



What the Cathedral means to me

In one of our weekly newsletters we asked 'What does the Cathedral mean to you' and we were blessed with many wonderful replies and reflections. It is clear that the Cathedral occupies a special place in people's hearts and we are delighted to share these wonderful responses with you.

'The cathedral offers a place of comfort, joy, solace and beauty. It is a place where I feel spiritually nourished and enriched.'

'This stunning building has for centuries been filled with glorious music, both in its daily worship and the countless wonderful concerts I have performed in and attended. It has provided a home for so many singers, orchestral players, conductors and composers. May it continue to do so in years to come.'

'An oasis of calm in a frenetic world'

'Everything'

'It means a terrific lot. I was baptised there in early 1934, was educated at the Choir School and then the Kings School.'

'Going to Worcester Cathedral on Sunday mornings (as well as various other times during the week) provides us with a hook to hang the rest of our week on. We also love the fact that from our sitting room we can see the Cathedral and when it is illuminated at night it shines like a beacon for the City.'

'I love Worcester Cathedral because I have known it all my life, I first was brought into the Cathedral as a very young child when I came with my Grandmother to bring my Grandfather's lunch, He was a Verger in those days during wartime, we would sit on Cathedral Green looking towards the River, to share his lunch, it is still so vivid in my mind. I can also remember being brought to give thanks to God of my recovery from Diphtheria when I was 6yrs old. My Grandfather was a typical Victorian man very strict and devout but with a soft heart when you found it. He gave me my love of the Cathedral, he told me about King John, and Prince Arthur, and I remember Prince Arthur's Chantry was bricked in during the war, and he gave me my love of God.'

'The Cathedral is where my children and I came with the schools, and scouts for Nativity Services and valedictory services. My Grandson who is Roman Catholic was confirmed in Worcester Cathedral by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Birmingham the first Catholic Service in the Cathedral for 500 Years, he was so proud.'

'When my husband died the Cathedral was the obvious place for me to come, and it didn't let me down, I have been so grateful for the sanctuary and the peace I have found there, when I drive in through the wonderful Edgar Tower I feel a peace and goodwill, it is an atmosphere that has grown through the centuries and that carries right through the Cathedral and I love sharing with our visitors. What a wonderful place it is!!!'

'I am moved to try to put into words what the Cathedral means to me.'

'As the place where I was ordained and installed as an Honorary Canon, and now in this pandemic when the worship offered by you, Peter and your colleagues is so sustaining.'

I am aware all parts of ministry in the Church of England are suffering financially and the parishes for which I am responsible are too. But the mother Church, the heart of our Diocese, the place that feeds my soul, must survive, must continue to flourish even if many other churches in localities, including some where I am responsible, were to close.

It is time for the House of Bishops and Church House to rethink its strap line, a church in every community, if the meaning is understood, as it is here that that means the building. If the Cathedral is resourced it can indeed serve as a spiritual home for all Christians doing church from their home groups, in their locality even if their building is mothballed.

Thank you for your ministry during this pandemic and may the Cathedral thrive.'

'Permanent throughout my life. Always 'my home' no matter where.'

'I am Worcestershire born and bred. For the first part of my childhood we lived in Bromsgrove and I remember visiting the Cathedral many times. I have a vivid memory, at around 7 years of age, of climbing the tower, and later, for a 21st birthday present, being made a Steward at a Three Choirs Festival. I stayed with an aunt at Hallow, and each day had to transport a baritone soloist, John Carol Case, who was also staying with her and singing throughout the week. An earlier memory is meeting Jenny, my future wife, in the Refectory in the Old Deanery. Our families, who knew each other vaguely, bumped into one another over tea. It must have been at another Festival.

Then, much later, as a priest in the diocese, I got to know the Cathedral from a different perspective. It was, of course, the centre for diocesan events, and I recall particularly the yearly Chrism Eucharists in Holy Week, several Ordination Services, and among many other occasions, the farewell Service for Bishop Woods, and the installation of Bishop Goodrich.

Now, in retirement, it is a great joy to have been able to reconnect with these memories and to forge new ones. Today, increasingly, the Cathedral means people – clergy, vergers, Choir, members of the community, and it is a privilege to enter into the continuity of Christian presence, worship and witness that the Cathedral embodies and represents. The building itself, the music, the liturgy, the educational, cultural and social events that the Cathedral sponsors – all speak of the presence of the living God at the heart of our city, county and diocese, and I am grateful to be able, in a small way, to participate in its life, and support it's ministry.'

'Year 2020 represents my 9th year as a Cathedral guide/welcomer. This has provided both an interest in meeting a wide variety of visitors from many towns and countries and in making new friends. In addition attending the 10.30 sung Eucharist rekindled my faith. I look forward to my return.'

'The most wonderful view, from our garden: that's important, particularly when the background is a glorious sunset! The fact that the hours are still told (toll'd!) from the tower, even if there's no bellringing practice. The tower as a landmark, a beacon, a waymarker when we're on long walks.

It doesn't need to be open for us to enjoy and appreciate it.'

'It means a terrific lot to me. I was baptised there in 1934, confirmed about 1945. I was a music pupil with Edgar Day and spent a lot of time in the organ loft when they had the wonderful Harrison organ.

Then when I was 21 I was conscripted and, sadly, never returned except for occasional visits because my parents moved. We now live in Aberdeenshire although my wife and I do hope to visit later this year. It is a fabulous cathedral and at the age of 86 I still miss it.'