

The Chapter Letter



SUNDAY 31 MARCH - SUNDAY 14 APRIL

***Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed!***

Today we hear that acclamation of hope and joy, proclaimed on Easter morning in churches all over the world. The waiting is over; we celebrate again being a resurrection people, after our journey through Lent and Holy Week.

What I love about the post-Easter stories in the Gospel, however, is that they are a very real mix of human emotion: yes, there is joy and new hope, but this often sits alongside or is found only after grief, disbelief, fear, doubt and confusion. Somehow I find that reassuring. It seems to reflect the reality of our journey of faith more than any stories of straightforward recognition and happiness could. For most of us, learning to recognise the risen Christ in the context of our own lives is a life-long process - learning what death and resurrection feel like in our own experience and learning the difference between those things that really do give us a fullness of life and which are just empty promises and false hopes.

This experience of hope intermingled with doubt is one every believer has, as we wrestle with the reality of God's promise through Christ: the promise of new life in death - the promise of a God present as the seed of hope in the darkest corners of our lives and world.

"Really? Even here?" our doubts ask. "Yes. Especially here", the God of resurrection answers.

I think it is this process of asking questions, wrestling with our challenges, and seeking God in all our experiences that keeps us alive in our faith. One way of doing this is to explore the Ignatian practice of examen, or as one Jesuit writer calls it, "Rummaging for God". Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, lived from 1491 to 1556, and during his life developed a series of spiritual tools designed to help people connect with the presence of God in the activities of their daily lives. One of these was the examen, which is a process of guided reflection on a day or week in order to look for signs of God's work. It is a tool that can help us to stop and focus, even for a short time, on where and how God might be speaking to us in the events of our days.

Whether you use a formal tool such as the examen, or whether you reflect in a less structured way, taking the time to slow down and look for the hints and seeds of God in our lives can help us to listen for the still, small voice that might be calling us into new paths and new life. It can help us to spend time in gratitude and thanksgiving for the life we receive in faith, and to join in with the work of God already happening in our lives.

Springtime provides us tangible symbols of new life: in the budding branches, daffodils and birdsong of (hopefully) sunny days, and these can provide us with daily reminders to attend to the signs of new life in our own lives. I hope that each of you might find the time this Eastertide to stop and give thanks for those signs of growth and life, no matter how small, trusting that as Christ rose from the grave, that we too are promised new life in all its fullness.

ROWENA KING, CANON MISSIONER

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday 31 March
Easter Day

Eucharist
Isaiah 25.6-9
Acts 10.34-43
John 20.1-18

Evening Prayer
Ezekiel 37.1-14
Luke 24.13-35

Sunday 7 April
Second Sunday of Easter

Eucharist
Acts 4.32-35
1 John 1.1-2.2
John 20.19-end

Evening Prayer
Wisdom 9.1-12
Genesis 3.8-15

Sunday 14 April
Third Sunday of Easter

Eucharist
Acts 3.12-19
1 John 3.1-7 Luke
24.36b-48

Evening Prayer
Deuteronomy 7.7-13
Revelation 2.1-11

Worship & Mission

Weekly service schedule

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

Special Services

Fri 29 March, Good Friday

9.30am - Liturgy for Good Friday
12noon - Three Hours Service
4pm - Passion Play

Sat 30 March, 8pm

Easter Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter

Sun 31 March, Easter Day

7.45am - Litany
8am - Holy Communion
10.30am - Sung Eucharist for Easter Day
12.30pm - Eucharist
3.45pm - Festal Evensong for Easter Day

Sun 21 April, 1pm

Lincoln Scouts St George's Day Parade

Tue 23 April, 5.30pm

Festal Evensong for George, Martyr

After hours: Reflective Worship

6.45pm, once a month on a Sunday
21 April - Completing the day: Easter reflections ending with Compline sung by the Cathedral Consort
19 May - Sacred Space

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. We meet in the Ringers Chapel from 8.45am to 9.15am on the following Mondays:
8 April
6 May
3 June

Community

Funeral of Ros Lucas

The funeral of Ros Lucas will take place at 1.45pm on 9 April at South Carlton Church. All those who wish to pay their respects are welcome to join.

Congratulations to Florence and Evangeline

We're very happy to hear that two of our Choristers, Florence and Evangeline, won their respective bible reading classes in the Lincoln Music and Drama Festival.

LCCA Pentecost Sunday Cake in the Cloisters

The Lincoln Cathedral Community Association invites you to celebrate Pentecost Sunday with Cake in the Cloisters after Evensong on Sunday 19 May. You can reserve your place at £5 per head by either adding your name to our guest list during refreshments after the Sunday morning Eucharist or by emailing Andrea, LCCA secretary at lcca@lincolncathedral.com

All proceeds will go to one of our nominated charities. If you would like to donate a cake to maximise proceeds, please talk to one of the committee or email as above.

InHouse Spring Edition

Lent is a season of reflection and preparation, so it is appropriate that the current edition of InHouse is dedicated to some key aspects of the Cathedral and our incredible resources, as we move towards Easter. The treasures of the Cathedral, from our buildings to our vestments, are skilfully and lovingly cared for by our knowledgeable staff and volunteers, to the greater glory of God. [Visit our website to download the latest edition](#)

Sponsor a seat at the table.

The spectacular 13-metre long 'Table for the Nation' will arrive for a 12-month residency at Lincoln Cathedral on Tuesday 23 April.

Created from a section of the nation's most significant tree, a gigantic 5000 year old Fenland Black Oak, the table is a masterpiece of craftsmanship.

The table will alternate between the Nave and North Transept and will be a key feature in the Cathedral's 2024 activity programme, providing a place to bring people together, build communities and begin conversations. It will become the centrepiece for a range of activities from debates to dinners, educational workshops to exhibitions and community showcases. It may also appear in our worship throughout the year and will leave us after Easter 2025.

Your seat at the table.

There is an opportunity to sponsor a seat at the table for £65. Your generous sponsorship will support the costs of the installation, and in return, you'll receive a personalised name card, early notification of activities taking place and an invitation to the launch evening on 23 April. For more information, please contact Matthew Tarling - matthew.tarling@lincolncathedral.com

Events

Spring Crafts

Tuesday 2 to Friday 5 April and Monday 8 to Friday 12 April
Join us in the Learning Centre for some family fun!

Enjoy some creative crafts as you create spring flower wreaths, craft baby bird nests, help create a paper wild meadow, and walk the Easter story trail.

The Mindful Mile - April

9 April

Join us for the next Mindful Mile. For April's walk, join Di to learn how music can help people with dementia.

The walk will start from the West Front at 12.30pm, all are welcome.

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