

The Chapter Letter



SUNDAY 3 MARCH – SUNDAY 17 MARCH

BIBLE READINGS

I confess that I have only been an Anglican for 20 years but my great-grandmother was a staunch 'pisky' (the affectionate term for a member of the Scottish Episcopal Church), a fact I only learned after I was ordained. One of the fascinating features of Anglicanism is that it represents unity with diversity and still manages to be held together as the One Church, the Body of Christ.

As part of my academic study leading to Ordination, I conducted a piece of research in West Wales where I interviewed members of rural churches about their beliefs and practices. One participant stands out in my mind because I was so shocked by his answer: We were talking about the various aspects of Christian faith and I asked him how he understood the Resurrection. The response "Oh I don't believe in that nonsense" was unexpected, to say the least. How can someone attend church for years accompany Jesus on his journey from birth through the Epiphany to his passion and death, to resurrection and Pentecost and not believe in the resurrection? The whole basis of our faith is resurrection; the apostle Paul writes: If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied (1 Corinthians 15:19).

Of course, none of us understands it completely but there are hints in the Scriptures. The most important aspect is that it will be a physical resurrection; it is clear that in his post-resurrection appearances, Jesus was a physical person and the essence of his being was the same but he was different to the extent that neither those on the Emmaus Road (Luke 24: 16) nor those on the beach when he cooked them breakfast (John 21: 12) recognised him immediately - nor did they appear to recognise his voice. It was only in the case of those en route to Emmaus that their eyes were opened when he broke the bread: When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him, and he disappeared from their sight (Luke 24:30). Nor did Mary at the tomb recognise him, thinking he was the Gardner (John 20: 15) but realised who he was when he called her by name.

When I find my faith waiver, I return to the most comprehensive chapter in which Paul deals with the resurrection, and I read it out loud to myself: But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15:20-22). I hold onto the truth of this by faith, trusting in the words of Jesus: I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die (John 11:25). That is our hope and the pinnacle of our faith and we can rest assured, that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is (1 John 3:2). Let us pray that this Easter our spiritual eyes will be opened even wider to recognise Jesus and to look forward to the time when he will be with us physically. Until that time we celebrate his presence when we participate in the Eucharist, to which he invites us each individually by name.

I conclude by saying what a privilege and pleasure it has been to have served in the Cathedral these past few months and would like to thank everyone for your friendship, patience and guidance which you have shown me during that time.

PETER NEIL, RESIDENTIARY CANON

Sunday 3 March
Third Sunday of Lent

Eucharist
Exodus 20.1-17
1 Corinthians 1.18-25
John 2.13-22

Evening Prayer
Exodus 5.1-6.1
Philippians 3.4b-14

Sunday 10 March
Fourth Sunday of Lent

Eucharist
Numbers 21.4-9
Ephesians 2.1-10
John 3.14-21

Evening Prayer
Exodus 6.2-13
Romans 5.1-11

Sunday 17 March
Fifth Sunday of Lent

Eucharist
Jeremiah 31.31-34
Hebrews 5.5-10
John 12.20-33

Evening Prayer
Exodus 7.8-24
Romans 5.12-end

Worship & Mission

Weekly service schedule

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

Special Services

Fri 8 March, 5.30pm

Festal Evensong and procession to the grave of Edward King

Sun 10 March, 3.45pm

Installation of the Missioner at Evensong

Tues 19 March, 5.30pm

Festal Evensong for Joseph of Nazareth

Sun 24 March, 10.30am

Procession, Reading of the Passion and Sung Eucharist

Mon 25 March, 7.30pm

Holy Week evening service: Compline

Tues 26 March

11am Chrism Eucharist

7.30pm Holy Week evening service: Compline

Weds 27 March, 7.30pm

Holy Week evening service: Tenebrae

Thurs 28 March, 7.30pm

Sung Eucharist for Maundy Thursday and Stripping of the Altars

After hours: Reflective Worship

6.45pm, once a month on a Sunday

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. We meet in the Ringers Chapel from 8.45am to 9.15am on the following Mondays:

4 March

8 April

6 May

3 June

Lent Sermon series:

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.

Time for Study and Reflection during Lent

There will be sessions for study and reflection taking place each Monday at 4pm in the Wickham Reading Room. The next session will be on 4 March.

Stations of the Cross during Lent

Stations of the Cross will take place in the Nave on Wednesdays at 4.30pm. The next service will be on 6 March. The further dates are:

13 March

20 March

27 March

Community

Chapter House Recitals

Saturday 16 March

On 16 March we'll have two exciting recitals in the Chapter House. At 1pm, we'll have a lunchtime recital by the incredibly talented Hannah Kirsopp.

At 3pm, Lincoln Cathedral's lay vicars and choral scholars will be performing an anonymous late-Elizabethan setting of the Lamentations of Jeremiah from the library of Sir John Lumley. The identity of its composer is no longer known, however, certain circumstantial clues point to William Byrd as a possible contender.

Events

Mindful Mile

Tuesday 12 March, 12.30pm

Join us for the next Mindful Mile. For March's walk, Ben Poole will talk about creative arts and how good they are for the soul. The walk will start from the West Front at 12.30pm, all are welcome.

Science by Luxmuralis

12 March - 16 March

In just a few weeks, Luxmuralis is making a thrilling return to Lincoln Cathedral with their latest spectacle, 'Science'!

See our Cathedral transform into a fully immersive artwork exploring Chemistry and Biology and interprets artistically the scale of molecules cells and DNA as well as exploring the history of science, and the contributions of science to humanity

'Science' by Luxmuralis will run from Tuesday 12 to Saturday 16 March, with several performances per evening.

St John Passion

Saturday 23 March, 7pm

We welcome all to join us as Lincoln Cathedral Choir is joined by the extraordinarily gifted Lincolnshire Chamber Orchestra with Mark Wilde as Evangelist. The role of Christus will be performed by the talented Stephen Holloway, and Aric Prentice will command the stage as our conductor.

Mark your calendars and make sure you're a part of this unforgettable event.

G F Handel's Saul

Saturday 20 April, 7.30pm

Join us as Lincoln Choral Society and Musica Donum Dei perform G F Handel's 'Saul'.

'Saul' is a dramatic retelling of the events in the life of Saul, King of Israel, and David, the man who would succeed him. It's a tale of betrayal, war and violence, pride and envy, discord and harmony, love and hate.

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