

The Chapter Letter



SUNDAY 21 JANUARY – SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY

BIBLE READINGS

‘A light for all people’

As we travel through the season of Epiphany the theme of light remains prominent in our worship. The Magi follow the light of the star to guide them to the Christ-child (as we celebrated on 6th January), and Simeon proclaims that Christ is the light to lighten all peoples when Christ is presented in the Temple (which we celebrate on 2nd February). As the days begin to gradually lengthen, the mornings become a little less dark and the evenings a little brighter – given a sign of the spring that, though still far off, will nonetheless come.

Whilst our focus is still firmly anchored in remembering the birth of Christ and the light of salvation that dawns through the incarnation, we begin to edge our thoughts toward passion of Christ and the coming light of Easter. This will become an explicit theme at Candlemas, when the introduction to the service reminds us that:

we celebrate both the joy of his coming and his searching judgement, looking back to the day of his birth and forward to the coming days of his passion.

So what does this mean for us? In a world where darkness can sometimes seem to overwhelm us, there is much that we can draw from this season of dawning light. It sets before us a story of hope, a hope that is made known in the signs and symbols of Christ's life. It is this hope that we need to set before us – aware that we cannot transform the world (or ourselves) solely by our own efforts. This requires a surrender – a surrender both to the light and joy of Christmas, but also to the pain and suffering of Christ's passion. Having come to see the light of Christ at Christmas, through the darkness of Christ's passion we will find that light shine even more brightly through the glory of Easter

So let us rejoice in the light that we have seen unveiled at Christmas and, aware of the cost of the Cross, let us set our sights on the transforming glory of Easter; that our lives may be transformed by the gift of knowing the eternal life that comes through Christ and, transformed by this light, we may shine as lights in our world.

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,
who lived to welcome the Messiah:
may we, who have received these gifts beyond words,
prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to
eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

NICK BROWN, INTERIM DEAN

Sunday 21 January
Third Sunday of Epiphany

Eucharist
Genesis 14.17-20
Revelation 19.6-10
John 2.1-11

Evening Prayer
Jeremiah 3.21-4.2
Titus 2.1-8, 11-14

Sunday 28 January
Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

Eucharist
Deuteronomy 18. 15-20
Revelation 12. 1-5a
Mark 1. 21-28

Evening Prayer
1 Samuel 3. 1-20
1 Corinthians 14. 12-20

Sunday 4 February
Second Sunday before Lent

Eucharist
Proverbs 8. 1, 22-31
Colossians 1. 15-20
John 1. 1-14

Evening Prayer
Genesis 2, 4b-end
Luke 8. 22-35

Worship & Mission

Weekly service schedule

Details of services and music can be [viewed on the cathedral website](#) (click link to visit).

After hours: Reflective worship

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.

- 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

After hours: Reflective worship

6.45pm, once a month on a Sunday

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: 5 February 2024

4 March 2024

Community

LCCA – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday 13 February

Tickets for the popular annual LCCA Shrove Tuesday Pancake on Tuesday 13 February 2024 at 6.30pm for 7pm in the Chapter House will be available after the Sunday morning Eucharist or you can reserve tickets by emailing Andrea, LCCA Secretary, at lcca@lincolncathedral.com. The ticket price is the same as last year (£15) which includes a two-course meal and entertainment. We look forward to meeting you at this event.

Friends

A reminder that the Friends are holding the last in their present series of afternoon talks on Tuesday, 6 February, at 2.45pm, when speaker Elaine Johnson's subject is 'The Home Front in Lincoln and the surrounding villages in World War Two.' This will be taking place as usual in the Dunlop-Butler room in Visitor Centre, with refreshments being available from 2pm. There is no charge for members, although any non-members attending are asked to contribute £5 to help cover costs.

Friends' Annual Visit. Tickets, priced at £12.50 to cover coach transport, are available from the Friends' office for the visit to the Welbeck Estate, in Nottinghamshire, on Wednesday 15 May. There is no admission charge to the estate, which has a high-quality farm shop, the Harley gallery and Café, and the historic Portland Collection. There are numerous picturesque walks, leisurely or otherwise, on the estate. The coach will leave from outside the Lincoln Hotel at 10am, returning at approximately 3.30pm.

Events

Music Celebration

28 January

The Precantor, 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.

Gaia

5 February - 25 February

Measuring seven metres in diameter, Gaia provides the opportunity to see our planet floating in three dimensions in the vast space of Lincoln Cathedral's Nave.

Contemplate the wonder of life on earth and experience the Overview Effect; astronauts report a feeling of awe for the planet, a profound understanding of the interconnection of all life, and a renewed sense of responsibility for the environment.

This event is included in your Cathedral admission. Children aged 16 and under visit for free.

Gaia: Star Lincs Planetarium

12 February

Unleash the mysteries of the cosmos at the Star Lincs Planetarium. Transform a family day out into an extraordinary adventure, journeying through an entrance tunnel into a dome that unravels the secrets of space and stars. With full wheelchair access, we ensure no one misses out on this awe-inspiring experience.

Join us throughout the day with showings at - 10.30am, 11.15pm, 12noon, 1.15pm, 2pm, 2.45pm, and 3.30pm.

Your exploration of the universe awaits you at the Lincoln Cathedral.

The Mindful Mile

13 February, 12.20pm

Join the mile before visiting Gaia, suspended under the Cathedral's central tower.

Starting at the west front, we'll take a moment out of a busy day to reconnect with the outdoors as we complete three laps of the Cathedral. Afterwards, you are welcome to join us for a hot drink.

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