

# The Chapter Letter



SUNDAY 3 FEBRUARY – SATURDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2019

**You may have picked up the announcement last week that the Diocese of Lincoln has been awarded £2.67 million from the Church of England's Strategic Development Fund (SDF) to help transform lives in its urban centres over the next five years.**

The funding will enable three existing churches to become 'resource' churches to promote growth across greater Lincolnshire. The three churches that will become resource churches are: St Swithin's in Lincoln, St George's in Stamford and Lincoln Cathedral. These churches begin to represent the diversity in geography and Anglican traditions present across the diocese. Churches in urban centres have been chosen as attendance in these areas is generally lower than in the diocese as a whole therefore potential for growth is the greatest. The plan for growth across the diocese centres around the development of future church leaders through the resource churches who will go on to lead new or revitalised churches, of which there will be eight in total in the diocese's urban areas.

Lincoln Cathedral aims to be a resource church that supports Anglican churches which identify as "catholic" in their worship and in their confidence and ability to grow. In this way, it will be known as a "centre of formation in catholic mission." The Cathedral has planned a programme of church planting through a learning cohort of three curates ('catholic missionaries') led by the Dean and supported by a team of experienced catholic mission priests both in the cathedral and around the diocese. Catholic missionaries would be sent out to learn in context through a wide ranging set of placements. They would also focus some time on nurturing the discipleship and vocation of existing worshipping communities.

The Rt Revd Christopher Lawson, Bishop of Lincoln, said: "When I was appointed as Bishop of Lincoln I started to lead the diocese in a new direction in which we would reverse what was seen as a culture of decline in our congregations and give the diocese a new focus. This investment is key to that. We hope that everyone will want to be part of this exciting journey. The churches we have chosen as resource churches have the potential to be successful in reaching out to their local communities and we want to spread that success to other areas. There has been significant growth in numbers at St Swithin's and St George's in recent years and Lincoln Cathedral, which has stood as the mother church of the diocese and region for almost 1,000 years, is keen to increase its profile across the historic county in social justice and be a leading centre for catholic mission."

Cathedrals are described as a centre for mission in support of their bishop and diocese. We are delighted to be invited to participate in this imaginative initiative to strengthen confidence in sharing faith, transforming lives and developing disciples as a centre of formation for catholic mission. Bishop Christopher and I will be convening a gathering during March for members of the Cathedral community and Foundation, so that you can hear in more detail about this.

**Christine Wilson, Dean**

## BIBLE READINGS

**Sunday 3 February**  
*Presentation of Christ*

### **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

**Sunday 10 February**  
*Fourth Sunday Before Lent*

### **Sung Eucharist**

Isaiah 6: 1-8  
1 Corinthians 15: 1-11  
Luke 5: 1-11

### **Mattins**

Micah 6: 6-8  
John 15: 1-7

### **Evensong**

Wisdom 6: 1-21  
Colossians 3: 1-22

**Sunday 17 February**  
*Third Sunday Before Lent*

### **Sung Eucharist**

Jeremiah 17: 5-10  
1 Corinthians 15: 12-20  
Luke 6: 17-26

### **Mattins**

Jeremiah 30: 1-3, 10-22  
Acts 6

### **Evensong**

Hosea 10: 1-8,12  
Galatians 4: 8-20

## Worship and Mission

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### Supporting Worship and Mission

Regular giving is an important source of funding for the worship and mission of Lincoln Cathedral. If you would like to set up regular giving to support the worship and mission, or indeed any other aspect of the Cathedral, standing order forms are available from the tables in the north and south choir aisles. These can be returned to the Chapter Office by hand, or by using the freepost address at the foot of the form. Thank you for your support.

### Confirmation

If anyone would be interested in exploring the possibility of confirmation please speak to the Subdean or email: [Subdean@lincolncathedral.com](mailto:Subdean@lincolncathedral.com)

### Evensong Guest Preachers

Our guest preachers at evensong over the next few weeks are as follows: 3 February (Candlemas) Canon Nick Buck, Vicar, St. Giles Lincoln; 10 February The Revd Ann Mazur, Co-ordinator of Duty Chaplains; 17 February The Revd Canon Michael Burson-Thomas, Priest at Waddingham, in the Yarborough Deanery.

### Evensong Sermon Series for Lent

During Lent there will be a sermon series 'On Christian Virtue'. It is designed to be attractive for those preparing for confirmation, considering their Christian commitments, and for any of us who wish to reflect on our own Christian living and character, before renewing our own baptismal vows at Easter.

### Spiritual Classics Reading Group

This is an open group in which members read a book prior to the meeting, and discuss them together. Forthcoming discussion: 23 February, Etty Hillesum, *A Life Transformed* by Canon Patrick Woodhouse. 27 Minster Yard, with refreshments from 10.30am, and discussion from 10.45am-noon.

### Texts, lies and social media – Judeophobia and the Church. Tuesday 26 February 2019, 7pm – 8.30pm Lincoln Theological Network lecture, Chapter House

By The Revd Bruce D Thompson, Chair, Lincolnshire Methodist District, Author of *Echoes of Contempt: A History of Judeophobia and the Christian Church*. (Wipf and Stock, 2018)

### Lectio Divina: Bible Reflection Group

The next meeting is Saturday 9 February from 4pm-5pm at 27 Minster Yard.

### Stillpoint: Finding silence in a busy world.

You are invited to 45 minutes of guided silent prayer in the Ringers' Chapel, Lincoln Cathedral, from 9am to 9.45am on Saturday 23 February.

## The Resilient Disciple

There are three reflective sessions which will be held at the Cathedral Centre with the Archdeacon Justine Allain Chapman, author of *The Resilient Disciple*. Sessions will take place on Saturday 16 February 2pm-5pm, Monday 18 March 1pm-4pm and Saturday 6 April 2pm-5pm. These will be £10 each, or £25 for all three workshops. Please book via the Lincoln Cathedral website, or by phone: 01522 504394.

## Community

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### Neville Charles Birch

Maureen and family would like to express their heartfelt thanks for all the kind support and help given in arranging Neville's funeral at the Cathedral on 17 December 2018. Special thanks go to the Subdean for his calm and caring administration on the day, as well as the days leading up to the funeral. The funeral service itself could not have been a better send off for Neville who loved the Cathedral and gained so much pleasure and joy from his involvement as a volunteer tour guide and frequent worshipper.

### The Friends' Tuesday Teatime Talks

On Tuesday 12 February, Carol Bennett and Fern Dawson from the Cathedral's collections team, will be talking about artefacts, archaeology and audio guides in the Cathedral. The second talk, which will take place on Tuesday 26 February, will be given by a representative from the Lincoln Street Pastors organisation. Both talks, preceded by tea and coffee, will begin at 3.30pm, in the Cathedral Centre. Each lecture is priced at £3.

### 'Love, Marriage and Gretna Green'

On Thursday 14 February at 10.30am there will be a talk hosted by the Lincoln Cathedral Retired Staff and Volunteers Group at the Cathedral Centre. It is a perfect opportunity to meet former colleagues and make new friends. Annual membership fee £5. Guests very welcome £2.

## Events

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### St John Passion

Saturday 6 April, 7pm

Lincoln Cathedral Choir return with Bach *St John Passion* this year. Accompanied by Northern Baroque this is sure to be a profound and inspiring way to mark this Passiontide season.

### Byrd meets Bird

Wednesday 8 May, 7.30pm

A concert by the Choir of Lincoln Cathedral with a Jazz Quintet.

### Magna Carta Lecture – 'Rights and Freedoms Today'

Thursday 27 June, 7pm

For this year's Magna Carta Lecture we welcome Shami Chakrabarti, the Shadow Attorney General and a member of the House of Lords.