

# The Chapter Letter



SUNDAY 16 MARCH – SUNDAY 30 MARCH

**If the only prayer you say in your entire life is “Thank you”, it will be enough.**

- Meister Eckhart

Last Monday a number of us gathered together to begin exploring prayer as a part of one of our Cathedral Lent groups. As you may gather from the quotation above, we began our series by looking at prayers and practices of gratitude.

In our conversation, we discovered that something which at first glance appears to be simple and enjoyable to do can actually be quite challenging. When we are finding life challenging, often the last thing we want to do is to say ‘Thank You’ to God. And yet, when we do, we find we give God space to move in our lives – not necessarily in overnight transformations, but often in slow and sometimes imperceptible ways which reshape us to attend to God’s gifts in new ways. We might think of it like noticing the stars in the darkness of the night sky; they don’t take away the darkness but add beauty to it.

Gratitude is also a practice; it is something we must intentionally do. Researcher Brené Brown found in her large-scale studies around joy, that the most joyful and contented people had one thing in common: a daily practice of gratitude. They each carved out some time to pray, write, say or feel thankfulness consciously and intentionally.

If you haven’t yet chosen something to explore this Lent, the discipline of daily gratitude might be a good experiment.

If you would like to join us on Mondays from 4pm to 5pm in the Wickham Room, our next topic will be Contemplative Prayer.

ROWENA KING, CANON MISSIONER

## BIBLE READINGS

**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

**Sunday 23 March**  
*Third Sunday of Lent*

**Eucharist**  
Isaiah 55.1-9  
1 Corinthians 10.1-13  
Luke 13.1-9

**Evening Prayer**  
Genesis 28.10-19a  
John 1.35-end

**Sunday 30 March**  
*Fourth Sunday of Lent*

**Eucharist**  
Joshua 5.9-12  
2 Corinthians 5.16-end  
Luke 15.1-3, 11b-end

**Evening Prayer**  
Isaiah 40.27-41.13  
2 Timothy 4.1-18

## 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

#### Choral Mattins

Choral Mattins will take place at 9.30am on 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: **7 April, 12 May, 9 June, 7 July, 8 September**

#### 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: **2 April, 7 May**. For further information, speak to Rowena King or Simon Jones.

#### Stations of the Cross

Wednesday 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

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#### Stewarding team recruitment event

Thursday 3 and Saturday 12 April  
Join us in the Chapter House at 11.50am for an interesting social event where you can meet our team leaders and learn more about being part of our stewarding team.

Be part of a welcoming team that enhances visitors' and worshippers' experiences. As a Steward, you'll help guide guests, assist during services, and share the Cathedral's rich history. As a Server, you'll support clergy in delivering beautiful and meaningful worship.

This is a fantastic opportunity to engage with heritage, faith, and community while gaining valuable experience. No prior knowledge is needed—just a friendly attitude and a willingness to lend a hand. Coffee and tea will be provided.

#### 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.

#### The Friends' Association afternoon talks.

A reminder that on Wednesday 26 March, this year's final afternoon talk arranged by the Friends of Lincoln Cathedral will be taking place in the Dunlop-Butler room in the Old Deanery Visitors' Centre. The subject will be Queen Eleanor of Castile, first wife of King Edward 1st and we're looking forward to an interesting and informative talk by Liz Husemeyer. This event will begin at 2.45pm, preceded by refreshments. Whilst members of the Friends' association attend without charge we are suggesting a contribution of £5 from non-members to help cover the costs of the event.

#### Lincoln Cathedral Community - Future Events

We are pleased to invite you to our annual Pentecost Cakes in the Cloister on Sunday 8 June after Evensong. Please save the date and look out for details of how and where to purchase tickets. Information will also be emailed to the members of the new Community Roll.

We will also be arranging a Summer Visit to a place of local interest and further information will be available soon.

If you wish to know more about the Lincoln Cathedral Community and how you can help, please email Andrea at [lccc@lincolncathedral.com](mailto:lccc@lincolncathedral.com).

#### 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](mailto:rowena.king@lincolncathedral.com)

#### 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.

## Events

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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.

### **Secrets of Minster Yard and Tower Tours**

From Tuesday 1 April our Secret of Minster Yard and Tower Tours will return for the summer.

#### **Secrets of Minster Yard** - Every Monday at 2pm

Find out more about the imposing tower which can be seen from over 40 miles away and learn about the elaborate carvings which cover the building.

#### **Tower Tour** - Every Saturday at 11.15am and 1.15pm

Climb more than 300 steps to reach the top of the Central Tower of Lincoln Cathedral and take in the fantastic 360-degree views of the city, county and beyond.

### **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 well as an afternoon tea. Dressing 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](http://www.lincolncathedral.com/events)

