



WORCESTER
CATHEDRAL

Welcome



Welcome

We are delighted you are here with us today. This booklet will give you information about the Cathedral and our worship, ministry and mission.

Worcester Cathedral has been and continues to be a place of Christian worship and prayer for fourteen centuries, with services held every day of the year.

The present building was begun in 1084, being dedicated to Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary. Since then, the building has continually grown and evolved to reflect the generations of people that have used it, so it is fair to say that the building will never be 'finished'.

Leaflets are available in the Cathedral with information about the various activities and events taking place. Also available is the weekly Sunday News. All this is available too on the website www.worcestercathedral.co.uk, and you will find us on social media.

Everyone is welcome to visit the Cathedral and attend services. There is always a quiet place available for private reflection or prayer. If you would like to find out more, do talk to a member of the clergy, or one of the vergers (in maroon uniform), or a welcomer.

***Father in heaven,
You have given us a mind to know you,
a will to serve you and a heart to love you.
Be with us today in all we do,
so that your light may shine out in our lives,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
Amen.***

The Cathedral's Vision

In 2025 Worcester Cathedral will be

- A community welcoming everyone to share our amazing heritage
- A place of breadth and depth in worship and prayer
- A place of learning, discipleship, and nurture.
- A catalyst for campaigning and raising awareness on the environment and social justice
- A resilient organisation with stable finances

Our Values

At the heart of everything we do lies the commitment, as a Christian community inspired by our Benedictine heritage, to prayer, learning, and welcome; and promoting the values of love, compassion, justice, and freedom.

- ***Prayer***

Prayer is offered here, morning and evening, every day of the year. We pray for the people of the diocese of Worcester, for the city, the nation, and the world. We worship God to the best of our abilities. We strive for beauty, integrity, and authenticity, whether the service is large or small.

- ***Learning***

We seek to grow in our Christian faith. We expect to be prompted and encouraged each day to learn from the wisdom of the past and the insights of the present, with perspectives from inside and outside the Church. We are mindful of our heritage and the tremendous history of the Cathedral. We long to share these rich resources with everyone who comes here, young or old.

- ***Welcome***

We carry Christ's love into the world, working with others for the good of all people. We welcome with dignity and respect everyone who enters this building. We are committed to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk of harm. We will ensure that the

Cathedral is a house of peace, a comfortable space, where anyone – whatever their belief or background – may find a place to think, pray, or wonder.

Welcome from the Dean

Worcester Cathedral is a magnificent sight as it rises majestically above the River Severn. Worcester has been the seat of a bishopric since the Seventh Century, and the Cathedral was served by monks until the Reformation. St Oswald and St Wulfstan were among the bishops. Since the Eighteenth Century, the Cathedral has been famous for its part in the annual Three Choirs Festival, the oldest choral festival in existence. Today the Cathedral is the centre of a vibrant community of clergy and lay people, offering the praises of God each day, serving the city and diocese of Worcester, and attracting visitors from all over the world.

Peter Atkinson, Dean

Who's Who

The Chapter

The Chapter oversees the day-to-day life of the Cathedral and the staff appointed by them. It is responsible for the strategic direction of the Cathedral's mission and ministry.

The members of Chapter are:

The Dean

The Very Reverend Dr Peter Atkinson chairs the Cathedral Chapter and has overall responsibility for the Cathedral's life, mission and ministry. He also represents the Cathedral in the city and county, and holds responsibilities in the wider diocese.

Residentiary Canon & Vice-Dean

The Reverend Canon Dr Stephen Edwards has responsibility for promoting the Cathedral's mission in the diocese and local community, and for the pastoral care and spiritual nurture of the Cathedral community. He holds the Eco-Cathedral brief and is also warden of the Guild of Bell Ringers.

Residentiary Canon & Precentor

The Reverend Canon John Paul Hoskins is responsible for the Cathedral's liturgical work and music. He plans the many special services working with the musicians, the vergers and other volunteers.

Residentiary Canon & Chaplain of St Oswald's Hospital

The Reverend Canon Kimberly Bohan works the Director of Learning, and the Librarian, to promote the Cathedral's learning programmes and the work of the Library as essential parts of the Cathedral's mission. She is also Chaplain of St Oswald's Hospital, the almshouse in the Tything, which is an ancient part of the Cathedral foundation.

Lay Canons

In addition to the clergy, the Cathedral has lay canons that bring professional skills to the Chapter. Currently they are Canon Dr David Bryer, Canon Anne Penn, Canon Henry Briggs, and Canon Staffan Engström.

Cathedral Volunteers

There are over 300 volunteers working in different areas of the Cathedral. The time given and the dedication of them all cannot be praised highly enough. The volunteers enable the smooth running of so much of the Cathedral's life. Without them the day-to-day activities and friendly reputation of Worcester Cathedral could not be maintained. Volunteers work in the following areas:

Welcomers are in the Cathedral every day to welcome visitors and to answer questions. They wear green sashes so are easy to identify.

Guides have been trained and are available by arrangement to give guided tours.

Education volunteers help and support our Director of Welcome, Learning & Engagement in the delivery of educational programmes within the Cathedral for the many educational visits from schools, colleges and universities we have during the year.

Concert stewards assist in front of house for the many evening concerts.

Voluntary vergers help and support the full-time vergers in all of their duties, including the ceremonial duties during worship.

Servers assist during services as crucifer, acolytes and thurifer. The current team includes a wide age range.

Stewards assist in welcoming the congregation at services.

The **Voluntary Choir** of girls and boys, the **Youth Choir** and the **Chamber Choir** are part of the musical life of the Cathedral and sing regularly at services.

The Cathedral has seventeen bells and the voluntary group of **bellringers** who as well as ringing for normal services also ring for special occasions during the year. There is a teaching centre for people of all ages to learn the art of bellringing.

The Flower Guild arranges the flowers in the Cathedral throughout the year. They also arrange the flowers for special events and occasions.

We have volunteers who help in the Cathedral shop, Cloister café, the library, and with the archaeologist.

If you have any time to spare and wish to offer your services in any area of the Cathedral's work, please speak visit www.worcestercathedral.co.uk/support-us/volunteering

Activities for Children

We are pleased to offer bags containing activities, colouring booklets, and toys for young children; please ask one of the stewards. Visit the Cathedral website for details of What's On.

Safeguarding

The Chapter is committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of everyone within our Cathedral community. In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice, to ensure that Safeguarding is progressed, both in terms of activities, and also to ensure the Cathedral has a culture that promotes safeguarding and learning. You can read all about our policies and procedures on the Cathedral website:

www.worcestercathedral.co.uk/safeguarding

Pastoral Care

Worcester Cathedral has many visitors and very widely-drawn congregations. As such, it is not always possible to offer the same level of day-to-day pastoral care and support as a local parish church. However, we aim to do our best to offer helpful and appropriate pastoral care to all our congregations, staff and visitors. We recognise that people don't always know what is available, so this booklet hopes to summarise what we offer.

The best and most regularly used resource, of course, is each other, friends, family and other members of the church. St Paul reminds us to 'bear one another's burdens', and this is one of the richest and most useful sources of pastoral care.

If you are ill, or going into hospital, or if you know someone who is, please let us know. We may be able to organise a visit from a member of the clergy. We can add a name to the list of those prayed for every day in the Cathedral. Please contact Canon Stephen Edwards by email: *stephenedwards@worcestercathedral.org.uk*

On most days there is a chaplain in the Cathedral who will sit with you, listen and, if you would like, pray with you. Please ask one of the Cathedral staff to help you locate the chaplain if you cannot immediately find him or her.

Ministry of Reconciliation (otherwise called confession) is offered just before Christmas and Easter, or by arrangement with a member of the clergy.

Weekly Services

Sunday

7.30 am	Morning Prayer
8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30 am	Sung Eucharist
4.00 pm	Choral Evensong
6.30 pm	Evening Worship (term time only)

Monday

7.30 am	Morning Prayer
8.00 am	Holy Communion
5.30 pm	Choral Evensong

Tuesday

7.30 am	Morning Prayer
8.00 am	Holy Communion
5.30 pm	Evening Prayer

Wednesday

7.30 am	Morning Prayer
8.00 am	Holy Communion
1.00 pm	Holy Communion
5.30 pm	Choral Evensong

Thursday

7.30 am	Morning Prayer
8.00 am	Holy Communion
5.30 pm	Choral Evensong

Friday

7.30 am	Morning Prayer
8.00 am	Holy Communion
11.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
5.30 pm	Choral Evensong

Saturday

7.30 am	Morning Prayer
8.00 am	Holy Communion
5.30 pm	Choral Evensong

How to Give Financially

All of us who worship regularly or occasionally in this Cathedral have a responsibility to make a contribution towards the considerable costs involved in running this place of prayer and worship.

The Responsibility Is Ours (TRIO)

The best way to give is by using the Cathedral's stewardship scheme. You can choose to pay directly through your bank by Direct Debit, standing order, or by cash or cheque in a weekly envelope.

If you pay income tax and you Gift Aid your giving to the Cathedral, we can claim back the tax you have paid from the Inland Revenue. This enables us, at current rates, to claim an additional 25p for every £1 you give. All that is required is simple Gift Aid declaration.

It is also possible to give in the traditional way of putting money in the donation boxes or using the contactless facilities. Gift aid envelopes are available in the pews.

If you wish to join the stewardship scheme, please visit our website for more details

www.worcestercathedral.co.uk/community/the-responsibility-is-ours-trio

or get in touch for a paper copy.

Friends of Worcester Cathedral

Cathedrals need friends. You may come to services at Worcester Cathedral frequently or just occasionally; you may come to events or bring visitors to look round the ancient and beautiful buildings; perhaps you want to support the Cathedral's work and witness, or the tradition of choral singing which is very strong here in Worcester; maybe you understand how relentless is the need to maintain the buildings, or are interested in our priceless medieval library.

Any of these is enough to make you already a friend of the Cathedral, and we'd like to welcome you into the Friends organisation.

Everyone is welcome: there are no qualifications of denomination, creed or faith. You don't need to live in Worcester – or the Diocese: several of the Friends have just been visitors here, or have moved away and want to keep in touch.

Everyone is welcome because the Cathedral building is part of our English heritage and is there for everyone. But it is too a Christian building and community doing its work in a Christian tradition, a beacon of faith over thirteen centuries. So we hope that Christians of all denominations throughout the Diocese and beyond will think of joining us to preserve building, heritage and tradition for future generations.

Find out more about the Friends of Worcester Cathedral and how to join on their website:

www.friendsofworcestercathedral.org.uk

Membership of the Cathedral Community Roll

To find out more about the Cathedral Community Roll and how to obtain an application form, please visit the Community pages of the website:

www.worcestercathedral.co.uk/community