



WORCESTER CATHEDRAL NEWS

Winter/Spring 2020



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Work
on the
Undercroft

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2020 – the
Year of
Pilgrimage

Pages 8 & 9



Adopt
a piece of
history

Pages 18 & 19

Plus, full events calendar and details of regular Cathedral services

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Cover Photograph

'Kaleidoscope' by Joan Harris,
3rd prize, over 18, Photographic
Competition 2019

Worcester Cathedral News

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From the Dean



“Pilgrimage is an idea that appeals to many people, with or without faith”

The year ahead will be marked by some significant celebrations. We shall celebrate the completion of work on the Edgar Tower with a service of blessing in May. We shall open the Undercroft as our new centre for heritage, learning and the arts in the summer. I am delighted that 'Shakespeare in the Cathedral' will be revived in 2020 as part of the Worcester Festival in August.

Along with cathedrals up and down the land, we will mark the year with a special focus on pilgrimage. Worcester is a place of pilgrimage in many ways – we have the memory of the great medieval pilgrimages to Worcester, we have the story of the Worcester Pilgrim, and we have our connection with Edward Winslow, one of the Pilgrim Fathers who set sail in 1620. Pilgrimage is also a theme running through the Three Choirs Festival, which returns to Worcester in July and August.

Pilgrimage is an idea that appeals to many people, with or without faith. The image of life as a journey is deeply rooted in our mind and imagination. For the Christian, the pilgrimage through life has a goal, the goal of reaching the 'kingdom' or 'city' of God. As John Bunyan wrote in Pilgrim's Progress:

Who would true valour see,
Let him come hither;
One here will constant be,
Come wind, come weather
There's no discouragement
Shall make him once relent
His first avowed intent
To be a pilgrim.

Peter Atkinson,
Dean of Worcester Cathedral

Community News

Cathedral plants in support of Purple4Polio Campaign

David Whelan, Cathedral Gardener

During September and October, myself and some dedicated volunteers from the Rotary Club set about planting 4,000 purple Spring crocus throughout College Yard. Donated to the Cathedral by the Rotary Club, the crocus have been planted as part of the Club's 'Purple4Polio' campaign; raising awareness of efforts to eradicate polio across the globe. The colour purple is reminiscent of the purple die painted upon the finger of a person to indicate that they have been vaccinated against this highly infectious disease.

Within their first few years, the crocus will consolidate themselves before flowering to their full potential, steadily spreading and



David Wheelan (left), Canon Stephen Edwards and the Rotary Club of Worcester

growing into an ever-larger colony and proclaiming in increasing vigour what will hopefully be a victory that sees an end to polio across the globe.

New Fundraising staff

Val Floy, Chief Operating Officer

We have recently appointed Cathy Sloan as our new Fundraising Manager. Cathy, who lives in Worcester, will be joining us in February from the role of Head of Fundraising and Marketing at a local hospice. She also has a strong links with Worcester from her work with the Elgar Museum. She will be responsible for ensuring we increase our fundraising income for our core work and supporting initiatives we are currently working on.

In the meantime, experienced fundraiser Jacqui Watson, is working on some specific priorities to help identify and generate funding from trusts and foundations for current work and priorities. Jacqui will be working two days a week. Chapter recognise the critical importance of generating more income from fundraising to help us keep our work and the Cathedral operating well, and I am sure there will be things we can all do to support them in their role.



New King's Headmaster announced

The Governors of The King's School, Worcester are very pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Gareth Doodles as Headmaster following the sad loss of Matthew Armstrong in August 2019.

Gareth will join the School in September 2020 from Dover College where he has been Headmaster for the last five years.

Cathedral Choir perform for Celebrities in Mayfair

Alexis Hutchinson, Alto Lay Clerk

On 11 December, the boy choristers and lower voices of the Cathedral Choir were invited to sing for the Story of Christmas Appeal Carol Service at St George's Hanover Square, London.

The Story of Christmas Appeal was founded in 1978 and is the property and construction industries' annual Christmas charity event. The event raises funds for capital projects benefitting either the homeless or disadvantaged children in the London area.

For the service, we were joined by the Band of the Scots Guards, harpist Isabel Harries and soprano soloist Ellie Laugharne. The service took the form of Nine



Choristers in London

Lessons and Carols with added excerpts from *A Christmas Carol* and *The Night Before Christmas*. The choir were also very excited to hear readings from actors and TV personalities including Claire Balding, Ian Hislop, Jim Carter and Imelda Staunton. Although I think everyone's favourite reader was Brian Blessed, who ended with a characteristic roar at one of the choristers!

Everyone in the choir thoroughly enjoyed singing for this service and it all went smoothly, until we nearly left the senior lay clerk in London!

Thankfully, we managed to track him down and we all returned safely from a very exciting day out.

In Memoriam

Roger Tipper died on 10 November 2019. He was a valued volunteer on our tower entrance desk for about twelve years, a concert steward, and an active ticket and CD seller for the Chamber Choir, in which his wife Stella sings. The Chamber Choir sang at his funeral in the Cathedral, and dedicated their autumn concert to his memory.



Welcome New Finance Manager



In October, the Cathedral welcomed Debbie Harding as its new Finance Manager. Debbie is a Chartered Management Accountant who began her finance career in 2003 with The Boots Company; taking her accountancy exams whilst working in various roles at their support office in Nottingham.

Debbie later relocated to Hereford and worked as a Financial Accountant for a manufacturing company before working in the Not-for-Profit sector at an international development charity and a regional charity. Debbie is now enjoying the challenge of her new role; learning about the complexities of Cathedral life and finances.

Outside of work, she enjoys any kind of art or craft activity and retains a keen interest in Philosophy (having studied Philosophy and Classical Civilisation at University).

Nathaniel receives his Guild of Vergers' Diploma

Those attending Evensong at Worcester Cathedral on Sunday 3 November were not only treated to a beautiful service including a visiting choir from St. Peter's in Nottingham, but also to the presentation of a Guild of Vergers' Diploma and an Admission to the Guild.

Nathaniel Hitchings was presented with his diploma by the Reverend Canon Dr Stephen Edwards, and with his academic hood by National Chaplain, the Reverend Canon Dr Maureen Palmer. This represents the culmination of several years of study by Nathaniel and he received a well-earned round of applause from all present.

We also welcomed Kirstie Anwyl-Hughes, as an associate member of the Guild. Kirstie was admitted by Canon Maureen who hoped she would enjoy being part of the Guild and taking part in its varied activities.



After the service: Rev. Canon Greville Cross (Branch Chaplain), Peter Young (Branch Chairman), Carol Oliver (Worcester Rep), Robert Beattie (National Treasurer), Rev Canon Maureen Palmer (National Chaplain), James Prior (Dean's Verger), Kirstie Anwyl-Hughes, David Anwyl-Hughes (Area Leader), Anita Mansell and Nathaniel Hitchings Dip GV

The Cathedrals' Workshop Fellowship Graduation Ceremony

Darren Steele, Works Manager & Master Mason



Saul Sheldon, front centre

In September I had the pleasure of attending a Graduation Ceremony at Gloucester Cathedral for 11 CWF graduates, including former Worcester Cathedral Stonemason Saul Sheldon.

Trained at 9 English Cathedrals, who are part of the CWF (Worcester, Durham, York, Lincoln, Gloucester, Salisbury, Exeter, Winchester and Canterbury), the graduates received their

awards from the Vice Chancellor of Gloucester University, having successfully completed a two year foundation degree in 'Applied Conservation and Repair of Historic Buildings'. Saul was overjoyed to receive his award with Merit and is now working for a local stonemasonry company.

Heritage teaching staff at Worcester have played a pivotal role in the CWF and, as Module Leaders for the course, Chris Guy (Cathedral Archaeologist) and I have helped 39 Cathedral students to graduate. We cover teaching, workshop tutorials, assessment and marking, and travel to many other Cathedrals. Chris has recently stood down as Module Leader after 10 years and we are grateful for all his help and for supporting the students.

Chester Cathedral have recently joined the CWF and a new cohort of 13 students were inducted onto the 2019/20 CWF course in September from 10 Cathedrals.



Father Brown filming at the Cathedral

On 6 January 2020 the BBC showed an episode of their TV murder mystery series *Father Brown* that was filmed at Worcester Cathedral back in May 2019.

The filming had to be kept under wraps until it had been publicly scheduled. But back in May we had a great day watching the intricacies of filmmaking in College Yard, the Cloister and the Nave – and of course meeting the stars!

If you have missed the episode this January, catch up on BBC iPlayer.



Actors Sorcha Cusack, Hugh Sachs and Mark Williams in the Nave

History beneath our feet

Siân Mitchell, Project Support Officer



The project to conserve Worcester Cathedral's medieval Undercroft and transform it into a centre for learning, heritage and art has successfully reached its six-month milestone. The site is a hive of activity with underfloor heating currently being laid and a platform lift being installed through a now-dismantled vault.

An excavation is taking place on College Green and our Cathedral Archaeologist has been busy uncovering, identifying and recording the findings. The excavation is proving complex and interesting as it is the first time we have been able to investigate the south side of

“The site is a hive of activity”

the Cloister buildings to any depth. Evidence of several structures has been found, although their dates and function are currently uncertain. We hope to show these exciting finds to the public in 2020.

The Education Department has also developed new programmes and activities to engage with different community groups. Families enjoyed free archaeology-themed activities during the October half-term and were

encouraged to think about what treasure might be hidden below our feet. Children and adults added their ideas to a large banner which is now on display on College Green. Some of our favourite drawings include a disused underground train station, a dragon and a crashed spaceship! Students from Pupil Referral Units and Special Educational Needs providers have also learned about medieval engineering, and we have welcomed learners on courses run by Worcestershire County Council.

We are excited for the 2020 Spring term when we will unveil a series of heritage conservation activities for young people outside education, employment or training. We will also develop an oral history project with our Young Curators, hard-hat tours of the Undercroft for local history societies, and a climate change project for primary schools in Worcestershire. We are also completing some new marketing films to keep you up-to-date with progress.

Thank you all for your ongoing support of this exciting project at the heart of the Cathedral.

Revival of Medieval Pilgrim route

Susan MacLeod,
Operational Manager

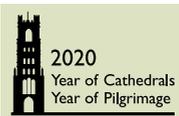
2020 has been designated as a Year of Pilgrimage by the Association of English Cathedrals (AEC) and here at Worcester we have plans for pilgrimage-centred events through the year.

One exciting opportunity is that the Confraternity of Saint James, the organisation in London that arranges the Camino de Compostella for pilgrims from this country to travel the route in Spain, may designate Worcester Cathedral as a location for a 'sello' (rubber stamp) to use on pilgrim 'credentials'. This will help pilgrims who walk the 20km that needs to be done in this country prior to walking to Santiago de Compostella. They plan to revive the medieval pilgrim route from Droitwich, via Worcester and Gloucestershire.

A small group of enthusiastic walkers are working to rediscover and bring back into use this ancient pilgrim route all the way to Bristol.



Pilgrims on route to Worcester Cathedral



The route follows many of the saltways and takes in Worcester, Tewkesbury, Winchcombe, Painswick, Stonehouse, Dursley, Horton, Doynton, Saltford and Bristol, finishing at the former port of Sea Mills in the Avon Gorge. It is believed that ships from this port carried people to Spain via Tenerife and the pilgrim buried in Worcester Cathedral may well have travelled this way, particularly as the cockleshell found with him is the symbol of the Camino Pilgrimage. According to tradition, St James was buried in Santiago de Compostella in 1211.

An invitation to come on Pilgrimage

Canon Michael Brierley

The AEC have a vision of having recognised pilgrim routes to every Cathedral, assisted by the British Pilgrimage Trust. Canon



This fountain makes a suitable starting-point for the walk from Malvern

Michael Brierley has been walking and testing potential routes that could become available to download on both the Cathedral and the British Pilgrimage Trust websites.

The British Pilgrimage Trust have devised three routes to Worcester, each of a day in length: one from the south-west (Malvern), one from the south-east (Pershore, with the option of starting earlier at Evesham), and one from the north (Droitwich). The Monarch's Way already passes between Worcester and Droitwich, going out of Worcester along the Birmingham Canal, and cutting overland through Fernhill Heath to join the Droitwich Canal at Porter's Mill. The Pilgrimage Trust route is much nicer: after zig zagging through Droitwich, to take in the Edward Winslow

plaque at St Peter's Church (where Winslow was baptized), the route follows the Droitwich Canal through Salwarpe all the way to Hawford Lock, and then south along the river into Worcester. The Malvern route proceeds through Malvern Link and the industrial estates on that side of the town, to Madresfield. Passing over Old Hill, it skirts Stanbrook Abbey, and crosses the Severn by the Carrington Bridge in order to follow the river upstream through Diglis.

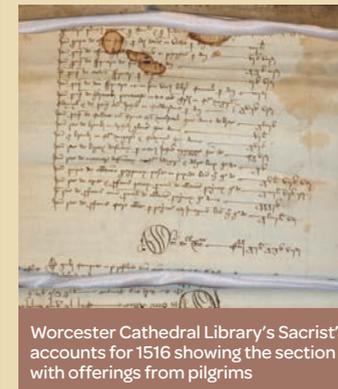
The three routes are all around 10-11 miles and are heartily recommended. Let Canon Brierley know if you are taking them, and if he can't act as your route-guide, he or a colleague will be delighted to welcome you on arrival at the Cathedral, if not wash your feet in the traditional pilgrim manner!



The statue of St Richard of Wych which begins the route from Droitwich

Worcester Pilgrimage

David Morrison, Librarian & Archivist



Worcester Cathedral Library's Sacrist's accounts for 1516 showing the section with offerings from pilgrims

Worcester Priory benefitted from the many pilgrims who visited the shrines and tombs in the Cathedral. At first it would have been those of Saints Oswald and Wulfstan that drew the most pilgrims. Miracles were recorded by the monks. The heads of Oswald and Wulfstan were separated from the rest of the relics at some

point and give their own separate head shrines made of silver and gilt. By the later middle ages, the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary attracted the most gifts.

There were many other relics in the monks' possession. By the sixteenth century, these included a silver and gilt monstrance containing the brain of Saint Thomas Beckett, Archbishop of Canterbury; the arm of Saint Roman, the Bishop covered in certain places with silver; an arm of Saint Edmund, a Bishop; and St. Oswald's mitre, amongst other items.

When pilgrims visited, they generously gave money, wax offerings and live animals. In 1516-17, for example, the sacrist raised over £15 from money given by pilgrims at the Marian shrine, £14 from animals left at her statue, and £44 from wax images left behind. The monk official called the Tomb Keeper looked after Wulfstan and Oswald's shrines.

Pilgrims would often have a wax offering made of the whole body or a part of the body that was in pain; for example, a leg, foot or hand. Some people also left crutches or items of clothing. People could just leave a candle or a candle in the shape of something relevant to them, for example a ship, or even an animal or weapon. Sometimes pilgrims brought along a candle as tall as the person in question.

The wax was valuable so, if they didn't keep them by the shrine where they gradually deteriorated, the wax offerings would have been melted down by the monks and could be reused or sold off.

Events at Worcester Cathedral 2020

January

Mondays 13 & 20 January, 3 & 10 February, 7.30pm
Wrestling with Romans Discussion Group
 The Guesten, 15 College Green

Thursdays 16, 23 & 30 January, 12.15pm – 12.55pm
Lunchtime Recital
 Free, donations appreciated

Friday 17 January, 5.30pm
Evensong for Wulfstantide

Saturday 18 January, 2.30pm – 6.30pm
Be A Girl Chorister for an Afternoon
 Book via 01905 732917 or email: nicholasfreestone@worstercathedral.org.uk

Until 24 January
Display of photographs by Chris Dobbs
 Chapter House

Saturday 25 January, 1pm – 2pm
Worcestershire Organists Association organ recital

February

Sunday 2 February, 6.30pm
Ceremony of Carols

Wednesday 5 February, 7.30pm
Lecture by Steve Chalke, MBE
 Free, Nave

Tuesday 11 – 23 February
RGS Year 12 Artwork
 Free Exhibition in the Dean's Chapel

Wednesday 12 February, 7.30pm
Meditative Prayer Group
 The Guesten, 15 College Green

Thursdays 13, 20 & 27 February, 12.15pm – 12.55pm
Lunchtime recital
 Free, donations appreciated

Saturday 15 February, 10.30am – 1.30pm
A Writing Journey: Creative Writing Workshop
 Tickets from www.eventbrite.co.uk

Saturday 15 February, 2pm
Upper Reaches Tour
 Tickets from www.eventbrite.co.uk

Monday 17 February, 11am – 12pm & 2pm – 3.30pm
The Arrival of the Tudor Legacies
 Royal Tudor ladies meet the public in and around the Cathedral.
 Free

Monday 17 & Tuesday 18 February, 10.30am – 12.30pm & 2pm – 4pm
Awesome Adventures Family Workshops
 Free, donations appreciated

Friday 21 February, 10am – 1pm
An Urban Pilgrimage
 See website for details to download a free trail

Friday 21 February, 11am – 12pm & 2pm – 3pm
Awesome Adventures Poetry Workshops for families
 Free, donations appreciated

Saturday 22 February, 10am – 4.30pm
A Celtic Pilgrimage – Calligraphy Workshop
 Tickets from www.eventbrite.co.uk

Saturday 22 February, 11am – 12pm & 2pm – 3.30pm
The Tudor Legacies: Six Wives of Henry VIII meet the public in and around the Cathedral
 Free

Saturday 22 February, 12pm-1pm
Tudor Legacies Talk: The Dressing of a Tudor Queen: An invitation to Queen Katherine Parr's wardrobe
 Tickets from www.eventbrite.co.uk

Sunday 23 February, 4pm
Evensong with the Installation of the Bishop of Dudley
 All welcome

26 February – 8 March
Exhibition of paintings by John Allcock
 Free exhibition in the Dean's Chapel



Wed 26 February, 5.30pm
Sung Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes for Ash Wednesday

Saturday 29 February, 5.30pm
Sung Eucharist for St Oswald's Day

March

Thursdays 5 & 19 March, 12.15pm – 12.55pm
Lunchtime recital
 Free, donations appreciated

Friday 6 March, 7pm
Wolf Hall in Worcester: A look at Hilary Mantel's Novels. Talk by Dr Lucy Arnold, University of Worcester
 Register to attend: rsvp@worc.ac.uk

Tuesday 10 March
Meditative Prayer Group
 The Guesten, 15 College Green

14 March – 29 March
Florals that Symbolise New Beginnings by Worcester Art for Fun
 Free exhibition in the Dean's Chapel



Photo: JDA Media

Saturday 14 March, 7.30pm
St Matthew Passion by JS Bach

Concert by Malvern Festival Chorus.
 Tickets 01905 611427

Saturday 21 March, 7.30pm
A Sea Symphony by Vaughan Williams
 Concert by Worcester Festival Choral Society
 Tickets 01905 611427

Wednesday 25 March, 5.30pm
Sung Eucharist for the Annunciation

Sunday 29 March, 6.30pm
Music and Readings for Passiontide

April

Saturday 4 April, 10am – 4pm
Worcester Festival Choral Society Come and Sing Event
 Tickets www.wfcs.online

Sunday 5 April, 6.30pm
The Crucifixion by Stainer, performed by Worcester Cathedral Chamber Choir

Holy Week and Easter Services



Monday 6, Tuesday 7 & Wednesday 8 April, 8pm
Compline

Thursday 9 April, 1.10pm
Devotional for Maundy Thursday

Thursday 9 April, 8pm
The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday

Friday 10 April, 10.30am – 12pm
Worcester Passion Play
 Cathedral Square

Friday 10 April, 1.30pm
The Liturgy of Good Friday

Saturday 11 April, 8.00pm
The Easter Liturgy

Sunday 12 April, 10.30am
Eucharist for Easter Sunday

Sunday 12 April, 4pm
Choral Evensong for Easter Sunday

History festival returns to Worcester

We were delighted to hear that the Tudor Legacies ladies, who are located all over the county, enjoyed their time at Worcester Cathedral so much last August, that they would love to come back and don their stunning costumes here once more.

The handmade garments take the ladies 2 hours of preparation to get into! So don't miss the opportunity on Monday 17 February, 11am-12.30pm & 2pm-4pm to rub shoulders with the royal Tudor ladies, who will be wearing their fabulous attire around the Cathedral. Take the opportunity to find out about their lives more than 400 years ago and even ask for a selfie!



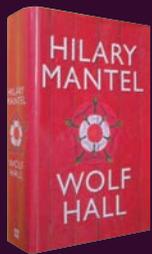
The Tudor Legacies ladies as the Six wives of Henry VIII

There is another opportunity to meet the Tudor ladies as part of a ticketed event on Saturday 22 February from 12-1pm. The Dressing of a Tudor Queen: An invitation to Queen Katherine's Parr's wardrobe is a talk featuring the six wives of Henry VIII. Hear from the royal Tudor queens about the clothes they

wore and see their stunning reproduction outfits. Tickets £5 from www.eventbrite.co.uk The Love Worcester Heritage Festival has over 35 events and runs from Friday 14 – Sunday 23 February 2020 in fourteen heritage sites in and around the city. It is organised by the Worcester Heritage Partnership, which includes Worcester Cathedral.

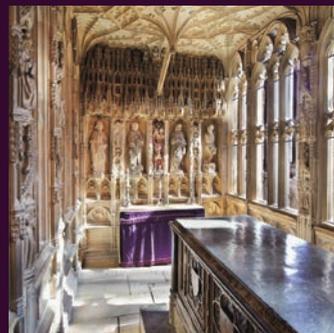


A Local Look at Hilary Mantel's Tudor Novels



At 7pm on 6 March 2020 join Dr Lucy Arnold, lecturer at the University of Worcester, for a talk on our relationship with history, heritage, architecture and literature through the lens of a local look at Mantel's Booker-Prize winning novel *Wolf Hall*.

In the shadow of Prince Arthur's tomb, Dr Arnold uses the Tudor architecture of Worcester Cathedral as a starting point for exploring how our relationship with the historical past is affected by our material interactions with heritage sites and historical fiction. Register to attend at: rsvp@worc.ac.uk



Prince Arthur's Tudor Chantry

Mayflower: Faith and Freedom two-day conference

Susan MacLeod, Operational Manager

Marking the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower sailing to the New World

Join expert speakers on Friday 17 & Saturday 18 April 2020 to explore the world of the Pilgrim fathers and the new one they forged. The Cathedral's link to the Mayflower is Pilgrim Father, Edward Winslow who attended The King's School Worcester as a boy between 1606 and 1611. His admission is listed in the 17th Century register in the Cathedral Library.

We are now pleased to announce the speakers taking part. Darren Oldridge, Professor of Early Modern

History at the University of Worcester, will give a thematic overview. Author and Independent scholar Rebecca Fraser will speak about 'The Mayflower Generation: The Winslow family and the fight for the New World'. We also look forward to welcoming Prof. Ann Hughes, Keele University; Nick Bunker, Author; Dr Catherine Armstrong, Loughborough University; Dr Naomi Pullin, Warwick University and Paula Peters, Independent Wampanoag Scholar.

The talks will be in the King's School Theatre. They include – 'Who were the Pilgrims? The material, cultural and commercial lives of the English emigrants; 'Politics and social life in early Stuart England'; 'The lost world of



Photo: JDA Media

the Pilgrims'; 'The experience of women in England and America in the 1600s'; 'A critical backstory to colonization: The cultural impact of the emigrants on the indigenous Wampanoag community'. The first night drinks reception will be in the dramatic setting of the Nave Crossing.

A light lunch will be provided on both days in the early 12th century Chapter House. There will be the opportunity for attendees to have a tour of the highlights of the Cathedral or a Tudor and Stuart tour, and to visit the Medieval Library to see some of the rare documents and books.

Book your place for these unique two days at www.worcestercathedral.co.uk or email: events@worcestercathedral.org.uk

1620—2020
Mayflower
400™



Rebecca Frazer



Paula Peters

Malvern Festival Chorus Centenary Celebration with Bach's St Matthew Passion



Malvern Festival Chorus are delighted to be celebrating their Centenary season with a performance of J S Bach's glorious *St Matthew Passion*, in the equally glorious surroundings of Worcester Cathedral at 7.30pm on Saturday 14 March.

Perhaps Bach's grandest musical composition, the sacred oratorio, which will be sung in the original German, tells of the events leading up to and including the crucifixion of Christ. The work features double choir and orchestra, creating a sense of drama which is enhanced by recitatives and arias to narrate and comment on the events. It also features chorales, many of which will be

familiar to present-day audiences as well-known hymns.

Conducted by their Musical Director Jonathan Brown, Director of Music at Malvern College, Malvern Festival Chorus are particularly excited to be joined in this performance by their President, the internationally acclaimed tenor James Oxley, singing the role of The Evangelist, with bass Giles Underwood as Christ. They will be accompanied by period instrument ensemble, Musical and Amicable Society.

Tickets: £15-£20, under 16s free, available from Worcester Live 01905 611427.

WFCS marks Mayflower 2020 with sea-themed Cathedral concert

Celebrating 'Mayflower 2020' in grand choral and orchestral style, Worcester Festival Choral Society's spring concert on Saturday 21 March 2020 will combine three of the most beloved, sea-themed works in the soaring surroundings of Worcester Cathedral.

Vaughan Williams' breath-taking *A Sea Symphony* is imbued with a sense of adventure and the mighty power of the sea. From its thrilling opening fanfare of *Behold the Sea!* to its final notes conjuring up a vision of panoramic horizons, the audience is promised a memorable choral voyage.

Complementing the theme, Mendelssohn's immediately recognisable Hebrides Overture (Fingal's Cave) and Britten's *Four Sea*

Interludes (distilled from the opera *Peter Grimes*) will also be performed by the Meridian Sinfonia.

Singing with the 150 members of Worcester Festival Choral Society will be acclaimed soprano Sarah Fox and baritone Julien Van Mellaerts. Worcester Cathedral's Director of Music Samuel Hudson conducts.

Tickets available from www.wfcs.online or Worcester Live on 01905 611427.



Photo: Michael Whiterfoot

Shakespeare at the Cathedral



Worcester Cathedral Arts is bringing together a group of talented professional actors to present a traditional performance of *Richard III*, one of the most dramatic and best known of Shakespeare's tragedies. Set in the captivating surroundings of the Cathedral Quire, the play will be performed around the tomb of King John.

History has shown that Richard III may be one of the most maligned of English Monarchs, and controversy still rages around him and his actions. The Cathedral has a link to Richard III with the tomb of Sir Griffith Ryce, a Welsh nobleman, in the Dean's Chapel. Ryce was the son of Sir Rhys ap Thomas who is thought to have killed Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485.

Richard III, directed by Chris Jaeger MBE, will be performed from Tuesday 18th to Saturday 22 August 2020. There are performances each evening at 7.30pm and matinee performances on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Chris says: 'This is an exciting development for the Worcester Festival, a partnership with Worcester Cathedral and Malvern Theatres, to present professional Shakespeare as part of the Festival in the most spectacular setting imaginable.'

There is also the opportunity to partner with the Cathedral, Malvern Theatres and Worcester Festival by sponsoring a performance of Shakespeare at the Cathedral, an Actor or by becoming a 'Theatre Angel'.

For more information about sponsorship, email: chris@worcesterfestival.co.uk.

Tickets are now on sale at Malvern Theatres box office www.malvern-theatres.co.uk

Did Richard III visit Worcester Cathedral?



David Morrison,
Librarian & Archivist says:

'We can't say conclusively, but it is possible because in the 1483-1484 account roll the Prior of Worcester Robert Multon noted that '...be bought gifts given to servants of the lord king Richard III and the queen and other magnates and the gentleman bearing the presents and gifts worth £33 13s. 8d', which suggests either they visited or these were gifts taken to the King and Queen down in London.'



Weekly Services

Cathedral Information

Sunday Services

7.30am	Morning Prayer
8am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Sung Eucharist
4pm	Evensong or Evening Prayer

There is normally a service at 6.30pm on Sundays in school term.

Monday to Saturday Services

7.30am	Morning Prayer
8am	Holy Communion
5.30pm	Evensong or Evening Prayer

Additional Weekly Services

Monday	
1.05pm	Prayers for Healing (not Bank Holidays)

Wednesday	
1.05pm	Holy Communion

Friday	
11.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)

The Cathedral's detailed monthly service scheme for the current month will give you more information about the individual services.

Visit www.worcestercathedral.co.uk for further details.

Cathedral opening times

7.30am - 6pm daily, entry free.
Charges apply for the areas below and for some events.

Group Guided Tours

Email: visits@worcestercathedral.org.uk

Young people and school group visits

Email: schools@worcestercathedral.org.uk

Turn up for a Tour

January and February, Saturdays only, 11am & 2.30pm.
March to November, Monday to Saturday, 11am & 2.30pm.

Climb the Tower

From 1 February, Saturday 11am – 5pm, Sunday 12.30pm – 3.30pm. Half-term opening 11.30am-3.30pm (Easter holiday opening begins 6 April). Please check the website for a detailed schedule, including closures and school holiday opening times.

Cathedral Library

Open by appointment and on special occasions.
Email: davidmorrison@worcestercathedral.org.uk

Meeting rooms and to book events

Email: visits@worcestercathedral.org.uk

Cathedral Shop

Monday to Saturday, 10am – 4.30pm, January to end of March.
Closed Sunday, January to February half term.
Then open Sunday 12pm – 4.30pm.

Cloister Café

Open Monday to Sunday 10am - 4.30pm.
Last orders for food 3pm.

The Chapter Office

Monday to Friday, 8.30am - 5pm.
Telephone: 01905 732900
Email: info@worcestercathedral.org.uk
Website: www.worcestercathedral.co.uk

Connect with us



News from the Friends

Sue Carpenter, Friends Chairman



At our AGM on 5 October, we were pleased to welcome two new Trustees; Phil Hancock and Julie Slack, who replace Peter Kendal and Andrew McCrea, both of whom retired this year. Julie was previously a non-voting member of the Executive, leaving a vacancy to which John Drage was elected. We were also delighted that Brian Davey, our Interim Treasurer, agreed to be nominated for the position of Honorary Treasurer and was duly elected. Members present also approved amendments to the Constitution; made as a result of requests that the Friends grant-giving process should demonstrate value for money and fulfil the objectives of the Friends. As well as the formal business of the meeting, the Friends' guest speaker, Camilla Finlay, gave a fascinating talk with special mention of the Christ in Majesty, which Friends were later able to view.

Part of the Friends' organisation is the Friends and Cathedral Representatives' Group, which comprises representatives from departments within the Cathedral including Guides and Welcomers, the Library, and the Education and Music departments. This group meets approximately three times a year and the two-way dialogue at these meetings has proved extremely valuable.

We are currently drawing up our 2020 social calendar and this will be published early in the New Year. As I write, I am looking forward to the Friends annual Christmas dinner next week that will again be held at the Guildhall. With Christmas now over, may I belatedly wish you a Happy New Year.



Chapter & Verse

Canon Stephen Edwards

Trust me. Two words we have all used to convince someone that it will be ok: whether setting out on a fairground ride, or starting a new job, we've all spoken or heard those two words. Trust me. As the year of pilgrimage begins across the Cathedrals of England, I recall my first trip to Taizé in southern France. The community's 'motto' is 'a pilgrimage of trust on earth'. At its heart, Taizé is an ecumenical community which seeks to bring together Christians of all denominations and to treasure the diversity of Christian tradition. In being a place of trust, it is also a place of hope and growth. I rather like the idea of pilgrimages being journeys of trust and that perhaps it doesn't matter which route our pilgrimage takes us if we have trust and hope as our guiding goals.

Trust is at the heart of faith: Trusting God is what it means to love God and just as loving God means loving neighbour and self, so trusting God requires us to build trust with our neighbour too. For many, trusting neighbours is possibly harder than trusting God and it certainly requires an abundance of grace which comes from a faithful walk with Christ. As the year of pilgrimage pans out ahead of us, perhaps we can learn to trust the voice of God within us which encourages us to reach out in faith, hope and love to strengthen trust in our society. Our journeying with God will always take us along steep and rugged pathways as well as through green pastures, but with Christ alongside us we can tread rejoicingly this pilgrimage of trust on earth.



Updating our fundraising technology!

We value the contributions our visitors make to the upkeep of the Cathedral however we have been noticing a steady decline in income from our donation boxes over the last year. The Chapter have therefore been looking at how other Cathedrals have been using contactless technology to offer new ways for visitors to make contributions.

We are pleased to be working with Good Box to offer this technology to our visitors and worshippers. You will see our contactless machines on podiums throughout the Cathedral, as well as a trial of Good Plate that is linked to collection plates for retiring collections. We hope this will make it easier for our supporters to donate.

Adopt a piece of history at Worcester Cathedral



Started in 1084, the current Cathedral building has its fair share of treasures and the Dean and Chapter are committed to the upkeep of its fabric both inside and out. To help support the on-going conservation and running costs of the building, the Cathedral is now offering the opportunity to adopt a piece of its history.

Options for adopting a piece of history include the beautiful coloured, stained-glass windows in the Medieval Cloister, showing the history of the country, city and Cathedral through famous historical figures. Such figures include early Christian pilgrims and saints, heroes and heroines, kings and queens, and some not-so-saintly characters such as King John! Ethelflaeda, Lady of Mercia (*left*) and daughter of King Alfred the Great is also featured. Along with

her husband Ethelred, she fortified Worcester and granted the Cathedral rights of lordship over the city. In addition, the carved animals, angels, and dragons portrayed in the spandrels and misericords can all be adopted. Adoptions last for two years so why not champion your personal favourite as a gift or memorial.

A catalogue of all the items available for adoption can be found on our website or by asking at the Welcome desk at the North Door of the Cathedral. As part of your adoption, you will receive a presentation pack including a photo of your chosen item, a certificate of adoption, and a dedication in our donor's book with the opportunity to commemorate a special event, anniversary or loved one. Prices start from £25 and go up to £500.

For further information please visit the Cathedral website, email: development@worcestercathedral.org.uk or telephone 01905 732946.



If you would like to adopt a piece of history at Worcester Cathedral please complete and return this form free of charge to:
Freeport WORCESTER CATHEDRAL
(the envelope does not require a postal address or stamp)

Your Details

Name:

Address:

Email:

Tel No:

I would like to donate £

Code

Dedication

I give Worcester Cathedral permission to store my details on the database

I would like to receive the Cathedral newsletter and information about general Cathedral events and activities

Tick here if this is a gift

Name and address of gift recipient

Payment method:

Cash Cheque

BACS Transfer

Please make cheques payable to: **'Worcester Cathedral'**

Bank transfers can be made to: **Worcester Cathedral**
Account No: 50182885 / Sort Code: 20-98-61
Reference: ADOPT

Gift Aid Declaration

If you are a UK taxpayer, we can reclaim 25p tax relief on every £1 you donate, at no cost to you. Please sign and date below if you are happy for us to do this on your behalf.

Yes, I would like Worcester Cathedral to treat this and all subsequent donations as Gift Aid donations.

I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less income tax and/or capital gains tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signed:

Date:



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