



WORCESTER CATHEDRAL NEWS

Autumn/Winter 2019



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Susan Macleod and Emily Green

Photography

Chris Guy, James Atkinson and others

Cover Photograph

'King of the Building' by Kevin Phillips (First prize, over 18 Photographic Competition)

Worcester Cathedral News

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From the Dean



*“To live is to change
and to be perfect is
to have changed often”*

The autumn has seen new faces in the Cathedral community - in the Chapter, in music, in education, and in the office. With the new faces come new points of view, new ideas, and new opportunities for creative and imaginative collaboration among the different cathedral organisations and departments. The physical appearance of the site is changing as well: the coming down of the scaffolding on Edgar Tower is the last major repair project on the exterior of the Cathedral buildings for the foreseeable future; but the building site surrounding College Hall and the Undercroft is the sign that that exciting development is well under way. 'To live is to change and to be perfect is to have changed often' wrote Cardinal (now Saint) John Henry Newman; and the Cathedral today is a place of change, as it has ever been.

But some things remain. The Faith that inspired the building of the Cathedral remains the Faith which inspires all we do today. 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and for ever', we read in Scripture. Whatever the changing face (and faces) of the Church, that is the unchanging Rock which sustains us. And whatever the changing face of the world around us, and the turbulences of society, that is the Rock which enables us to stand firm and bear witness to the unchanging love of God shown to us in Jesus Christ.

Peter Atkinson

Peter Atkinson,
Dean of Worcester Cathedral

Community News

Canon Stephen Edwards installation

The Revd Dr Stephen Edwards was installed as a Residentiary Canon of Worcester Cathedral in a special service of Evensong on Sunday 15 September 2019.

At the service Helen Dimmock MBE, Ecclesiastical Secretary to the Crown, presented Stephen to Bishop John on behalf of the Queen. Also present was the Mayor of Worcester, the Vice-Lieutenant and High Sheriff of Worcestershire and the former Bishop of Dudley, David Walker, who is now Bishop of Manchester. Stephen was also supported by friends and family from across the country.

Stephen said: *'The service was a joyous occasion through which I felt blessed by the warmth and generosity of welcome and the prayerful support of all those who attended. I am very excited about this new role and I am looking forward to meeting many of the wonderful and creative projects and organisations in the City and County, and to being part of the Cathedral community.'*



Stephen Edwards with Bishop John

Welcome New Director of Music

Samuel Hudson, Director of Music



Photo: Michael Whitefoot

I am thrilled and honoured to have taken up the post of Organist & Director of Music here at the Cathedral. My sincere thanks go to the Choristers and their families, the Lay Clerks, colleagues on the Cathedral staff, and the wider community for their generous and warm welcome.

On a slightly humid August Saturday afternoon, Louise and I arrived in Worcester with a van-load of our possessions. This was

only to be for a short time, though, until our wedding at the end of September. While I shall be sorry to be away from my new role so soon, Louise and I are very grateful for all your good wishes, we are very excited to be starting our married life together here in Worcester!

My busy first few weeks have felt like something of a whirlwind, but above all it is extremely exciting to be working as part of such a wonderful team in the Music Department and across the whole Cathedral, and humbling to be following in the footsteps of so many highly esteemed predecessors. It has been an absolute pleasure to get to work – and I look forward very much indeed to all the coming years will bring!

In Memoriam

Jean Davidson MBE

Jean died on Tuesday, 13th August, peacefully at home, with her family around her. Her memorial service was held in Crowle Church as a celebration of her life, and was a colourful and a cheerful occasion, rather than one of mourning. During the service, the Rev Eli Jenkins's Sunset Prayer from Under Milk Wood was sung as a hymn set to music. Jean and her husband Charles had lived in the Boathouse in Laugharne



before Dylan Thomas, and recognised several of the characters when they appeared in Thomas's radio piece. Jean volunteered at the Cathedral for over 30 years, guiding until she was 90. She is fondly missed by all.

Polly Oakley

Polly Oakley first came to help in the Cathedral Library when the books needed to be packed up in 2014 ready for the ceiling repairs. She stayed on as a volunteer helping with diagrams and artwork for the library's Medieval Law exhibition in 2016, and was one of the co-ordinators of the *Constructing the Cathedral* exhibition in 2017. Polly made and donated new fabric covers to protect the display cases, a display table, hundreds of home-made cards, second-hand books and a collection of paintings all to help raise money for the library. She answered enquiries, researched the suffragettes in Worcester, helped on the library stall at several Christmas Fayres and on Heritage Days. She was a committed member of the congregation and part of the servers' team. She will be greatly missed.

Matthew Armstrong



We were deeply shocked and saddened to learn of the sudden death in August of the Headmaster of The King's School, Matthew Armstrong. Matthew had not only been an outstanding headmaster, but he and Kate had been active members of the Cathedral community and strongly supportive of the Cathedral Choir. Matthew served as a member of the Cathedral Council. Our thoughts and prayers are with Kate, with Matthew's family, and with the whole school community at this sad and difficult time. A memorial service at the Cathedral will be held on Monday 21 October 2019 at 2.30pm.

Welcome New Director of Education



The Cathedral welcomes Daniel Parnell as our new Director of Education in November. Daniel has been a teacher since 2002, training in Liverpool and teaching in St Helens. In 2008 he moved to Nepal, where he worked for 10 years at a Christian international school. Daniel was a member of the leadership team and became School Director in 2014 overseeing both the primary and secondary schools. In 2018 he returned to the UK and settled with his family in South Birmingham. Daniel has a master's degree in Education; Leadership and Management. He has two children. Outside of work his favourite ways to relax are spending time with his family, gardening and football.

Leaving the Cathedral

Jane Rogers

We are sorry to say good-bye to our Director of Fundraising and Development, Jane Rogers who has been with us for 3 years. During this time she has secured funding for the Undercroft Learning Centre and Edgar Tower, in particular, along with other important grants to support other areas of the Cathedral. Jane will be taking up a position as Fellow and Director of Fundraising and Development at St Catherine's College, Oxford for the start of the new academic year.

Richard James

Our long standing and much-loved Finance Officer, Richard James has moved onto a new role. Richard has been a stalwart of the Finance Team for 25 years and through many changes and developments in finances, has been a solid and professional member of staff. He has accepted a job, working with his wife (car sharing initiative!) in a finance role. We said fond farewell to him recently and wish him well for the future.

Music Department changes in staff

At the beginning of the new academic year, the Music Department has been delighted to welcome several new members of staff, both organists and singers!

At the Cathedral Eucharist on Sunday 8 September, the Dean installed Samuel Hudson as Organist & Director of Music, Ed Jones as Sub-assistant Organist, and Ben Markovic as Organ Scholar. Tom South was admitted as our Bass Choral Scholar, and in a happy landmark occasion for the Cathedral, we welcomed our first female members of the back row – Alexis Hutchinson as Principal Alto Lay Clerk, and Hope Pugh as Alto Choral Scholar. We are delighted too that William Gee is continuing in the Choir as a Principal Lay Clerk having sung for several years as an Assistant Lay Clerk.

We welcome all new members of the team, and wish them a happy time here in Worcester!



Hope Pugh and Alexis Hutchinson

Exciting times for the Cathedral Bellingers

Mark Regan, Ringing Master

The Ringing Room at Worcester Cathedral is a remarkable space; 100 feet above the ground and reached by 130 stairs. The bells are rung from a suspended Victorian platform designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott and Lord Grimthorpe.

Our international friendships are very special and over the past few months, we've welcomed several distinguished visitors including Victoria Henstock, the Executive Director of the Christchurch Cathedral Reinstatement Trust in New Zealand, as we support her work to rebuild the Tower so that their bells can ring again. We've also welcomed bellringers from New York and Orleans, Massachusetts, and are planning a trip to the USA in 2021 to ring in Boston, New York and Washington, with a trip to Plymouth to mark the Mayflower Pilgrimage.

Our bellringers have also travelled to York twice this year; ringing a peal on the Minster's magnificent bells to welcome their new Dean, and another with 5007 changes of Stedman Cinques performed in four hours and seven minutes. Our connection with York is an example of the links we are building with metropolitan centres of excellence. There is also a friendly rivalry between York and Worcester over who has the best ring of bells. Both peals were cast in the 1920s at Loughborough in the golden years of English bellfounding. Ours are best!

In July, our young bellringers travelled to Liverpool to

compete in the Ringing World National Youth Contest. Ringing took place in towers around the city and, of the 24 teams who entered, we came 8th overall, and 5th of 19 in the 'call change' category. The highlight of the day was the opportunity to ring the world's heaviest ring of bells at the Cathedral. Normally two people are required to ring the tenor bell (weighing over four tonnes) and many of our young ringers shared the opportunity to ring this, the heaviest ringing bell in the world. It was a fabulous day and our young ringers returned home with memories which will last a lifetime.



It's been a busy summer for the Bellingers!



Undercroft Learning Centre: Full Steam Ahead!

Emily Draper, Capital Project Manager



Over the last few months, construction and excavation work has been progressing to transform the Undercroft into our new Learning Centre.

Blocked doorways have been opened, supporting walls have been built, floors have been carefully excavated and preparation has begun to enable new routes for underfloor heating, gas supply, drainage and the new power supply. At all times, work has been carefully monitored and archaeology is being recorded as we reveal more clues about the historical past and uses of the Undercroft and the surrounding area.

A cleverly hidden, custom engineered steel beam has been installed in College Hall to allow for a new staircase and lift system which will provide entrance from the Song School, College Hall and the Cloister down into the new foyer area of the Undercroft. The team on-site are currently preparing to break-through from College Hall downwards; the result of much crucial planning, careful setting out and structural assessment. The design team have



Fragment of Anglo Saxon bone comb found in the hard core beneath the tarmac in College Green excavations

also been busy finalising internal finishes such as brick, tile, window lights and traditional hot lime samples; all chosen to compliment this most beautiful and historic of spaces.

Walking through the newly reinstated doorway from the foyer to the main space now provides an unbroken view to the rooms beyond. It is striking to see how each area is dynamically connected, yet all retain a distinct feeling of their own. Already the light and personality of this once gloomy vaulted space is being rediscovered.

Over the next few months the team will be undertaking the lift excavation and installation; installing the new mechanical and electrical systems and preparing the new flooring levels. Archaeological work continues both inside and outside on College Green and we are excited to share more updates as the work progresses. Momentum is increasing and each week we are a step closer to our final goal of sharing this unique space with the community of Worcester, the Cathedral and beyond.

Cathedral's support of the Maggs Day Centre

Brian Gant, Cathedral Community Support

Earlier this year I agreed to take a place as a trustee of the Maggs Day Centre, in order to maintain the link with the Cathedral. The board of trustees meets monthly through most of the year to ensure the smooth running of this local charity which works in different ways to help homeless people in Worcester and the surrounding area.

The Day Centre, based in a disused church in Deansway, provides a warm, dry environment for homeless and vulnerable people. Staff and volunteers prepare free hot drinks and, for a nominal charge, a simple breakfast and two course lunch five days a week. There are showers, washing machines, computers and other essential services as well as access to health professionals who help in the centre regularly, to give advice and provide treatment. As well as GP, dental and podiatry services, our health hub also provides help with overcoming substance misuse, mental health problems and bereavement counselling.

The Clothing Project, located in the Tything, can provide our service users with clean clothes and bedding. When a homeless person finds a place to live, we can also provide starter packs to help

"We are grateful for the continuing support of the Cathedral community..."



them along. These include basic kitchen items, electrical items, bedding and towels.

In the afternoons, after the day centre has closed, we provide skills training. Our activity centre has a purpose-built kitchen area where we teach cookery. It also has space for activities ranging from literacy, maths and IT skills, to problem solving, practical thinking, listening and communication, and home-making skills. We also work on confidence building as well as craft and art-based courses.

We are committed to helping and mentoring all those who are ready to make changes, to start getting their lives back on track. We create individually tailored support plans to help them achieve their goals.

Lottery funding has enabled Maggs to provide a county wide outreach service (MOATS), helping those who are sleeping rough by putting them in touch with relevant organisations.

Several members of the Cathedral community are active volunteers at Maggs; cooking lunches, transporting the items collected in the St John Chapel to the Clothing Project, and organising events to raise money. The proceeds from our Harvest Festival produce auction go to Maggs and our next fundraiser is a lunchtime concert by the Volcano Choir on Saturday 2 November.

We are grateful for the continuing support of the Cathedral community in regular donations of clothing and household goods.

Aspects of Worcester Cathedral Photographic Competition 2019

Susan MacLeod, Operational Manager

Thanks to all those who entered our Photographic Competition. This year's was our seventh and we were pleased that 51 people sent in 133 photographs between them, which was an increase on previous years. There were many wonderful entries and the judges had a hard time deciding on the winners in the two categories - Over 18 and Under 18.

The prizes and certificates were awarded by the Dean at an event in the Lady Chapel on Heritage Open Day in September, which marked the start of the exhibition. The judges, Chris Dobbs, James Atkinson, Chris Guy and myself, Susan MacLeod, all attended and were pleased to meet many of the winners and their families.



Some of the winners and runners up with the judges and the Dean



1st Prize, Over 18

'King of the Building' by Kevin Phillips (as seen on our front cover!)



2nd Prize, Over 18

'Empty chairs at empty tables' by Robin Shuard



2nd Prize, Under 18

'Up the Stairs' by Reanna Baninbridge



3rd Prize, Over 18

'Kaleidoscope' by Joan Harris



1st Prize, Under 18

'Life and Death' by Lucy Garrard

Flower Power Day - Wow! What a Day!

Mel Weston, Worcester Cathedral Flower Guild Secretary

Worcester Cathedral Flower Guild hosted a Flower Power Day during August Bank Holiday weekend and the sun was shining outside and in! Thank you to all those who visited to admire the beautiful floral installations and engaged in competitions, talks and demonstrations. We took over the Cathedral Nave and Lady Chapel for the day and what a backdrop for this event! I think we proved that flowers do come in all shapes, sizes and materials.

When we are arranging flowers week after week in this amazing building, we are always asked a lot of questions by visitors, so it was lovely that



Flower display in the Nave

we could share just a hint of our knowledge on flowers and gardening skills with the public. Thank you to Darren Rudge, our gardening expert from the BBC who delighted us with an amusing talk on gardening on a budget and with practical recycling in mind. Our variety of stalls were blessed with lots of sales. Local artists, Harriet Wilson and Lesley Rowley's display of Botanical Art was magical too and if you missed the day look at harrietswatercolours.com

Our team of helpers did us proud, thank goodness for families and husbands in general including past members of the Cathedral Flower Guild: You can escape but you cannot hide!! Bless you all for helping with an event spreading a feel-good factor of 10+. Here's to Flower Power Day Mark 2!... Gulp!



Bike flowers in cathedral

Poet in Residence

We are delighted that Amanda Bonnick, a Worcester writer, is to be our Poet in Residence for 2020.

Amanda is a producer, director, and actor with the Melting Pot Theatre Company. She has co-hosted the Word and Sound open mic event and performed at spoken word events. She published her poetry pamphlet 'Pick

Your Own' with Worcester's Black Pear Press and her work has appeared in anthologies and several small presses. She is writing her third novel in a Children's fiction series.

Amanda will be offering writing events throughout the year, and drawing on the Cathedral for inspiration for her own poems.



HeARTen Exhibition



Above and below: Artwork from HMP Long Lartin

Artwork from behind the walls of Her Majesty's Prisons, will be on display in the Dean's Chapel from 25 October – 7 November.

The word 'hearten' means 'to inspire with confidence'. The aim of the work is to showcase and exhibit the talent and creative work being developed in custodial settings across the West Midlands region; informing the audience and local communities about some of the more

positive aspects of educating offenders in prisons within art and design education.

Furthermore, it demonstrate the benefits and huge impact that art has on supporting a wide range of mental health issues. It will be beneficial for the local community to see how art is being used to help rehabilitate prisoners and how art provides them with a variety of important life skills that are needed upon release. With that in mind, by hosting an exhibition of this scale, it will give the learners a platform to succeed.



Opera at the Cathedral



Tarnhelm Opera are bringing their new production of Wagner's *Das Rheingold* to the Cathedral on Friday 25 October 2019, as part of a tour of other cathedrals and large churches.



Robert Marson

It is the preliminary opera in Wagner's *Ring Cycle*, telling how a fabulous Ring was forged from stolen Rhinegold and setting the scene for the later adventures of mythical characters. It will be performed semi-staged, in costume and sung in German with English subtitles.

Existing devotees of Wagner's music will need no further encouragement, but the company also hopes that this, the shortest of his operas and one with a compelling tale to tell, may tempt newcomers along too. The performance makes full use of the Cathedral organ, which will be played by David Bednall. There will also be some unusual percussion and a thunderstorm.

Tickets are available from ticketsource.co.uk/tarnhelmopera

Events at Worcester Cathedral 2019/2020

October

Wednesdays 16, 23 & 30 October, 10.30am – 12.30pm
Drop-in Knit & Natter
Free. St John's Chapel

Up to Sunday 20 October
Icons of the Twentieth Century by Canon Bill Merrington
Free exhibition in the Dean's Chapel

Thursdays 24 October, 14, 21 & 28 November and 9 & 16 January, 12.15pm – 12.55pm
Lunchtime recital
Free, retiring collection

Friday 25 October, 7.30pm
Das Rheingold - Wagner Tarnhelm Opera
Tickets from www.ticketsource.co.uk

25 October – 7 November
HeARTen Exhibition of work from Long Lartin Prison
Free exhibition in the Dean's Chapel

Saturday 26 October, 9.30am – 1pm
The Big Bible Study Led by John Inge, Bishop of Worcester
Register your interest email: susiearnold@worcestercathedral.org.uk

31 October & 1 November, 10.30am – 12.30pm & 2pm – 4pm
Medieval Mayhem activities for children and families
Free, donations appreciated

November

Saturday 2 November, 10am – 4.30pm
Holly & Ivy: Botanical Drawing and Painting Workshop
Chapter House, led by Elizabeth Beattie. Tickets £20 from www.eventbrite.co.uk

Saturday 2 November, 1pm
Lunchtime concert by Volcano Choir
Free, donations appreciated

Wednesday 6 November, 7.30pm
Religion and Society Lecture: The Craft of Christian Discipleship
Prof Morwenna Ludlow, University of Exeter
The Guesten, 15 College Green

Wednesdays 6, 13, 20 & 27 November, 10.30am – 12.30pm
Drop-in Knit & Natter
Free. St John's Chapel

Sunday 10 November, 10am
Remembrance Day Service

Sunday 10 November, 6.30pm
Requiem Eucharist

Wednesday 13 November, 7.30pm
Meditative Prayer Group
The Guesten, 15 College Green

Saturday 16 November, 7.30pm
Mozart's Requiem Concert by Worcester Festival Choral Society
Tickets from www.ticketsource.co.uk/wfcs

Tuesday 19 November, 7pm
King's School Worcester Mayflower Concert

Friday 22 November, 2.30pm & 7pm
St Richard's Hospice Lights of Love Service

Sunday 24 November, 2pm – 5pm
Be a Boy Chorister for an Afternoon
Boys aged 7 to 11 are invited to experience the life of a Cathedral Chorister. For information, email nicholasfreestone@worcestercathedral.org.uk or call 01905 732917

Wednesday 27 November and 4, 11 & 18 December, 7.30pm
Advent Lectures
Free to attend
The Guesten, 15 College Green

Thursday 28 November, 4.45pm
Opening Service for the Victorian Christmas Fayre

29 November – 1 December, Friday & Saturday 10am – 4pm & Sunday 12.30pm – 3.30pm
Christmas Fayre in the Cloister
Quality gift and craft stalls. Mulled wine, mince pies and refreshments in the Chapter House.



December

Sunday 1 December, 6.30pm – 8pm
Candlelit Advent Procession with Carols

Saturday 7 December, 7.30pm
Handel's Messiah Concert by Worcester Festival Choral Society
Tickets from www.ticketsource.co.uk/wfcs

7 December – 1 January
Christmas Tree Festival around the Cloister
Free, donations appreciated

Thursday 12 December, 2pm – 4pm
Mayor's Charity Fundraising Afternoon Tea
Check website and social media for tickets.

Saturday 14 December, 7.30pm
Tidings of Joy: Cathedral Christmas Concert
Tickets £20, £15, under 18 £5 from www.eventbrite.co.uk
See back page for details.



Sunday 15 December, 4pm
Music & Readings for Christmas
Sung by the Voluntary Choir

Friday 20 December, 7.30pm
Worcester News Carol Service

Saturday 21 December, 1.30pm, 4pm & 7pm
The Snowman and The Snowman & The Snowdog
Two festive films on the big screen
Tickets from www.eventbrite.co.uk



Image © Snowman Enterprises Ltd

Sunday 22 & Monday 23 December, 6.30pm
Cathedral Carol Services
No tickets required, arrive early to secure a seat

Tuesday 24 December, 1pm & 3pm
Crib Service for Christmas Eve
The story of the nativity with live animals, especially for children

Tuesday 24 December, 5.30pm
Service with Carols for Christmas Eve
Sung by former Cathedral Choristers

Tuesday 24 December, 11.30pm
Midnight Eucharist
Sign language interpreted

Wednesday 25 December 10.30am, Eucharist for Christmas Day 4pm, Choral Evensong with Carols

January

Sunday 5 January, 6.30pm
Devotional performance of Messiaen, La Nativité du Seigneur

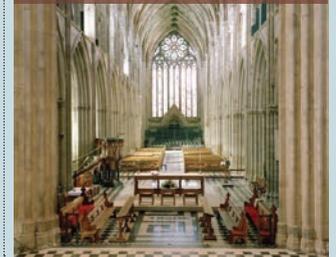
Monday 6 January, 5.30pm
Sung Eucharist for Epiphany

Thursdays 9 & 16 January, 12.15pm – 12.55pm
Lunchtime recital
Free, retiring collection

Wednesday 8 January, 7.30pm
Meditative Prayer Group
The Guesten, 15 College Green

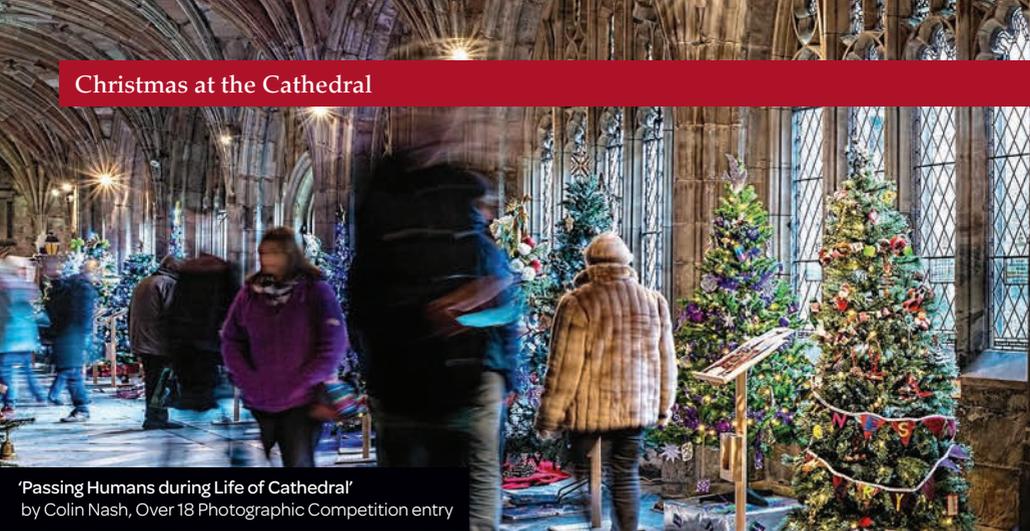
Sunday 12 January, 6.30pm
Epiphany Carol Service

13 January – 8 February
The English Cathedral by Peter Marlow
Free exhibition of prints in the Dean's Chapel



© Peter Marlow/Magnum Photos

Disclaimer Care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the event diary at the time of publishing. However, changes may be made at a later date. Please check with the Chapter Office, visit worcestercathedral.co.uk or broadcast via social media for any latest information.



'Passing Humans during Life of Cathedral'
by Colin Nash, Over 18 Photographic Competition entry

Christmas Fayre in the Cloister



Get into the festive spirit at our Christmas Fayre in the Cloister on Friday 29 & Saturday 30 November, 10am – 4pm and on Sunday

1 December 12.30pm – 3.30pm. New this year, we have a lady selling silk bedspreads, scarves and ponchos. There are also a variety of stalls offering Christmas gift ideas including bags, games, glass, decorations, jewellery, pictures, teddy bears, wooden and knitted items and much more! Stop off for mulled wine and mince pies from the café in the Chapter House and enjoy the sound of the Cathedral Choir singing carols around the Cathedral.

Christmas Tree Festival

The Christmas Tree Festival returns to the Cloister this December and is proving more popular than ever. There was a rush on places when applications were invited back in June, with over half the places going in the first week. Along with the usual blend of schools, businesses, charities and community groups, we're delighted that we have lots of new participants joining us this year. First-timers include Amiccii Dog Rescue, the Royal Life Saving Society, Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust, Worcestershire Martial Arts and the Students' Union. The Christmas Tree Festival is open to visitors Saturday 7 December – Wednesday 1 January and is free. Donations are appreciated to support the Cathedral and its work.



Many children loved meeting our Snowman

Return of The Snowman

Following a wonderfully positive response last year from lots of local families, this December our festive classic *The Snowman* returns to the big screen at Worcester Cathedral, along with the sequel animation *The Snowman and The Snowdog*. Tickets are on sale now via www.eventbrite.co.uk for performances on Saturday 21 December at 1.30pm, 4pm and 7pm. It's proving very popular with over 500 tickets sold already!



Mayor of Worcester Councillor Allah Ditta

Mayor's Charity Event

Worcester Cathedral is very proud to have been chosen as one of the Mayor's Charities this year alongside St Richard's Hospice, Headway and Worcester Wheels.

The Mayor of Worcester Councillor Allah Ditta said *"The Cathedral is in the heart of the City and I specifically want to support the new Centre for Learning which will benefit all Communities and therefore reflect my Mayoral theme of Bringing Communities Together"*.

"I specifically want to support the new Centre for Learning"

Each year the incoming Mayor decides upon his charities and holds events to help raise money which will include the annual banquet at the Guildhall, a lecture series and concerts. As part of the series of fundraising events, the Cathedral are hosting a *Charity Christmas Afternoon Tea* on Thursday 12 December from 2pm – 4pm.

Watch our website and social media for more details and to purchase tickets.

The Cathedral Shop and Cloister Café Plastic Pollution: We're doing our bit!



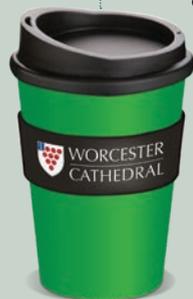
James Pertwee, Cathedral Shop Manager
and Maria Scialacomio, Cloister Café Manager

In the Cathedral café and shop, we're acutely aware of the threat of plastic to our environment.

Looking around the shop, one can see at once how much of what we sell is either made of plastic or packaged in it; it's often horrifying to see the amount of bubble-wrap and other non-recyclable plastic our deliveries arrive in. Similarly, although café staff put plastic containers in recycling bins, one is never sure what is recyclable and what isn't. Whilst some suppliers are now attempting to be more environmentally friendly, we

all know that so far the response to this global emergency has been totally inadequate.

However we all have to start somewhere. In the shop, whilst all greeting cards used to come in cellophane wrappers, there is now a move by suppliers to find alternative ways of presenting them; likewise with calendars. Some years ago the shop stopped supplying customers with plastic carrier bags; we have large robust brown paper



bags which are adequate for most items. On occasions where customers really need a carrier bag, we have a supply of unwanted plastic carriers brought from home by our volunteers and we give these to customers; explaining why we do it and asking them to re-use the bag afterwards. Customers may end up walking out of the shop with a Tesco or Sainsbury's bag but we're always praised for "doing our bit". The shop welcomes donations of unwanted plastic carriers from anyone in the Cathedral community.

The café now exclusively uses either conventional china or bio-degradable paper cups for congregational coffee events. Plastic spoons have been replaced with wooden stirrers, vegetable deliveries come in re-usable plastic containers which suppliers take away with them, and wherever possible, soft drinks are supplied in glass rather than plastic bottles.

The shop is also selling re-usable Worcester Cathedral plastic beakers, *below*, (priced at £3.99) which can be filled at the café with a ten percent discount off the price of a drink every time they are used.

Small though these measures are, we feel they show that the Cathedral is taking this global threat seriously. And, as the Tesco carrier bags remind us, every little helps!

Chapter & Verse



Canon Michael Brierley

Conscious that 2020 has been designated a Year of Pilgrimage for English cathedrals, Susan Macleod, the Cathedral Operational Manager, asked me to write a piece for this newsletter on how I spent my summer; walking what some hikers regard as the 'holy grail' of long-distance trails in this country, the Pennine Way. I had long wanted to walk this, and this year, I had the chance.

I was initially hesitant to put pen to paper; it was a holiday, after all, not a pilgrimage. But perhaps the difference between walking a long-distance footpath and pilgrimage is not so very great. It is an established route with much of the infrastructure (signage, places to eat and stay) in place to accommodate those 'on the way'. The sense of pilgrimage was accentuated by tragically having to return to Worcester for the funeral of Matthew Armstrong, the Headmaster of the King's School who unexpectedly died in August, making his own pilgrimage from this world to the next. The last day of the walk – a demanding 28 miles, as there are no places to break in between – involved climbing the Cheviot and an hour of rain, before descending in the evening sunlight to Kirk Yetholm; a village just over the Scottish border which had been the destination for 15 days. After a hearty meal at a hospitable pub, I sat with others who had been on the same journey; exchanging tales of the road over pints of beer.

Perhaps indeed the difference between walking a route and pilgrimage is not so very great. And the similarities between walking/pilgrimage and the Christian life are bountiful and profound.

News from the Friends



Sue Carpenter, Friends Chairman



Writing this in September, I look back over a successful summer for the Friends and forward to the autumn and winter.

As ever, we offer a full social programme to the Friends. Along with others I always enjoy our events; whether listening to the Precentor and Christopher Allsop (and others) performing in 'Cathedral's Got Talent' in June (followed by a fish and chip supper) or, in August, listening to Antiques Expert and TV personality Ben Cooper telling us about his life and career.

We are now looking forward to our annual outing and our Christmas lunch which will again be held in the magnificent Assembly Room at the Guildhall. This venue is particularly good as, apart from the brilliance of the setting, the room's size means that all Friends are able to meet and enjoy a festive lunch together. These events are truly friendly with warmth and companionship and, of course, they continue to raise money for the Conservation of Christ in Majesty; part of the Undercroft project.

Our annual AGM on Saturday 5 October this year is held in the Chapter House. The business includes recommendations for some amendments to the Constitution, and elections to fill some Trustee vacancies. We look forward to welcoming Friends to the meeting, to be followed by tea and the Friends Evensong.

If you would like more information about the Friends and what they do, please contact the Friends office on 01905 732920; we will be very pleased to hear from you.



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 Weekday 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

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

Climb the Tower

Saturday 11am-5pm, Sunday 12.30pm-3.30pm. Last entry 30 minutes before closing. Weather/events permitting (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 - 5pm (January 10am - 4.30pm),
Sunday 12pm - 3.45pm. Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day,
New Year's Day and Sundays in January.

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



Throughout its history, the Cathedral has been sustained by the generosity of people who have helped to maintain the building in good repair, and who have supported the worship and the music, the library, the education programme and the Cathedral's work in the community. We are hugely grateful to all donors, who each play a vital role in preserving the Cathedral for future generations to enjoy.

To make a single or regular donation, please complete the form below and either post to: Freepost WORCESTER CATHEDRAL or email to: development@worcestercathedral.org.uk

Title and Full Name

Address:

Postcode:

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Email:

I would like to make a one-off gift of: £5 £10 £25 £50 other £

Please make cheques payable to 'Worcester Cathedral'

I would like to make a regular gift of £ monthly quarterly annually

You can set up a standing order or donate by bank transfer to:

Bank name: **Barclays Bank Limited, High Street Branch, Worcester**
Account Name: **Worcester Cathedral**
Account Number: **50182885**
Sort Code: **20-98-61**

I wish to support:

Unrestricted The Fabric Music Education and Outreach The Library

Please tick this box if you wish to receive information about leaving a gift in your will.

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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.

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Date:

Share in a festive spectacular of joyful seasonal
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TIDINGS of JOY

WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

CHRISTMAS CONCERT



A concert of Christmas favourites with audience participation

Conducted by
SAMUEL HUDSON
and
RICHARD JENKINSON

Performed by
**THE CHOIR OF WORCESTER CATHEDRAL,
WORCESTER FESTIVAL CHORAL SOCIETY and
WORCESTERSHIRE YOUTH ORCHESTRA**

Saturday 14 December, 7.30pm

Tickets:

£20 & £15, under 16s £5.

Book tickets online at www.eventbrite.co.uk



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