

The Chapter Letter



SUNDAY 2 MARCH – SUNDAY 16 MARCH

Forty Days to change the world – starting with ourselves
After one of the longest periods that can exist between Candlemas and the beginning of Lent, this coming week sees Ash Wednesday mark the beginning of our spiritual preparation for Holy Week and Easter. A traditional time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving – Lent began as a period of preparation for those who were to be welcomed into the Christian family of the Church during the course of the Easter celebrations and recalls the time that Jesus spent in prayer and reflection prior to his public ministry.

Many people mark Lent in different ways – from giving things up (in my experience, often the same things that they gave up at New Year!), to taking up new habits and making a commitment to give to good causes. For some, the subtle changes in our worship – leaving out some of the celebratory songs of praise and encountering some of the most beautiful pieces of music written, help provide the space to reflect on both the truth of our calling to follow Christ, and the real cost that this can require as we follow Christ – who was tempted, died, and rose again.

Within the cathedral community and across the diocese, there are many opportunities to engage in the reflective nature of the coming weeks – from joining with others for opportunities to study, to joining in devotions such as the Stations of the Cross or to committing to join in the daily prayers of the Church (whether in person or at a distance). However we do it, Lent provides an opportunity that calls us to exercise and deepen our faith, to grow closer to God, and to let this shape our lives.

In the busyness of our lives and the demands of our world – which can all too often seem beyond our powers to satisfy – it is all too easy to find that we are swept away and that these demands overwhelm us. Lent is a reminder that even as Christ began his transforming work among us, he needed to find that opportunity for inner transformation – that before the transforming glory of new life came the stepping aside, and the realisation of what was required.

This is no less true for us. We cannot begin to meet the challenges of the world (and our lives within that) if we do not create the time and the space to allow ourselves to be shaped by God's love and grace. It is not that we alone will be able to change all that needs changing – but that each of us may do a little bit to allow God's grace to do its work through us. Let us change the world this Lent – starting with ourselves.

NICK BROWN, PRECENTOR

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday 2 March
Sunday next before Lent

Eucharist
Exodus 34.29-end
2 Corinthians 3.12--4.2
Luke 9.28-36

Evening Prayer
Exodus 3.1-6
John 12.27-36a

Sunday 9 March
First Sunday of Lent

Eucharist
Deuteronomy 26.1-11
Romans 10.8b-13
Luke 4.1-13

Evening Prayer
Jonah 3
Luke 18.9-14

Sunday 16 March
Second Sunday of Lent

Eucharist
Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18
Philippians 3.17-4.1
Luke 13.31-end

Evening Prayer
Jeremiah 22.1-9,13-17
Luke 14.27-33

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

Choral Mattins

Choral Mattins will take place at 9.30am on Sunday 2 March and Sunday 23 March.

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: **3 March, 7 April**

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 following Wednesdays: 12 March, 2 April, 7 May. For further information, speak to Rowena King or Simon Jones.

Stations of the Cross

Wednesday 12, 19, 26 March 2, 9, 16 April, 4.30pm in the Nave. The Stations of the Cross is a reflective journey to the cross using prayer, scripture, and silence that helps us to connect our lives, our society, and our world, with Jesus's life and death, recognising his presence in our lives at all times. All are welcome to join us throughout Lent.

After Hours

Once a month on a Sunday

16 March, 6pm – Completing the Day

27 April, 6pm – 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

The Ven Christopher Laurence

We were saddened to learn of the death of Christopher Laurence, a regular member of the Sunday morning congregation. Christopher served nearly all of his ministry in the Diocese of Lincoln. As Archdeacon of Lindsey, he was a residentiary canon and member of Chapter from 1985 until his retirement in 1994. Christopher's funeral will take place at 2pm on Tuesday 25 March in St Hugh's Choir. At Christopher's request, refreshments will be served in the Chapter House before the service from 12.30pm as well as afterwards. All are welcome to attend. Our prayers are with Dilys, and all the members of the family. May Christopher rest in peace and rise in glory.

Vision and Strategy - 2025-30: an invitation from the Dean

Members of the congregation are invited to the Chapter House after Evensong (which begins at 3.45pm) on Sunday 9 March to discuss the cathedral's vision and strategy over the next five years. No need to register. All welcome!

Every Monday & Wednesday: Lent Courses

There will be two Lent courses running from the week commencing Monday 10 March, for 5 weeks:

Practicing Prayer – Mondays 4pm-5pm – Wickham Room
Each week we will look at a different type of prayer and have the opportunity to discuss and reflect on it. Each session can stand alone, so you do not have to be able to attend every session.

Diocesan Lent course – Wednesday 7.30pm – off-site
This group will be using the Diocesan Lent Course materials, also on ways to pray. Please contact John and Jeannette Davies, who host the group, if you would like to attend, or email rowena.king@lincolncathedral.com

Lent books available at the Cathedral Shop

If you are looking for a reflective guide to accompany you through Lent, the Cathedral Shop has the following Lent books in stock:

Doorways to Hope by Christopher Chapman, which in 40 short chapters explores the meaning of hope in the Christian tradition, its source in God, and its relationship to struggle, vision, and pilgrimage.

The Little Book of Lent: short daily readings from a variety of Christian thinkers.

Discovering Christianity: a guide for the curious, by Rowan Williams – a short book thoughtfully exploring the basics of faith in a simple yet thought-provoking way.



Lincoln Cathedral Community Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

You are invited to the Lincoln Cathedral Community annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday 4 March, 6.30pm for 7pm, in the Chapter House when you can enjoy a two-course meal with entertainment. Tickets cost £20 and are available after Sunday morning Eucharist or by emailing lccc@lincolncathedral.com. Please bring your own choice of drinks and donations of non-perishable foodstuffs for the local foodbank. Please inform us if you require a vegetarian/vegan option and of any food allergies when you buy your tickets.

We welcome all to join us for our future events with Pentecost Cake in the Cloister on Sunday 8 June and the annual Summer Visit which is yet to be confirmed.

If you wish to know more, please email lccc@lincolncathedral.com and details will also be emailed to the members of the new Community Roll.

Collection for Jim Newton

Time marches on for everyone, and Jim Newton will be retiring from his role as Canons Verger after Easter. Jim has brought valuable wisdom (and humour) to the role of Canons Verger, as he did to his previous roles in the vergers' team and as a Lay vicar. There will be a public opportunity to thank Jim for his work in the Cathedral after the Sunday Sung Eucharist on 4 May. If you wish to contribute to a leaving collection/gift, please drop this into the Vergers Vestry.

Community

Be part of the Cathedral community

Our community is a wonderfully diverse mix of worshippers, choristers, staff, volunteers and supporters who all play a distinct part in the vibrant life of the Cathedral. As you may know we have created a Cathedral Community Roll. This list will help us to improve communication with all who want to know what's happening at the Cathedral and be involved in its life. We encourage you to join the Community Roll by scanning the QR code below or collecting a hard copy from the Cathedral or Chapter Office.



Parish Giving Scheme - a new way to support the Cathedral

Following the decision to dissolve the Lincoln Cathedral Community Association, those who were previously giving to the cathedral via the LCCA are encouraged to support the Cathedral via the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). This can be accessed by visiting <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/lincoln-cathedral-lincoln/>. Forms are also available in the Cathedral from the Vergers Vestry. If you currently have a direct debit in favour of LCCA, please cancel it, and make your contribution either direct to the Cathedral, or through the PGS. A proportion of the money received through the PGS will be given to other charities (as was the case with giving via the LCCA). If you currently use the blue envelopes, please continue to use these until they run out. The Cathedral will be able to supply you with new envelopes if this is your preferred method of giving. If you don't currently make a financial contribution towards the Cathedral's mission and ministry, please consider doing so via the PGS. For further information, contact Matthew Tarling (matthew.tarling@lincolncathedral.com). All gifts are most gratefully received.



Events

The Annual Edward King Lecture

Saturday 8 March, 3pm

We welcome all to join us for our annual Edward King lecture on spirituality. This year's lecture will focus on the subject 'Transformed by Prayer: using Common Worship and Daily Prayer to renew individuals and communities' given by the Very Rev'd Dr Simon Jones, Dean of Lincoln.

The lecture will begin at 3pm in the Chapter House.

Admission to this lecture is free but we ask that you book your place to help us plan.

'In Her Words' - Celebrating female composers from the last 1000 years

Saturday 8 March, 1.10pm

To celebrate International Women's Day, our choral scholars have put together a recital of music composed entirely by female composers, from Hildegard von Bingen and Madalena Casulana to Clara Schumann and Kate Rusby. This recital will take place in the Chapter House at 1.10pm and is included in your admission so there's no need to book.

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Festival of Chaplaincy

Friday 21 to Sunday 23 March

We invite you to join us as the first Lincolnshire Festival of Chaplaincy will be held at Lincoln Cathedral. It will celebrate chaplaincies across Greater Lincolnshire highlighting the pastoral care and support provided across communities.

The Festival weekend is a collaborative effort by several organisations – the Diocese of Lincoln, Lincoln Cathedral, the Lincolnshire Methodist Districts and representatives from many different chaplaincies and Lincolnshire community organisations. The festival weekend aims to raise the profile, awareness and inform the visiting public about the amazing work that chaplaincies carry out every day within our local communities and throughout the UK.

Bach's St John Passion

Saturday 5 April, 7pm

Tickets for Bach's St John Passion on Saturday 5 April are now on sale. Performed in a concert setting by the Lincoln Cathedral Choir and accompanied by Manchester Baroque, this certainly isn't a show you want to miss.

VE80 tea dance and dinner dance

Monday 5 May

Celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE day, with this 1940s-themed tea dance and dinner dance. There'll be music from DJ Dr Swing and the Blighty Belles, a 1940's tribute trio.

At 1.30pm we'll have our tea dance which includes sessions to learn the steps, and then time to dance, as we all as an afternoon tea. Dress up in a 1940s style is fully encouraged.

The dinner dance will take place at 7pm and will feature a ration book inspired menu with a nod towards the cooking styles and food availability of the era. You can purchase tickets for either the dinner and dance, or just for the dance itself.

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