



Press Release 27/07/22

BBC Songs of Praise to Film ‘All Creatures Great and Small: A Service of Blessing for Animals’ at Worcester Cathedral

Worcester Cathedral is delighted to invite the local community - plus their animal friends – once again to its annual pet blessing service on Friday 16 September at 5.30pm.

And this year it’s even more exciting, as BBC Songs of Praise will be joining in the fun, filming a feature for the programme which will air on 2 October in an episode designed to celebrate and give thanks for the way animals can enhance our lives.

The feature will be presented by the Reverend Kate Bottley, a great animal lover herself. The Songs of Praise production team is really keen that all feel welcome, and they would particularly like to speak to anyone with a story about how their pets have made a direct impact on their life and Christian faith*.

They will be pleased to feature all creatures great and small (!), especially any more unusual pets.

The service will be a celebration of our beloved pets, and Canon John Paul Hoskins, Precentor at Worcester Cathedral, will be conducting the service.

Canon Hoskins said: “We are so pleased to be able to hold our pet blessing service once again this year.

“Animals make such a difference in our lives; they are part of our families, there for us in good times and bad and give us unconditional love. Many people take great pleasure in the companionship of a pet. And for those who have suffered and are grieving, pets can bring great comfort to their owners.

“We look forward to taking a moment to give thanks and praise for all of our beloved animal companions.”

The service will start at 5.30pm and last roughly 30 minutes. The Cathedral asks that the congregation is seated by 5.20pm.

Please do pre-book your free tickets by visiting www.worcestercathedral.co.uk/petblessing to allow the Cathedral team to manage capacity, and bring your pets along for a joyous and uplifting service.

All creatures, great and small, are welcome (with a well-behaved owner!). And those who wish to attend without a pet are warmly welcome too; there will be additional seating for our

human worshippers, as well as an area for smaller pets. Please book one ticket for each person attending, including babies and small children.

To express your interest in being interviewed for Songs of Praise, please book your tickets in the first instance, then email info@worcestercathedral.org.uk with your story so that we can pass your details on to the Songs of Praise team.

For more information, please visit www.worcestercathedral.co.uk/whats-on

* Please understand that Rev. Kate and the team will only be able to interview a limited number of people on the day, but you and your pet may well be caught on camera and so your attendance will be taken as consent to be shown on BBC ONE in the context of the programme.

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.