

The Chapter Letter



LINCOLN
CATHEDRAL

SUNDAY 5 SEPTEMBER - SUNDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

Over the past couple of years the weather in Lincolnshire has been weird. You can only feel sorry for farmers and others whose livelihood depends on relatively reliable patterns of weather for planting, growth, harvest and soil recuperation. This summer blazing heatwaves have been followed by drizzly, grey chill which has not been over-welcoming to those staycationing in the caravan parks of Skegness or wedding couples hoping to enjoy the relaxation of the pandemic rules. However, the peculiarity of our recent weather pales by comparison with some of the repeated extremes and new records - searing temperatures in British Columbia, unprecedented floods in Belgium and Germany, terrifying hurricanes in Louisiana, a decade of drought in Chile.

At this time of year in the churches we embark on a month-long Season of Creation. September 1st was proclaimed as a day of prayer for creation for the eastern Orthodox Church by ecumenical patriarch Demetrius I in 1989. It was embraced by other major Christian European churches in 2001 and by Pope Francis for the Roman Catholic Church in 2015. In recent years, many Christian churches have begun celebrating the season of creation between September 1st and October 4th, the feast of Saint Francis, the patron saint of ecology. Not just because of the increasingly alarming meteorological phenomena we are seeing around us, but also because of the climate crisis conference coming up in this country in November, COP26, it seems a good and indeed an urgent call on our prayer, study and commitment to focus attention on what we are doing to God's marvellous creation. There is plenty of good material to support our prayers, thoughts and conversations on the Season of Creation website (seasonofcreation.org or www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/season-creation).

Many of us will remember the Sunday morning eucharist in the Cathedral exactly two years ago when, as part of the Moana conference run by the diocese and the two Lincoln universities, we were joined by delegates from Polynesia. Archbishop Fereimi, who sadly has just died, preached powerfully about the threat to their islands and our Christian response. And it may be, like me that the most powerful memory of that day, was the sound of the Lord's prayer ringing through the Cathedral arches, as our friends from Fiji and Samoa danced and sang their indigenous version with such grace, beauty and faith in the central aisle of the choir. The repeated conclusion of the science at that conference was that we are not at the stage of being able to mitigate the climate disaster and global warming. It's too late for that. It's happening and what we seriously need to do is to adapt to the new reality - and do all we can not to make it worse.

Sacred Space on 19th September will be an opportunity to reflect on the theme Create a new heaven and a new earth. As Christians we have huge amounts to contribute to working out the 'new normal' after the pandemic and how we can live respectfully with God's precious creation for the sake of our children and their children and to God's glory.

May God who established the dance of creation,
Who marvelled at the lilies of the field,
Who transforms chaos to order,
Lead us to transform our lives and the Church
To reflect God's glory in creation.
(a benediction from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland's Eco-Congregation Programme)

DAVID DADSWELL, RESIDENTIARY CANON

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday 5 September
Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Eucharist
Isaiah 35: 4-7a
James 2: 1-10 [11-13] 14-17
Mark 7: 24-end

Evening Prayer
Exodus 14: 5-end
Matthew 6: 1-18

Sunday 12 September
Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Eucharist
Isaiah 50: 4-9a
James 3: 1-12
Mark 8: 27-end

Evening Prayer:
Exodus 18: 13-26
Matthew 7: 1-14

Sunday 19 September
Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Eucharist
Wisdom 1: 16 - 2:1, 12-22
James 3: 13 - 4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

Evening Prayer
Exodus 19: 10-end
Matthew 8: 23-end

Worship & Mission

Weekly service schedule

The service sheet for the coming fortnight can be [viewed on the cathedral website](#) (click link to visit)

Sacred Space

The next Sacred Space service will take place on Sunday 19 September at 7pm. The theme is 'Create a new heaven and a new earth' Sacred Space is a gentle and reflective service with time to wonder, the opportunity to use all your senses to explore faith and the chance to experience the unique and serene atmosphere of the Cathedral as the day draws to a close. It will be led by the Revd Canon David Dadswell.

Community

LCCA

Lincoln Cathedral Community Association is pleased to announce that they will be holding their annual Harvest Supper on Monday 18 October at 6.30pm in the Chapter House. Tickets, priced £10, to include a hot meal and entertainment, will be available after the 10am Eucharist service on Sunday.

Community rooms

The meeting spaces in the newly refurbished visitor centre at Lincoln Cathedral are now available to hire by businesses, charities, and community groups. The unique spaces with inspirational views over Lincoln Cathedral offer flexible options for meetings, conferences and business events of all kinds. All rooms are accessible and have access to the fully equipped Changing Places room. Rooms include Wi-Fi and AV equipment. Concessionary rates are available for charities, and catering options are available. For more information or to book, please contact bookings@lincolncathedral.com

Installation

On Friday 17 September at 5.30pm during evensong, Michael Sheppard will be installed as Clericus Fabricae.

Volunteer opportunities

Lincoln Cathedral has a thriving volunteer community with 600 volunteers in over 30 different roles. The volunteer roles vary widely with something to suit everyone. We would love to hear from you!

We welcome new volunteers from all age groups, backgrounds and faiths (or none) who are interested in giving some of their time on a regular basis. If you would be interested in joining our volunteers, please see our current vacancies on the Cathedral website: <https://lincolncathedral.com/get-involved/volunteer-with-us/>

Events

Script in Hand presents: Women of the Cathedral: a sequence of voices by Margaret Crompton

Wednesday 22 September 1pm-2pm

Admission included with Cathedral entry charge

The Cathedral is full of silent women. In stained-glass windows and tombs, behind monuments and under slabs, in statues and carvings, paintings, books and dedications. As I began to listen to them, I found their voices in poems, the often-overlooked women of the Cathedral. Now, through these poems, those voices can be heard in the Chapter House.

Script-in-Hand performs staged-readings of original plays - with script-in-hand. Women of the Cathedral is our first programme of poems, developed especially for the Chapter House. Like listening to a radio play, we ask you to use your imagination and join us in the time-out-of-time which is poetry and drama.

Organ Recital - Colin Walsh

Saturday 9 October, 7pm

Tickets £6

The programme for the evening includes Dupré, Bach, Tournemire and Langlais

Lincoln Choral Society Concert

Saturday 6 November, 7.30pm

Lincoln Choral Society, with Lincolnshire Chamber Orchestra return to Lincoln Cathedral to perform the Haydn Nelson Mass and the Lauridsen Lux Aeterna.

The pieces have been specially chosen as a reflection on the pandemic, and remembering those lost to Covid as well as acknowledging key workers, especially the NHS.

Tickets will be on sale soon.

Handel's Messiah

Saturday 20 November, 7pm

Tickets from £12

Lincoln Cathedral Choir return with their performance of Handel's Messiah, accompanied by Lincolnshire Chamber Orchestra.

Messiah features one of the most famous pieces of choral music, the Hallelujah Chorus, however this piece has so much more to offer. In most of Handel's oratorios, the choir sing brief choruses but it is the soloists who dominate. Messiah differs in the fact that it is made up of striking solo arias, interspersed with captivating chorus numbers telling the story of Jesus' birth, life, death and victorious resurrection.

La Nativité du Seigneur, Colin Walsh

Saturday 8 January 2022, 7pm

Tickets £6

Olivier Messiaen's 1935 masterpiece is considered to be one of the greatest Organ compositions of all time. La Nativité du Seigneur is a Christmas tradition at Lincoln Cathedral and one not to be missed.

For more details about events and to book tickets, please visit our website - www.lincolncathedral.com