

The Chapter Letter



SUNDAY 1 OCTOBER - SUNDAY 15 OCTOBER

29 September is Michaelmas Day, the feast of St Michael and All Angels. Three angels are named in the Bible: Michael, Gabriel and Raphael. They are depicted as beloved messengers of God. Michael, which means, 'Who is like God?', is portrayed as protector of Israel and leader of the armies of God, best known as the slayer of the dragon in the Book of Revelation. Gabriel, which means 'The Strength of God' is the one who, according to Luke's Gospel, is sent by God to Mary to announce the birth of Christ. Raphael means 'The Healing of God' and is depicted in the Book of Tobit (in the Apocrypha) as the one who restores sight to Tobit's eyes.

As to why their feast is celebrated on this day, a basilica near Rome was dedicated in the fifth century in honour of Michael on 30 September, with celebrations beginning on the eve of that day, with the result that 29 September came to be observed as a feast in honour of Michael and All Angels throughout the Western Church.

Many people, myself included, find the concept of angels more than a little puzzling. I've therefore found these words of St Gregory the Great (c.540-604) helpful: 'You should be aware that the word 'angel' denotes a function rather than a nature'. This Michaelmas, perhaps we can focus on Michael, Gabriel and Raphael's function rather than their being, and look for new opportunities to be angelic, to communicate in and through our lives the good news of Christ's healing presence, striving to become more Christlike, the people God has created us to be.

SIMON JONES, INTERIM DEAN

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday 1 October
*Seventeenth Sunday
After Trinity*

Eucharist
Ezekiel 18. 1-4, 25-end
Philippians 2. 1-13
Matthew 21. 23-32

Evening Prayer
Ezekiel 37. 15-end
1 John 2. 22-end

Sunday 8 October
*Eighteenth Sunday after
Trinity*

Eucharist
Isaiah 5.1-7
Philippians 3.4b-14
Matthew 21.33-33-end

Evening Prayer
Proverbs 2.1-11
1 John 2.1-17

Sunday 15 October
*Nineteenth Sunday After
Trinity*

Eucharist
Isaiah 25.1-9
Philippians 4.1-9
Matthew 22.1-14

Evening Prayer
Proverbs 3.1-18
1 John 3.1-15

Worship & Mission

Weekly service schedule

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

An experiment with morning service times

During the weeks from the beginning of October, there are quite a few occasions when the times of the main morning service fluctuate (for confirmations, the Jazz Mass etc.). As having changing worship times causes quite a bit of confusion, it was discussed at Chapter this week, and we will experiment for a trial period from the beginning of October with standardising on the later start time of 10 30am for the Sung Eucharist. Making this modification will also provide the opportunity to explore reintroducing occasional services of Choral Mattins – as we did on a one-off basis at the beginning of July (as part of the Byrd400 festival). When we do this, we will follow the example of a number of cathedrals in having Mattins earlier in the morning – something that, in those cathedrals that have done it, has led to better attendances at both services (and avoid the problem of thanking God for the new day at nearly noon!).

'After hours': Reflective worship

7pm, once a month on a Sunday

This autumn we are expanding the Sacred Space provision into a monthly opportunity for reflective worship on a Sunday evening. The current pattern, of Sacred Space taking place on alternate months will be supplemented with different shapes and styles of worship. This autumn the pattern will be:

15 October 'After Hours': Meditative Eucharist with Prayers for Healing

19 November 'After Hours': Sacred Space, exploring The darkness of waiting

Each of these occasions seeks to provide a gentle and reflective space with time to wonder, and the chance to experience the unique and serene atmosphere of the Cathedral as the day draws to a close. Each evening begins with simple refreshments from 6 45pm, with worship beginning at 7pm.

Jazz Eucharist

15 October, 10.30am

The next Jazz Eucharist is drawing near and will feature The Alex Clarke Quartet (Alex – saxophone, Dave Newton – p, Clark Tracey – d and Dave Green – db). Alex was a finalist of the BBC Young Jazz Musician of the Year award 2020 and is sufficiently highly regarded to be able to attract such formidable musicians to her Quartet.

'Tea at 4' Discussion & Reflection Group

Monday 16 October, 4pm

The next meeting takes place at 4pm on Monday 16 October in the Wickham Reading Room (which is located where the old Refectory was located, and is accessed via the Cloisters). This is a time for reflection and discussion on reading the Gospel Reading for the previous day (Matthew 18.21-35). There is no need for preparation – and all welcome!

Stillpoint

This is a time of guided silent prayer to be still and aware of the presence of God. All are welcome to join us. Please note the new time for Stillpoint. We meet in the Ringers Chapel from 8.45am - 9.15am on Monday 2 October.

Community

Many congratulations!

We'd like to give a massive congratulations to our organ scholar, Adam Chillingworth, who has been offered the organ scholarship to Keble College, Oxford, from October 2024. Very well done Adam! We'd also like to congratulate Elsa, Elena, Ben and Judah on their promotion to copes in the choir!

Community

LCCA Annual General Meeting

Monday 13 November

The LCCA AGM will be held on Monday 13 November at 7pm in the Chapter House with hot drinks available after Evensong. If you require further details, please contact Andrea at lcca@lincolncathedral.com.

You will enjoy a 2-course meal with entertainment and tickets (£15) are available after Sunday morning Eucharist or by emailing Andrea at lcca@lincolncathedral.com with details of any dietary requirements. Please bring your own choice of drinks and donations of non-perishable foodstuffs for local charities.

LCCA Harvest Supper

Thursday 12 October

The LCCA invite you to join us for the annual Harvest Supper on Thursday 12 October, 6.30pm for 7pm, in the Chapter House.

Events

The Hallé

13 October, 7pm

The Hallé ranks amongst the world's top symphonic ensembles. Euan Shields the latest winner of the prestigious Siemens Hallé International Conductors Competition and the Hallé's new Assistant Conductor, takes to the podium to lead the orchestra in a programme that starts and finishes with the music of Beethoven.

Half-term fun: Meet the Teach Rex Dragons

25 October

Meet the dragons as Teach Rex introduce children to a unique and innovative approach to storytelling in which the team will bring a mythical story to life

Handel's Messiah

25 November, 7pm

This year, Lincoln Cathedral Choir return with their performance of Handel's Messiah, a spectacular piece of music which is to be 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.

Carols by Candlelight

12-13 December, 7pm

Join us in Lincoln Cathedral for a magical evening of popular carols performed by Lincoln Cathedral Choir in the atmospheric surrounding of the candle-lit nave of the Cathedral.

A true winter treat, Carols by Candlelight is in aid of the Association of the Friends of Lincoln Cathedral.

The choir is conducted by Aric Prentice with Jeffrey Makinson playing the Cathedral's renowned Father Willis organ.

For more details of forthcoming events and to book your tickets, go to our website at www.lincolncathedral.com/forthcoming-events