

The Chapter Letter



SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY – SUNDAY 18 FEBRUARY

Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,' says the Lord Almighty. (Malachi 3:1)

When I tell people I live in Lincoln, the response I get is usually a reference to the Cathedral; Lincoln is in many ways synonymous with our wonderful place of worship. It is therefore a huge privilege for me to have been given this opportunity to serve here for a short time and I have gained some unique insights behind the scenes as I have come to appreciate the major contribution of the dedicated teams of staff and volunteers who work tirelessly for the benefit of those of us who worship here. The Cathedral is a beacon of light and hope pointing to God.

In some ways the Temple in Jerusalem in first-century Palestine held the same synonymous status; When people heard the city Jerusalem mentioned they thought of the Temple and vice-versa. As we left the season of Epiphany, we accompanied the Holy Family to the Temple to present Jesus as the firstborn son to God and in a sense the Temple itself was a silent witness to the drama which was unfolding. The original Temple was constructed by Solomon as an edifice in which God could be close to the people and the whole structure of the offerings was designed to allow sinful humanity to approach God, although according to strict rules. The Ark of the Covenant was placed there which is thought to have contained the presence of the Lord.

By the time of Jesus, the Temple had been rebuilt twice although it was still referred to as the Second Temple or Herod's Temple. The Temple and its function punctuated Jesus' ministry on earth as can be seen from the various reported incidents: the presentation in the Temple (Luke 2: 21f); his debating with the teachers there when he was 12 years old (Luke 2: 41ff.); the cleansing of the Temple (Matthew 21: 12ff); teaching in the Temple (Matthew 21: 23f.); his participation in the Jewish feasts (John 7: 10) and his assertion that he would raise the destroyed Temple in three days (Matthew 24: 2). In a sense the Temple was an integral part of Jesus' life and ministry and permeated his time on earth. In another sense, however, Jesus pre-dated the Temple and the Temple pointed to him as the bridge between the divine and humanity as illustrated by many of the features of the Temple which Jesus fulfilled when he came to earth. In fact, Jesus was the Temple. It was the place of the whole sacrificial system which was overtaken by Jesus, who was the Lamb of God who takes away the Sin of the world (John 1: 29). The Holy place contained the table on which the bread of the Presence (shewbread) was placed; at the Last Supper Jesus declared This is my body, (Luke 22: 19). The seven-branched candelabrum (menorah) gave light to the Temple and Jesus declared: I am the Light of the World (John 8: 12). But the most holy place, the Holy of Holies was separated by a curtain extending from top to bottom and only the High Priest was permitted to enter there and only on one day in the year, Yom Kippur (יום כיפור) the Day of Atonement, and of Jesus the writer to the Hebrews declares: where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 6:20). In a sense when we look at the Temple, we see Jesus and in the end the two will be one when creation is renewed: I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. (Rev 21: 22). We continue our journey with him now as we enter Lent.

PETER NEIL, RESIDENTIARY CANON

BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday 11 February
Sunday next before Lent

Eucharist
2 Kings 2.1-12
2 Corinthians 4.3-6
Mark 9.2-9

Evening Prayer
1 Kings 19.1-16
2 Peter 1.16-end

Sunday 18 February
First Sunday of Lent

Eucharist
Genesis 9.8-17
1 Peter 3.18-end
Mark 1.9-15

Evening Prayer
Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7
Romans 5.12-19

Worship & Mission

Weekly service schedule

Details of services and music can be viewed on the cathedral websit. [Click here to visit.](#)

Special Services

Sun 4 February, 3.45pm
Evensong with procession for Gilbert of Sempringham
Sun 11 February, 3.45pm
Diocesan Service for Racial Justice Sunday

Weds 14 February, 5.30pm
Solemn Evensong for Ash Wednesday

Weds 14 February, 7.30pm
Sung Eucharist for Ash Wednesday

Sun 10 March, 3.45pm
Installation of the Missioner at Evensong

After hours: Reflective worship

6.45pm, once a month on a Sunday

18 February - Meditative Eucharist with prayers for healing

17 March - 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

Ash Wednesday: The beginning of Lent:

Wednesday 14 February
Our observance of Lent begins with the service of Ash Wednesday. Do join us as we begin this period of fasting, prayer and abstinence ahead of the great celebration of Christ's Passion and Resurrection:

- Morning Prayer for Ash Wednesday at 8am
- Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes at 8.30am
- Lunchtime Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes at 12.30pm
- Solemn Evensong for Ash Wednesday at 5.30pm
- Solemn Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes at 7.30pm

Time for Study and Reflection during Lent

Mondays at 4pm

There will be sessions for study and reflection taking place each Monday 4pm in the Wickham Reading Room. The first session will be on 19 February.

Lent Sermon series:

18 February - **Our care for creation: God's creation in all its glory**

25 February - **Our care for each other: human flourishing**

3 March - **Our care for the environment**

10 March - **No sermon (Installation of Missioner)**

17 March - **Our care through understanding: scientific knowledge, creation and Christian revelation**

Please join us as we reflect on our calling to care for creation and each other.

Community

Funeral of Russell Pond

The funeral of Russell Pond will take place in St Hugh's Choir at 10.45am on 8 February. We welcome all who wish to join us and pay their respects.

Thank you from the Lincoln Community Larder

"We would like to thank you for your very generous donation of food which was received this week. Your very generous gift means that we can continue to provide food parcels for local people in need. Donations like yours help us to continue to assist local residents who come to us at a very difficult point in their lives."

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 the Visitors' 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.

LCCA - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Shrove Tuesday is less than two weeks away and tickets are selling well for our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday 13 February 2024 at 6.30pm for 7pm in the Chapter House.

If you have not already bought or reserved your tickets, they are available after the Sunday morning Eucharist or 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. As we need to know the final numbers soon, please support us by letting us know in good time if you would like to join us.



Events

Join us for the special events taking place while Gaia is on display in the Cathedral

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. [Click here to book your tickets.](#)

Gaia at night

Thursday 8, 15, 22 February

Accompanied by an exclusive soundtrack, Gaia at night is a special experience. Fully immersive, and different to during the day, it truly is spectacular. The cathedral will open late on Thursdays during the installation between 6.30pm and 8.30pm. This event is free to attend.

Recitals under the earth

Friday 9, 16, 23 February, 11.30am

Join Lincoln Cathedral's choral scholars under the earth for a free recital, every Friday during the installation. Each week has an earthly theme and will last 20 - 30 minutes with music from Vaughan Williams, Handel, Mahler and Sibelius. These services are free with admission.

Half term fun

Saturday 10 to Friday 16 February

Join us in the learning centre for some amazing crafts. You can help to complete our One World Collage, make collage creatures to take away from the book 'Is this My Home', write your messages of hope to the world on our postcard display and make a 'four seasons' plate to take home!

All our crafting activities are free with cathedral admission and children visit FREE with a paying adult

Rhubarb Theatre

Thursday 15 February, 10.15am, 11.30am, 1pm and 2.15pm

The much-loved Rhubarb Theatre team will be on hand in the Chapter House to lead guided storytelling based on the book 'Is This My Home?' by Sean Henrick Moore.

This event is free with admission

For more details of forthcoming events and to book your tickets, go to our website at

www.lincolncathedral.com/events

