

# A STATEMENT FROM THE DEAN AND CHAPTER

Although the Cathedral is now closed for worship and for visiting, its work and witness continue. The famous view of the Cathedral remains an inspiration. The Chapter continues to have responsibility for the building and for all that goes on in the name of the Cathedral. This tells you about some of the things still going on while the present lockdown lasts.

## **Daily Prayer and Worship**

The Cathedral's first and foremost purpose, of offering worship day by day, goes on. We are providing a celebration of the Holy Communion from the Deanery on Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and on the other days Morning Prayer from one of the canons' houses. These services are live-streamed to the Worcester Cathedral Facebook page every morning at 8.30. They are then accessible on the Diocese of Worcester website ([www.cofe-worcester.org.uk](http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk)) and on Facebook. (You don't need a personal Facebook account to access this. You can click on the Facebook link on the bottom left of the Cathedral website. Click 'not now' if you don't want to subscribe to Facebook.)

Each day between now and Easter, a new poem written by Amanda Bonnick, our poet-in-residence, will be added to the Cathedral Facebook page. The theme of the poems is the traditional 'Stations of the Cross', the journey of Jesus to his crucifixion. The Diocese of Worcester website and the Church of England website will also give you access to other acts of worship and opportunities for prayer and reflection, especially during Holy Week.

## **Daily Music**

The Cathedral's musicians and others are voluntarily offering a short musical recital from one or other of their homes each day at 6.30 p.m. This is accessible on a new Facebook page 'Daily Music from Worcester'.

## **Cathedral Office and Staff**

Apart from a small core needed for the continuing organisational tasks, the members of the Cathedral staff have now been placed on 'furlough'. The Chapter Office is closed for the duration of the lock-down.

## **Booking**

We are still able to consider applications for services and events. Clearly, there is some uncertainty about all this, but we would still encourage individuals or groups who might want a special service or event, a concert or an exhibition, to get in touch with us at [events@worcestercathedral.org.uk](mailto:events@worcestercathedral.org.uk).

## **Funding**

It will be obvious that many of our sources of regular income have now stopped: collections at services, donations from visitors, hire charges for events, revenue from the café and the shop. In addition to that our investments have taken a hit, and the rental market is fragile.

This is where the support of our community of regular worshippers and volunteers is so important. Please consider making a donation to support the running of the Cathedral. You can send a cheque made payable to Worcester Cathedral or donate on-line or via BACS through the 'Support Us' section of the Cathedral website. A gift aid form is also available on the Cathedral website. If any of this is unclear, or you want more information, please email [development@worcestercathedral.org.uk](mailto:development@worcestercathedral.org.uk).

## **And finally...**

My colleagues of the Cathedral Chapter and I are deeply aware of the importance not only of the Cathedral Community (by which we mean our staff, our volunteers, and our regular worshippers) and the Friends of Worcester Cathedral, but also of that wider community of people in Worcester and Worcestershire and much further afield who hold the Cathedral in their affection and draw inspiration from it. Though for the time being we are dispersed to our homes, let us remain in each other's thoughts and prayers. Let us hope that we and our loved ones stay well. And let us look forward to the joyful day when the doors of Worcester Cathedral will again be flung open, the bells will ring out, the flag will fly, and the thrilling sounds of choirs and organs once again be heard.



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Dean of Worcester

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