

The Chapter Letter



SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER - SUNDAY 7 JANUARY

Christmas means different things to different people. For me, at its heart, it is the belief that in the Christ-child God shares our life, and his purpose in doing so is to change us. The first part of that statement can be experienced as a message of comfort: God in our midst, God knowing our every thought and desire, God sharing our joys and sorrows. The second part is more challenging. For the purpose of God coming among us is not to leave us where we are, or to cheer us up, or to help us to look on the bright side, but to change us, and help us to become the people he created us to be.

Reflecting over the last nine months as Interim Dean, it has been a privilege to share in the varied and dynamic life of the Cathedral. I can't begin to express how grateful I am for the way in which you welcomed me to this community, and the opportunities I have been given to worship and work with you, and to engage with the city and county. As I said in the Chapter House last Sunday, I feel optimistic about the Cathedral's future because of all of you. This community (worshippers, staff and volunteers) is the Cathedral's greatest asset. Together you are agents of the transformation that's possible because of Christmas, because God is with us. I can say that with confidence because I have experienced it myself. And for that, I'll always be grateful. As I hand over to Nick Brown, I know that the Cathedral is in very capable hands, and that he and Tracy Buckby will continue to work with Chapter, the Senior Leadership Team, and all of you to continue to move forward in confident hope.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous gifts and kind messages. At the beginning of his Letter to the Philippians, St Paul says, 'I thank my God in every remembrance of you'. That perfectly captures how I'm feeling at the moment, and how I will continue to feel as I drive south after Evensong on Monday. In the meantime, I'm very much looking forward to celebrating Christmas at the Cathedral. With gratitude for the transforming grace I have experienced over the last nine months, the celebration of the birth of the source of that grace will have a particular poignancy and power for me this year. As we go our separate ways, may our celebration of God sharing our life encourage us all to look for new opportunities to become the people God has created us to be, and to enable others to do the same.

With love and prayers and every good wish

SIMON JONES, INTERIM DEAN

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday 24 December
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Eucharist
2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16
Romans 16.25-end
Luke 1.26-38

Evening Prayer
Zechariah 2
Revelation 1.1-8

Sunday 31 December
First Sunday of Christmas

Eucharist
Isaiah 61.10-62.3
Galatians 4.4-7
Luke 2.15-21

Evening Prayer
Isaiah 35
Colossians 1.9-20

Sunday 7 January
First Sunday of Epiphany

Eucharist
Genesis 1.1-5
Acts 19.1-7
Mark 1.4-11

Evening Prayer
Isaiah 42.1-9
Ephesians 2.1-10

Worship & Mission

Weekly service schedule

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

After hours: Reflective worship

6.45pm, once a month on a Sunday

21 January 'After Hours': Sacred Space

18 February 'After Hours': Meditative Eucharist with prayers for healing

17 March 'After Hours': Sacred Space, explorations of penitence

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.

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 the following Mondays:
8 January 2024
5 February 2024
4 March 2024

Carol Services

23 and 24 December, 4pm

Join us for two of the first Christmas services of readings and music in anticipation of the Great Christian celebration of the incarnation at Christmas, when we remember the creative will and love of God becoming known to us through the birth of Jesus Christ.

Midnight Mass of Christmas Eve

24 December, 11.30pm

At our first service of Christmas we celebrate the coming of Christ into the world, celebrating the incarnation as we remember the creative will and love of God becoming known to us through the birth of Jesus Christ. In words, music and preaching we remember the message of Christmas – that God's love dwells among us and is a light in our world.

Christmas Day at Lincoln Cathedral

25 December

You are warmly invited to join us at one of our Christmas Day services which begin at 8am and continue throughout the day with many joyous services as we celebrate the birth of our saviour, Jesus Christ. The list of services for the day are:

8am - Holy Communion for Christmas Day

10.30am - Sung Eucharist for Christmas Day

12.30pm - Eucharist

3.45pm - Festal Evensong for Christmas Day

'Tea at 4' Discussion & Reflection Group

The next meeting takes place at 4pm on Monday 15 January in the Wickham Reading Room. This is a time for reflection and discussion on reading the Gospel Reading for the previous day. There is no need for special preparation – and all welcome!

Special Services

As we come into the new year we will have many special services ready to greet us in 2024 as we celebrate Epiphany and Candlemas. All are welcome to join us.

Sung Eucharist for the Feast of the Epiphany - Saturday 6 January, 5.30pm

Epiphany Carol Service - Sunday 21 January, 3.45pm

Festal Evensong for the Presentation of Christ - Friday 2 February, 5.30pm

Sung Eucharist for the Feast of the Presentation - Friday 2 February, 7.30pm

Community

The latest issue of InHouse

The latest edition of InHouse is now available to read. Our winter edition is packed with fascinating information about the Cathedral and its history. In this issue we have an exciting royal response to our Summer edition of InHouse which was sent to Buckingham Palace. We also give a warm welcome to five new priest vicars to the Cathedral. Discover something and download the latest issue below. [Click here to find the latest issue.](#)

LCCA - Events 2024

We are looking forward to welcoming you at one of our events in 2024.

The popular annual LCCA Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be on Tuesday 13 February 2024 at 6.30pm for 7pm. Tickets for the two course meal with entertainment will be on sale in January and you can reserve yours in advance by contacting the LCCA as below.

Other events in the planning stages are a Pentecost cake party, a visit to a local place of interest and the Harvest Supper.

For further information or if you have any ideas for social events or visits, please contact Andrea, LCCA Secretary, at lcca@lincolncathedral.com

With best wishes for a peaceful Christmas and New Year from your LCCA committee.

Mindful Mile

Join us on the second Tuesday of each month at 12.30pm as we take a moment out of a busy day to reconnect with the outdoors as we complete three laps of the Cathedral. Our leaders are there to set a gentle pace, and to share a topic of interest. Afterwards, you are welcome to join us for a hot drink. All walks will start at the West Front. Here's a taste of what to expect:

9 January - Atma will introduce you to the Vietnamese Monk and mindfulness

13 February - Join the mile before visiting Gaia, suspended under the Cathedral's central tower

12 March - Ben Poole will talk about creative arts and how they are good for the soul

Events

Messiaen's La Nativité du Seigneur

9 January, 7pm

Written in 1935, at age 27 Olivier Messiaen wrote his "personal statement to faith" as the birth of Jesus inspires the nine-movement work. Described as one of the greatest Organ works of our time, our Cathedral Organist, Jeffrey Makinson, will be playing on the spectacular Father Willis Organ in this unmissable concert.

Music Celebration 2024

28 January

The Precentor, The Revd Canon Nick Brown, and Chair of the Music Fund Council, Mr Andrew Clark DL, invite you to evensong and a celebration of the wonderful music of Lincoln Cathedral on Sunday 28 January starting at 3.45pm (please be seated by 3.40pm).

The service will include the presentation of Choristership and Choral Scholarship medallions, as well as an opportunity to meet and talk with some of the musicians afterwards over refreshments.

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