

# The Chapter Letter



SUNDAY 5 JANUARY - SUNDAY 19 JANUARY

When we wish people a happy New Year, it often comes with the hope that it will be a healthy one. With the dawn of this new year comes a new opportunity to engage with the Church's ministry of healing. For much of the Church's history, prayer for healing accompanied by the laying on of hands and anointing has been reserved for those with serious illnesses or who are close to death. In the last forty years or so, this has changed, with a recognition that all of us are, in different ways, in need of God's healing and, at certain times, particularly so.

From the Gospels, it's clear that healing was an important part of Jesus' ministry. He commissioned his disciples to lay hands on the sick, and in the Letter of James, the church is encouraged to anoint the sick with oil in the name of the Lord (James 5.14). The Church has therefore exercised a ministry of healing from its earliest days.

What should we hope for from such prayer? It's important to recognise that this is a prayer for healing and not a cure. During this Christmas season, we celebrate God becoming human and thereby sharing every human experience, including sickness (interpreted broadly as any kind of physical, psychological or spiritual need). In Christ and through the Holy Spirit, God longs to draw near to us in times of need. Christ's resurrection means that sickness can never define us, however much it may dominate our lives at times, and that even in this life we can experience the breaking in of Christ's kingdom through a transforming experience of his love, strength and healing.

We cannot tell what form this healing may take. It may help us through a long-term or chronic condition; it may lead to recovery more rapidly than expected; it may mean we become less fearful of death (our own or of a loved one); or it may lead to something unexpected that transforms the way in which we view the situation we're in.

Prayer with laying on of hands and anointing will be available after Evening Prayer (which begins at 5.30pm) on the first Wednesday of each month, beginning on Wednesday 5 February. The laying on of hands will be offered by one of the cathedral clergy. It will be offered individually and privately (although there is nothing to stop couples or small groups from coming forward together). You may tell the priest what you would like them to pray for, if you wish, or not if you'd prefer. This ministry is confidential, and you may receive it for yourself, or on behalf of someone else. Anointing of the forehead and hands, with oil blessed by the Bishop at the Chrism Eucharist during Holy Week, will then be available for those with a specific need for themselves. To find out more, please speak to Rowena or me.

It's my prayer that through the regular offering of this ministry, which is also always available on request, we will experience afresh that wholeness and peace which is Christ's will for all people.

And I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year.

SIMON JONES, DEAN OF LINCOLN

## BIBLE READINGS

### Sunday 5 January *Epiphany*

**Eucharist**  
Isaiah 60.1-6  
Ephesians 3.1-12  
Matthew 2.1-12

**Evening Prayer**  
Baruch 4.36-end of 5  
John 2.1-11

### Sunday 12 January *First Sunday of Epiphany*

**Eucharist**  
Isaiah 43.1-7  
Acts 8.14-17  
Luke 3.15-17, 21-22

**Evening Prayer**  
Isaiah 55.1-11  
Romans 6.1-11

### Sunday 19 January *Second Sunday of Epiphany*

**Eucharist**  
Isaiah 62.1-5  
I Corinthians 12.1-11  
John 2.1-11

**Evening Prayer**  
I Samuel 3.1-20  
Ephesians 4.1-16

## Worship & Mission

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### Weekly service schedule

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

### Special Services

#### Saturday 4 January - The Eve of Epiphany

5.30pm - Choral Evensong

#### Sunday 5 January - The Feast of the Epiphany

10.30am - Sung Eucharist

3.45pm - Festal Evensong

#### Sunday 19 January

3.45pm - Epiphany Carol Service

#### Sunday 2 February - The Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas)

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**

### Prayer for Healing and Wholeness

Prayer for healing with the laying on of hands and anointing will be offered after Evening Prayer (which begins at 5.30pm) on the first Wednesday of each month: **5 February, 5 March, 2 April**. For further information, speak to Rowena King or Simon Jones.

## Community

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### Candlemas Cakes Around Table for the Nation

Following the success of the Pentecost Cakes in the Cloister, another celebration is being planned for Sunday 2 February, after Evensong, you are invited to the LCCA Candlemas Cakes around the Table for the Nation.

Details have yet to be finalised but the call for bakers and/or suppliers of cakes has to happen now. If you are willing to bake or provide cakes please let Theresa Moses know as soon as possible by emailing [theresamoses7@gmail.com](mailto:theresamoses7@gmail.com) or calling 07970 818152.

### 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 to propose the winding up of the LCCA. Full details are available by emailing [lcca@lincolncathedral.com](mailto:lcca@lincolncathedral.com)

We hope that as many LCCA and Cathedral Community roll members as possible will attend to show your support for your cathedral community.

### 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.

### Musical Donations for the Song School

Song School has some exciting plans for the New Year including the provision of early years music and acting at an examination centre for Trinity Music. Consequently, the music department will be opening up some additional space in the Song School as rehearsal, exam and teaching areas, and is looking for donations of good quality pianos/digital pianos. One (digital) piano will be used in the Wickham Room for visiting choirs, and the two other pianos will be used in the music department.

If you should have a piano which is just gathering dust and could do with an appreciative new home, please get in touch with Sarah Buttler at [music@lincolncathedral.com](mailto:music@lincolncathedral.com)

## Events

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### 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

Have something to look forward to in 2025 with Time by Luxmuralis!

From Tuesday 11 to Saturday 15 February, the dazzling lights and stunning imagery of Luxmuralis will paint the walls of Lincoln Cathedral with their new show titled 'Time'. As you travel through the Cathedral you will be taken on a **journey** through time, traversing wormholes, venturing inside the intricate workings of clocks, and experiencing 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](http://www.lincolncathedral.com/events)