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**Press Release 11/10/21**

**Worcester Cathedral’s newest oldest venue is open for business**

Worcester Cathedral is celebrating the much-anticipated launch of its newest oldest space for inspiration and discovery, the stunning Undercroft Learning Centre.

During 2019 and 2020, and thanks to the National Lottery Heritage Fund and other generous donors, an exciting project was underway at the Cathedral. A team of skilled craftspeople set to work converting the Undercroft, the former monastic storage rooms, into a unique space to be used by schools, community groups and businesses.

And what better place to hold your event than under a stunning vaulted ceiling with 900 years of history? From meetings to performances, training to exhibitions, the Undercroft can host them all. There are three rooms available, your own toilets and kitchen and a lift for accessibility, as well as catering for any event, and it is available to hire from 8am till late Monday to Saturday, with availability on Sundays too.

Included in the package is a welcome from a Cathedral staff member and a member of staff available throughout your event; an optional short talk on the history of the Undercroft and its role in the Cathedral; discounts at the Cloister Café; parking space for event organiser (subject to availability); free Wi-Fi; audio visual - two TV screens with HDMI access and sound system including microphones.

There are network and electrical access points throughout, furniture setup to meet requirements, urns, coffee machines and cups available for refreshment.

The project and launch of this stunning new space suffered several delays due to the pandemic and ensuing lockdowns, but it’s now up and running and the team is hosting a series of Open Days to showcase the new space.

Those interested in learning more and viewing the space can attend one of the Undercroft Open Days, between 10am and 4pm on: Wednesday 13th October, Monday 1st November and Monday 15th November.

These are drop-in sessions and a member of the team will be on hand to show you around and answer any questions, or you can book in advance by emailing undercroft@worcestercathedral.org.uk.

To enquire about hiring the Undercroft, please email Harriet or Jayne at undercroft@worcestercathedral.org.uk

To watch a video about the story of the Undercroft, please visit <https://youtu.be/a-5xzHOGU8c>

[www.worcestercathedral.co.uk/undercroft](http://www.worcestercathedral.co.uk/undercroft).

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For press enquiries about Worcester Cathedral, please contact sarahbowyer@worcestercathedral.org.uk.

**Notes to editors**

Worcester Cathedral has been a place of Christian worship and prayer for fourteen centuries; the present building dates back to 1084 and is dedicated to Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Described as possibly the most interesting of all England's cathedrals, especially architecturally, Worcester Cathedral was founded in 680. Saint Oswald then built another cathedral in 983, and established a monastery attached to it. Saint Wulfstan began the present building in 1084 replacing the earlier cathedrals.

The Cathedral's attractions include King John's Tomb, Prince Arthur's Chantry, the early 12th Century Chapter House, St Wulfstan's Crypt, medieval cloisters, magnificent Victorian stained glass and spectacular views from the top of the Cathedral tower.