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**Press Release 10/11/21**

**Worcester Cathedral launches Christmas Appeal as it prepares to welcome the community to celebrate Christmas 2021**

Worcester Cathedral has launched a Christmas Appeal, ahead of a packed programme of festive celebrations this Christmastime.

The Cathedral, like most tourist attractions, has suffered great financial hardship due to the pandemic. And it is now asking for help, as it prepares to welcome visitors and worshippers to celebrate Christmas, with tickets for its ever-popular Crib and Carol Services being released this week.

The Dean of Worcester, Peter Atkinson, said: “It gives me great pleasure to invite our community to attend the upcoming Christmas celebrations at our Cathedral. It’s a most welcome sign that we are slowly recovering from the trials of the last 18 or so months.

"I know how special the Cathedral is within many lives and I most sincerely thank everyone for their kindness and support this year. It is thanks, in great part, to the generosity of our loyal supporters that the Cathedral has survived, financially; though I must tell you that we are by no means out of the woods just yet.

**"That is why we must again make a request of all those who love and value our wonderful Cathedral. If you can, could you please make a financial contribution this Christmas to the Cathedral?**

**"Your support will ensure Worcester Cathedral remains open to serve our community – and especially over Christmastime – whether as a sanctuary for worship and for peaceful reflection; a place to gather with friends for conversation over coffee; a venue to enjoy music; or simply a beautiful building steeped in history.**

"We’re really looking forward to welcoming you to enjoy being a part of the Worcestershire community’s coming together, throughout the festive period.

"Our celebrations will include carol services and concerts, the crib services and midnight mass on Christmas Eve.

"Please accept in advance our sincere and grateful thanks for any contribution you feel able to make at this time. Your gift will enable the Cathedral to continue to be a focus for the whole community, as we come together at Christmas, to celebrate the birth of Christ, and to join in the song of the angels: ‘Peace on earth and goodwill to all’.”

"May I wish you and your loved ones an early Merry Christmas.”

To donate to the Cathedral’s Christmas Appeal 2021, please visit [www.worcestercathedral.co.uk/christmas2021](http://www.worcestercathedral.co.uk/christmas2021) where you can also find details of upcoming services and concerts.

**[ENDS]**

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.