

The Chapter Letter



SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER – SUNDAY 5 JANUARY

BIBLE READINGS

On the final Sunday of Advent, our thoughts turn to the Annunciation. One of my favourite poems on this subject is by the Lincolnshire-born poet Elizabeth Jennings. Jennings was born in Skirbeck in 1926. At the age of seven she moved to Oxford with her family, where she remained for the rest of her life until her death in 2001. The poem focuses on Mary's reaction to the news that she would bear the child of God, exploring faith and doubt through feminine eyes:

Nothing will ease the pain to come
Though now she sits in ecstasy
And lets it have its way with her.
The angel's shadow in the room
Is lightly lifted as if he
Had never terrified her there.

The furniture again returns
To its old simple state. She can
Take comfort from the things she knows
Though in her heart new loving burns
Something she never gave to man
Or god before, and this god grows

Most like a man. She wonders how
To pray at all, what thanks to give
And whom to give them to. "Alone
To all men's eyes I now must go"
She thinks, "And by myself must live
With a strange child that is my own."

So from her ecstasy she moves
And turns to human things at last
(Announcing angels set aside).
It is a human child she loves
Though a god stirs beneath her breast
And great salvations grip her side.

As Christmas approaches, may we, like Mary, recognise that the human-divine child whose birth we await stirs within each one of us and, importantly, within all people. May the birth of that child bring joy and hope to us and to our world.

With all good wishes for a Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

SIMON JONES, DEAN OF LINCOLN

Sunday 22 December
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Eucharist
Micah 5.2-5a
Hebrews 10.5-10
Luke 1.39-45

Evening Prayer
Isaiah 10.33-11.10
Matthew 1.18-end

Sunday 29 December
First Sunday of Christmas

Eucharist
1 Samuel 2.18-20, 26
Colossians 3.12-17
Luke 2.41-end

Evening Prayer
Isaiah 61
Galatians 3.27-4.7

Sunday 5 January
Second Sunday of Christmas

Eucharist
Jeremiah 31.7-14
Ephesians 1.3-14
John 1.[1-9] 10-18

Evening Prayer
Isaiah 49.1-13
John 4.7-26

Worship & Mission

Weekly service schedule

Details of services and music can be viewed on the Cathedral's website. Visit: www.lincolncathedral.com/orders-of-service/

Special Services

Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 December

4pm each day - Service of Lessons and Carols

Tuesday 24 December - Christmas Eve

10.30am - Carols for Families

11.30pm - Midnight Mass

Wednesday 25 December - Christmas Day

10.30am - Sung Eucharist

3.45pm - Festal Evensong

Stillpoint

This is a time of guided silent prayer to be still and aware of the presence of God. We meet in the Ss Peter and Paul Chapel (Bishop Grosseteste Tomb) from 9am to 9.30am on the following Mondays: **6 January**

After hours: Reflective Worship

6.45pm, once a month on a Sunday

22 December - Sacred Space

Enjoy a gentle and reflective space with time to wonder, and the chance to experience the unique atmosphere of the Cathedral as the day draws to a close.

Community

Cathedral service livestreams

Most of the Cathedral's choral services, including those at Christmas, are livestreamed on the Cathedral's YouTube channel and Facebook page. If you're not able to be with us in person, we welcome you to join us online.

Collection for David Dadswell

David retires from his role as Diocesan Secretary, and alongside this as a residentiary Canon at Christmas. David has provided valuable continuity, appreciated pastoral care and leadership to our monthly evening worship. If you wish to make a contribution to a leaving collection/gift, please drop this into the Vergers' Vestry.

Cathedral fundraising quiz

Carol Hill writes: Many thanks to everyone who supported the fundraising quiz. We made £59 for the Cathedral Music Fund. Everyone did very well and the results are as follows: Joint first place each with 94 marks out of 100 - Veronica and Tony Wintin, and Andrea Paterson. 3rd place goes to a team of four from the Cathedral Offices - Lesley Kirrage, Ruth Creasey, Amber Hardy and Matthew Tarling. For anyone interested, the answers will be posted on the LCCA notice board along with a question sheet for reference. Well done everyone!

LCCA Extraordinary General Meeting

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Lincoln Cathedral Community Association will take place on Thursday 6 February in the Chapter House at 7pm.

This meeting is being held to fully explain the changes necessary to transform the LCCA in line with the requirements of the latest Cathedrals Measure. We hope that as many members as possible will attend to support these changes.

InHouse: Winter 2024 Edition

The Winter 2024 edition of InHouse is packed with articles about the life and work of the Cathedral and its community. We say a fond farewell to Canon David Dadswell, who retires from his positions as Residentiary Canon and Diocesan Secretary. David's warm personality and engaging sermons will be much missed.

In the coming months, the LCCA will be transforming itself in line with the requirements of the Cathedrals Measure of 2021. We will still be representing the Cathedral Membership Roll, and organising social events for the Cathedral community, but we will no longer be a separate entity, collecting donations on behalf of the Cathedral. Please join us at our Extraordinary General Meeting early in the New Year, when the changes will be explained in full. We hope you enjoy reading by visiting this link www.lincolncathedral.com/latest-news/the-latest-issue-of-in-house-is-now-available-7/ or by collecting a copy from the tables on either side of St Hugh's Choir.

With thanks to all who have contributed to this edition, in particular to the editorial team and wishing all our readers a Blessed Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Confirmation Classes

Each Easter the Cathedral hosts a service of Baptism and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil. If you have wondered about being Confirmed and/or Baptised and would like to explore this further, do speak to Canon Rowena, as both adult and child confirmation classes will begin in the New Year. These classes are also an opportunity to explore the Christian faith even if you do not wish to be Confirmed at the end of the course. Adult conversations will be based on the "Confirmation Book for Adults" by Sharon Swain.

Events

Messiaen's La Nativité du Seigneur

Saturday 4 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.

Music Celebration 2025

Sunday 26 January, 3.45pm

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 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.

Time by Luxmuralis

Tuesday 11 to Saturday 15 February

Take a journey through time with Luxmuralis!

Traversing wormholes, venture inside the intricate workings of clocks, and experience a dramatic narrative that spans from the present day to the very beginning of everything.

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