

SUNDAY 17 MARCH 2024

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Worcester Cathedral

Sunday News

Welcome

Welcome to the Cathedral today. If you are here with young children or babies, please ask a steward for a children's activity bag. Coffee is served by the Friends of Worcester Cathedral in the Chapter House after the Sung Eucharist, to which everyone is most welcome. New Worshippers are especially welcome and are invited to contact Canon Stephen Edwards who will be in touch with a welcome booklet: stephenedwards@worcestercathedral.org.uk

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Royal Maundy

The annual Royal Maundy Service will be coming to Worcester on Thursday 28 March when Her Majesty The Queen will be distributing the Royal Maundy gifts on behalf of His Majesty The King at Worcester Cathedral. Attendance is strictly limited to those with invitations and 100 tickets are available for regular worshippers. If you would like to be considered for one of these please email stephenedwards@worcestercathedral.org.uk The deadline for application is Sunday 17th March at 9pm.

God Welcomes All: How faith informs safeguarding

An opportunity to explore why and how safeguarding matters for everyone. God Welcomes All is a four-week group using short films with activities and questions for discussion and reflection. It is based on the Methodist Church's report on the Theology of Safeguarding 2021.

Mondays 8, 15, 22, 29 April, 7pm-8pm at The Old Palace, Worcester Cathedral. Registration essential at www.worcestercathedral.org.uk/GodWelcomesAll

Ministry of Reconciliation

Anyone wishing to make an appointment for the ministry of reconciliation (confession and absolution) in the days before Easter please contact one of the Canons. Details here www.worcestercathedral.org.uk/about-us/whos-who

Iona 2024

There will be a gathering today after the 10.30am service in the Undercroft to bring together all those who have registered.

Survey from a Chorister!

Members of the congregation are invited to assist one of our girl choristers, Annabelle Kenny, by completing a survey she has designed about the significance of music in the cathedral worship. The results of the survey, which will take only a few minutes to complete online, will be used in her extended writing project (EPQ), forming part of Annabelle's A-level studies at the King's School. The survey can be accessed at the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/FqbMFBruvZ> Thank you for your help!

Cathedral Community Social Events

After the success of last year's Coronation lunch and Bingo evening, we are now looking for people to assist with the setting up and running of our 2024 community social events. This year we have planned a Summer Sunday, daytime picnic and an Autumn Social Evening. If you are willing to be involved with the initial planning, and/or on the day decorating of venues, moving tables and chairs, planning and setting up catering, assisting with a bar, clearing and washing up after the event etc. etc., please contact Davina Rowe or email davinarowe@gmx.com Dates of events to be announced soon.

Worcester Passion Play

A Passion Play will once again be staged on Good Friday (29 March) at 10.30am in Cathedral Square. This was hugely successful last year and attracted an audience of more than 1000 people. For more information (or to donate towards the costs) see <https://www.worcesterpassionplay.co.uk>

Cathedral Stewardship Scheme ('TRIO')

TRIO, the cathedral's stewardship scheme is responsible for nearly £100,000 of annual giving to the cathedral and is an important source of financial support for our worship.

Letters are now being sent out to all members of the cathedral stewardship scheme (currently known as TRIO) asking them to review their contribution to the cathedral as we approach the beginning of the new financial year. At the same time, letters with information about joining TRIO are also available from stewards after services today and over the next few weeks. If you are a relatively new worshipper and have not joined TRIO, please ensure you collect a letter today.

Prayer and Intercessions

Please pray for the sick and those in need, and for all the departed, among them **Rebecca Davidge and Jo Porter**. The clergy maintain an intercessions list which

is placed on the altar at the daily eucharist. If you would like a name to be added to this list, for whatever reason, please send an email to prayer@worcestercathedral.org.uk

Praying for the Cathedral Community

Over the course of the year a weekly prayer focus for the Cathedral Community will be printed in the Sunday News. This week we pray for our Visitor Welcome Assistants.

ENVIRONMENT & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Living Gently on the Earth

Living Gently on the Earth continues into 2024 with an inspiring programme designed to enable green and generous living in all its aspects:

- Thu 21st March 2pm. **Take the Jump.** Simple steps for living a green lifestyle. Leisa Taylor, Severn Room.
- Thu 25th April 7pm. **Human health, planetary health: Same thing?** Owen Raybould, an experienced local forager, Severn Room.
- Thu 23rd May 2pm. **How can we all switch to a more sustainable “circular economy” and how can we lower our environmental footprint?** Dominic Lavelle, Managing Director of Go Green Experts, Severn Room.
- Thu 6th June 2pm. **Hope in an Age of Crisis and Turmoil.** David McGlouchlin, Emeritus Fellow in Christian Theology, Severn Room.
- Thu 4th July 2pm. **Reconciling Mission.** Engagement with our local neighbourhood, Rev Dr Alastair McKay of Reconciliation Initiatives, Severn Room.
- Sat 24th August 7.30pm to 9.30. **‘The fascinating and mysterious world of Worcester Cathedral’s bats’.** A talk and a walk about bats with Cody Levine on International Bat Night, Undercroft.
- Sat 5th October. **Green Fair,** Cloister.

The events are free. You can get more details and book a place to attend on www.worcestercathedral.co.uk/eco (or scan the QR code below with your phone camera). Tickets are not compulsory for attendance but will ensure that you will have a place if the event is full and will give us a guide of how many people to expect.



Give an Hour for Earth

From 8:30 pm local time on 23 March, WWF's Earth Hour, the world's largest grassroots environmental movement, returns for its 18th edition with the 'Biggest Hour for Earth' in support and celebration of our planet. Find out more here: www.earthhour.org/take-part/give-an-hour

FAITH & SPIRITUALITY

Praying for Peace

There is a prayer station in St George's Chapel in the Cathedral where a candle burns as we pray for peace in Gaza, Israel, Ukraine, and all places of war and conflict.

The Bishop of Worcester's Lent Appeal

Bishop John's Lent Appeal this year will be for the Friends of the Holy Land. Find out more, and how to donate here: www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/lent-appeal-2024.php

Seeing Lent through Different Eyes

7.00pm–8:30 pm on Monday Evenings in the Undercroft Learning Centre (access to the Undercroft through the Cloister gate on College Green). An opportunity to respond with others to Jesus' challenge to see differently, and to step into the Kingdom of God this Lent.

18 March ***Seeing Jesus' journey to his Passion and Death afresh.***

Speaker: David McLoughlin

The sessions will consist of initial inputs of no more than 35 minutes, short buzz sessions, and further sharing and conversation with the speakers.

Worcester Theological Society

Thursday 21 March 'Theology and the Human Body' – a symposium led by Hugh McMichael, Peter Bevan and Chris Liley. St Andrew's Methodist, Pump Street. 1.45 pm for a 2 pm start.

SERVICES & EVENTS

Today's Services

7.30 am Morning Prayer

8.00 am Holy Communion (*Book of Common Prayer, with livestream*)

10.30 am Sung Eucharist

- 4.00 pm Evensong
6.30 pm Sung Eucharist (*sung by the Voluntary Choir*)

Palm Sunday 24 March

- 7.30 am Morning Prayer
8.00 am Holy Communion (*Book of Common Prayer, with livestream*)
10.30 am Sung Eucharist
(meeting in Cathedral Square for the blessing of palms)
4.00 pm Evensong
6.30 pm As Service of Readings and Music for Holy Week
(sung by the Voluntary Choir)

Monday of Holy Week 25 March

- 11.00 am Chrism Eucharist
5.30 pm Evensong
8.00 pm Compline (*sung by the Chamber Choir*)

Tuesday of Holy Week 26 March

- 8.00 pm Compline (*sung by the Youth Choir*)

Maundy Thursday 28 March

- 11.00 am Office for the Royal Maundy (*ticketed admission only*)
8.00 pm The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday (*with incense*)

Good Friday 29 March

- 1.30 pm The Liturgy of Good Friday

Saturday 30 March

- 8.00 pm The Easter Liturgy (*with incense*)

Easter Day 31 March

- 7.30 am Morning Prayer
8.00 pm Holy Communion (*Book of Common Prayer, with livestream*)
10.30 am Sung Eucharist (*with incense*)
4.00 pm Evensong
6.30 pm A Service of Readings and Music for Easter
(sung by the Voluntary Choir)

Temporary change to regular service pattern

Owing to arrangements for the Royal Maundy, there will be no 1 pm Holy Communion on Wednesday of Holy Week (27 March); Evening Prayer that day will be held in private, and Morning Prayer on Maundy Thursday will be livestreamed only.

Worship in the Garden and Sacred Garden

We're delighted to introduce two new programmes of outdoor worship in 2024:

'**Worship in the Garden** – meeting with God in creation' will take place not inside the cathedral, but instead, we will be outside, come rain or shine. The vision is to develop a service that focuses on worship of the Creator in creation, with creation, and aware of ourselves as a part of creation. We will meet at 3pm on the first Sunday of each month, with the next meeting on 7 April.

'**Sacred Garden**: engaging with God in creation through creativity' is for people who feel God's presence when they're out in nature. Our goal is to create and cultivate a time and space in which people can engage with the Creator in creation through using their creativity. There will be opportunities for some art, some gardening, some kinaesthetic activity, and some contemplative prayer.

We will meet from 10am to 12pm on the third Saturday of each month, with the next meeting on 20 April.

The meeting place is in the garden behind 15b College Green (entering through the doorway outside the Edgar Tower Gate).

If you want to know more or are interested in coming along, please email Revd Dr Robin Parry on revdrobin@gmail.com

St John Passion

The Cathedral Choir will perform J. S. Bach's dramatic setting of the Passion story, the *St John Passion* at 7.30pm on Friday 22 March. Tickets £10/£15/£20. To book, see <https://www.worcestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/j-s-bachs-st-john-passion>

Organ Spectacular Concert

Saturday 20 April at 7.30 pm. Discover the power and beauty of Worcester Cathedral's organs, as they have never been heard before. From the quietest shimmer to the loudest roar, the colours and contrasts of the organ will be demonstrated through much-loved organ repertoire, alongside music that you would not hear at Evensong! Raising funds for the Worcester Cathedral Choristers Association, tickets are available now from the Cathedral website.

Parking

Those attending regular services may obtain the bollard code for College Green (email parking@worcestercathedral.org.uk)—the entrance from College Green to the cloisters is open on Sunday mornings. Please note that parking on College Yard on the north side of the cathedral is no longer possible.

Safeguarding at Worcester Cathedral

The Cathedral's Safeguarding Lead is Matthew Hall, whose contact email is: matthewhall@worcestercathedral.org.uk The Cathedral Safeguarding Phone number is 01905 732907 and the website (link below) contains all contact details. The Cathedral website provides details of our Safeguarding policy and procedures as well as information about Safe Spaces, an independent service supporting survivors of church-related abuse.

www.worcestercathedral.org.uk/safeguarding

Sunday News

Notices for including in the Sunday News should be emailed to stephenedwards@worcestercathedral.org.uk preferably by the Wednesday before.