

The Chapter Letter



SUNDAY 7 JANUARY - SUNDAY 21 JANUARY

With Simon's return to Oxford, I became Interim Dean on 26 December. This is in addition to my existing responsibilities as Precentor, and will result in a little bit of shuffling of responsibilities within the clergy team of the cathedral:

Alan Moses, Succentor

We are fortunate that Alan Moses is able to temporarily support the cathedral on a part-time basis as Succentor. He will already be familiar to many who attend our weekday services (especially Morning Prayer and the lunchtime Eucharist) having recently covered the duties of Bishop's Liturgical Chaplain. Whilst I continue to have executive responsibility for liturgical matters at the cathedral, in this role Alan will take on much of the operational responsibility for the delivery of services - including the preparation of orders of service, the publication of service schedules and the actual delivery of services. In addition to Sunday services, Alan will normally be present on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Alan will be working closely with Aric and Jeff and share in the line management of the vergers team. Alan will also attend the Senior Leadership Team and Chapter meetings so that liturgical matters are fully represented whilst I am undertaking the role of Interim Dean.

Peter Neil, Interim Residentiary Canon

In governance terms, the cathedral should have two full-time residentiary canons, and Peter has joined David Dadswell and myself from 26 December until Rowena King is installed as Missioner on 10 March so that there is sufficient cover for this role. Again, Peter is well-known to many in the cathedral as a non-residentiary canon and regular member of the congregation and others will know him from his role as Vice Chancellor of BGU - from which he retired last summer. During the period during which Peter is a residentiary canon, as well as fulfilling the responsibilities of canon in residence, Peter will be covering the line management of the education team before handing that over to Rowena when she joins us in March. Peter will also be attending SLT and Chapter meetings to represent those involved in our educational work and outreach to the community.

Safeguarding support

Separately, Claire Hunter is leaving her role as Cathedral Safeguarding Officer in January. We are in the process of recruiting a replacement for her, but there will be a period during which we have no dedicated CSO. This role combines operational responsibilities (largely to do with raising awareness and supporting good practice by those involved in working with children and vulnerable adults) with other duties that are delegated from the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (largely concerning work that requires a qualified safeguarding professional). To manage safeguarding provisions during this temporary period the following arrangements are in place: To provide some continuity, as Interim Dean I will continue to have overall responsibility for safeguarding matters on a day-to-day basis. In this, I am grateful for the following people who are willing to be points of contact within their relevant areas:

- Sally Bleasdale (Education)
- Ann Mazur (Duty Chaplains and Pastoral Care)
- Tamsyn Taylor (Music)

For matters that require the support or advice of a safeguarding professional, we will be supported by Jack Redyoff (Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor) and members of his team. Stuart Welch has agreed to be the member of Chapter who will exercise oversight of safeguarding matters independently of myself. Stuart will be known to many as a regular member of the Sunday morning congregation and as one of our volunteer Head Guides. He has access both to Chapter and to the DSA if that is required (this is especially important if there is a matter where people have a concern relating to myself).

NICK BROWN, INTERIM DEAN

BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday 14 January

Second Sunday of Epiphany

Eucharist

I Samuel 3.1-10 [11-20]
Revelation 5.1-10
John 1.43-end

Evening Prayer

Isaiah 60.9-end
Hebrews 6.17-7.10

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

Worship & Mission

Weekly service schedule

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

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

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

'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!

Community

The Funeral of Basil Chappell

We were all sad to hear of the death of Basil Chappell at the end of November. Basil's funeral is on Tuesday 16 January at 12noon at Alford Crematorium. Basil was a valued member of the cathedral community, worshipping with us and acting as a steward for many years.

Thank you from the Vergers

The Vergers would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes and generous gifts over the Christmas season. We are touched that so many of you have taken the trouble to bring us presents and really appreciate it. In the cold months, the extra calories certainly help to keep us going!

LCCA - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tickets for the popular annual LCCA Shrove Tuesday Pancake on Tuesday 13 February 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 tickets are priced at £15 and includes a two course meal and entertainment. We look forward to meeting you at this event.

Events

Messiaen's La Nativité du Seigneur

6 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.

Mindful Mile

9 January, 12.30pm

Join us for the first Mindful Mile of 2024 as Atma introduces you to the Vietnamese Monk and mindfulness.

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. 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.

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.

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

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