.

As we ponder Christ's destiny and the meaning this places upon our own lives, another liturgical event this weekend brings with it the recognition of other vocations and ministries. We welcome Paul Overend our new Chancellor and install 9 new prebendaries into the college of canons.

Hot on the heels of Candlemas, Ash Wednesday falls this coming week. We mark the beginning of Lent at all our communion services that day and recall how Christ prepared to embark on his ministry through 40 days in the Wilderness listening deeply to God and prayerfully discerning how to fulfil his calling and vocation.

As our new Chancellor takes up his new ministry amongst us, he too will need the space and time of these initial days at the cathedral to discover his place and establish his role. We must guard against bombarding him with too many expectations and tasks.

It is a season of anticipation for us all. After 2 years of transition and 15 months since I arrived as dean, we give thanks that we have a full team of residentiary canons and a new chapter clerk. It is a timely gift that we have these 40 days of prayer and reflection ahead of us. This holy season enables us all to attend to God, seek the mind of Christ and catch the movement of the Holy Spirit for the ongoing vocation and ministry of the cathedral community in worship and service.

**Christine Wilson, *Dean***

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## **Confirmations 2018**

Confirmation is the moment we claim our baptismal identity for ourselves. We reaffirm and confirm the promises made on our behalf at baptism, promising that we believe in God and turn to Christ as Saviour and Lord; and we receive the Holy Spirit to strengthen us for our continuing Christian journey. If you would like to be confirmed (or indeed, baptised!), the Cathedral will be baptising and confirming both adults and children during the Easter Eve vigil service. Baptism and confirmation are a big step of Christian commitment and so there will be a period of preparation during Lent. Children from the congregation (aged 11-18) are invited to join the cathedral choristers for confirmation classes on Thursdays and Fridays at 4pm, beginning on Thursday 22nd February – please speak to the Succentor if that is of interest to you or your children, but please note that we need to hear from you by Monday 5th February if possible. There will also be an adult confirmation group, meeting at a time and date to be arranged – if you are an adult looking for confirmation, please speak to the Subdean.

**Volunteer Thank You Party. Thursday 8 February 2018 6.30pm in the Nave-** Chapter would like to say thank you to all our volunteers for their hard work by inviting you and a guest to an informal gathering in the Nave for wine and canapes on Thursday 8 February 2018. You are welcome to join us for Evensong at 5.30pm and the party will start at 6.15pm until 8.00pm. Please RSVP to [events@lincolncathedral.com](mailto:events@lincolncathedral.com) by Monday 5th February. We look forward to seeing you there!

**LCCA Shrove Tuesday Party:** 13th February 2018 - tickets are now on sale from LCCA Committee Members and also from the Cathedral Shop priced at £8 each.

**St Matthew Passion, Saturday 24 March 2018. 6:30pm in the Nave:** The Choir of Lincoln Cathedral and the Lincoln Choral Society will perform J.S. Bach St Matthew Passion with guest choirs. Tickets range from £5 - £50, some tickets include the opportunity to have a private drinks and canapé reception in the Chapter House before the concert which is accompanied by a talk from the Director of Music and Mark Wilde. Tickets available on the Cathedral website [www.LincolnCathedral.com](http://www.LincolnCathedral.com) and from the shop Tel: 01522 561644.

**Lent Evensong Sermon Series: Political Themes in Lent and Passiontide:** At evensongs in Lent, there will be a sermon series led by the new Canon Chancellor, Paul Overend. The revised role of Chancellor includes an element of public theology, exploring the interface of Christianity with ethics, politics and society. These sermons will explore some of the formative themes of Christian identity and political engagement that are implicit in these liturgical seasons. The sermons will be liturgical reflections on the ash of Ash Wednesday (18-02-2018); the forty days of wilderness of Lent (25-02-2018); the entry into Jerusalem of Palm Sunday (04-03-2018), the Passover of Maundy Thursday (11-03-2018); and the trial and cross of Good Friday (18-03-18). The aim is to inform our personal and collective engagement with Passiontide and Easter.

**Lent Reading and Discussion Group** There are many good resources for spiritual reading and reflection in Lent. For personal devotion, a good book on prayer is the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2018, *Say it to God: In Search of Prayer* by Luigi Gioia (Bloomsbury Continuum 2017), RRP £9.99, also available as an ebook. For those who would like to join others in public discussion, Paul Overend will be facilitating a Lent Group on Saturday mornings through Lent. The discussion group members will need sight of a (maybe shared) copy of *Feast or Famine: How the Gospel challenges austerity*. This is an Ekklesia Lent course for groups and individuals edited by Simon Barrow (Longman & Todd, 2017), RRP £6.99.

**Messy Cathedral Easter – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April-** Messy Cathedral returns for Easter on Tuesday April 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will be celebrating Easter with a morning of craft and Messy Science activities, a celebration and lunch, telling the story of Easter and the good news of the Resurrection and sharing the joy of the Easter feast. Messy Cathedral is church for the whole family, with craft activities particularly aimed at primary school aged children: so please come along and bring your children, grandchildren, godchildren, nieces and nephews - and let your friends know! If anyone would like to help out on the day or by helping to prepare beforehand, that would be brilliant (if you don't have under-11s to bring, that would be the best way to enjoy the day!) Please contact the Succentor ([curate@lincolncathedral.com](mailto:curate@lincolncathedral.com) / 01522 567004).

**The Mad Hatter's Tea Party. Saturday 7 April 2018. Two sittings - 10am and 1.30pm in the Nave.-** A unique family event. We welcome you to join us in the Nave of the Cathedral for a Mad Hatter's tea party. You will be amazed when you step inside and find a surprise tea party box filled with yummy delights on your table. We encourage the whole family to be involved with the tea party and the creative activities which follow. Photo opportunities will be available with our guests of honour the Mad Hatter and White Rabbit. There will be the Queen of Heart's jam tarts and of plenty tasty tea party treats. Tickets will be on sale from 10am on Monday 26 February.

### Bible Readings

<u>Sunday 4 February</u>	<u>The Presentation of Christ in the Temple</u>
Sung Eucharist	Malachi 3: 1-5 Hebrews; 2: 14-end; Luke 2:22-40
Mattins	Exodus 13: 1-16; Romans 12: 1-5
Evensong	Haggai 2: 1-9; John 2: 18-22

<u>Sunday 11 February</u>	<u>Sunday next before Lent</u>
Sung Eucharist	2 Kings 2:1-12; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9
Mattins	Exodus 24.12-end; 2 Corinthians 3.12-end
Evensong	1 Kings 19.1-16; 2 Peter 1.16-end

<u>Sunday 18 February</u>	<u>1st Sunday of Lent</u>
Sung Eucharist	Genesis 9:8-17; 1 Peter 3:18-end; Mark 1:9-15
Mattins	Exodus 34.1-10; Romans 10.8b-13
Evensong	Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7; Romans 5.12-19