

SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2025
THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE 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. New Worshippers are especially welcome, please ask a steward or a verger for a welcome booklet.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Congregational Forum

On Sunday 9 March there will be the first Congregational Forum—an opportunity to hear more about the Cathedral's mission and ministry as well as the projects and plans for the future. Alongside presentations from the Dean and the COO there will be an opportunity for questions and discussions. The Forum will take place in the Undercroft and immediately after the Sung Eucharist.

Snowdrops

If you are thinking of thinning out your snowdrops this spring and can spare a few to plant in the cloister garth under the tree, would you contact Joan Schmeising joan.schmeising@gmail.com. We would be very grateful.

St Oswald's Hospital, Worcester – Almshouses available

St Oswald's Hospital is an ancient foundation of almshouses, located in central Worcester at The Tything, Worcester, Worcestershire WR1 1HR. It is comprised of 21 Grade II listed almshouses, a chapel and gardens and the aim of St Oswald's Hospital is to provide high quality homes in a safe, secure and friendly environment, with a strong sense of community. Each of the almshouses is self-contained and consists of a living room, a bedroom, a kitchen and a bathroom and there are currently spaces available for new residents.

For more information, please contact Revd Canon Kimberly Bohan (Chaplain) on 01905 732906 or kimberlybohan@worcestercathedral.org.uk or Matthew Hall (Steward) on 01905 732907 or at MatthewHall@WorcesterCathedral.org.uk. Details of how to apply can also be found at www.worcestercathedral.org.uk/community/st-oswalds-hospital

Prayer and Intercessions

Please pray for the sick and those in need, and for all the departed among them Fiona Johnston, Patricia Scott, Allan Laidlaw, Graham Lyall, and Anne Meads. 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 St Oswald's Hospital, the ancient almshouse foundation closely linked to the Cathedral, and its chaplain Canon Kimberly Bohan.

Something unique...

Celebrate and remember your loved one with a beautiful hand-crafted Perpetual Flame. Created exclusively for Worcester Cathedral—find out more here www.worcestercathedral.org.uk/support-us/perpetual-flame or view the display near the Jesus Chapel.

ENVIRONMENT & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Living Gently on the Earth

Worcester Cathedral's award-winning training programme Living Gently on the Earth continues:

- Saturday 15 March, 1.30 pm. **Foundations for a Wise Economy (Doughnut Economics vs. Economic Growth?).** The Undercroft.
- Saturday 22 March, 7.30 pm. **Earth Hour with Worcestershire LitFest**, a low impact evening of poetry, spoken word, fun, food and drink. The Old Palace.
- Saturday 17 May, 1.30pm. **Living a low-carbon lifestyle.**
- Saturday 19 July, 1.30 pm. **Living in Harmony with Life: diet and animal Welfare.**
- Saturday 20 September, 1.30 pm. **Responsible Stewardship of Land and Sea: bio-diversity, fertilisers, pollution, habitat use.**
- Saturday 15 November, 1.30 pm. **Eco-justice: responding to the social implications of ecological harm**



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

FAITH & SPIRITUALITY

The SOPHIA Course: A Christian Eco-Spirituality Journey

The Sophia Course is a one-year journey of spiritual formation with a focus on creation-attuned spirituality. It is for anyone seeking to explore and grow in Christian discipleship in a world facing unprecedented environmental challenges.

The course will be delivered over six day-long sessions at Worcester Cathedral, which is an award-winning centre for Green training and education, covering spirituality, lifestyle, and campaigning ([2024 Church Times Green Church Awards](#)). The training days aim to engage body, soul, and spirit, blending more theoretical and more practical teaching with hands-on activities, social time, and contemplative prayer. (The six Saturdays are: 15 March, 17 May, 19 July, 20 September, 15 November, 17 January.)

In addition to the formal training days, those on the journey will live by a 'rule of life' aimed at instilling patterns of daily prayer and learning to walk gently on the earth. For more information, please contact the Revd Dr Robin Parry at RobinParry@worcestercathedral.org.uk.

Lent Lectures – 'My Word is truth: faith in a fragile world'

This year's Lent Lectures will take place on Tuesday evenings in Lent (11 March onwards) from 7.30 pm to 9 pm. Further details to follow.

Mystery, Meaning, and Majesty: Orthodox phronema expressed in Icons

Newman Association Talk by Melangell Roe-Stevens Smith at St Geroge's Catholic Parish Hall, 1 Sansome Place, Worcester. Wednesday 26 February 7 pm to 8.30 pm. Refreshments provided.

Meditative Prayer Group

The Meditative Prayer Group meets monthly by Zoom. The meeting includes both short reflections and periods of quiet for meditation and the opportunity for prayer. If you would like to join the meeting and do not have the Zoom link, please email prayer@worcestercathedral.org.uk and request the link. The next meeting will be at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 12 March; subsequent meetings will be on 9 April, 7 May and 4 June.

Worcester Theological Society

Thursday 20 March – Prof. Peter Kevern, Research into Spirituality in Dementia. 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 (*sung by the Leicester Church Music Consort*)
4.00 pm Evensong (*sung by the Leicester Church Music Consort*)

Tuesday 25 February

7.30 pm Hope for the Holy Land

A service organised by The Friends of the Holy Land (www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk), an ecumenical charity supporting the beleaguered Christian communities of the Holy Land, and will be led by the Ven Robert Jones. Come and pray for the Holy Land, and hear at first-hand what life is like there right now from Fr Abusada, director of the School of Joy, a special needs school in Beit Sahour, serving children from around the Bethlehem. Over refreshments there will be a chance to speak with him and learn more about the charity. If you can, please let Sue Oliver sueoliver778@gmail.com know you're coming.

Friday 28 February

5.30 pm Sung Eucharist for the Feast of St Oswald (*with incense*)

Oswald was a Dane who came to Worcester in 961, when St Dunstan made him Bishop. He set up a Benedictine community of monks to serve the Cathedral and in 972, also became Archbishop of York. Oswald was able to build a new Cathedral that was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary in 983. Noted for his support of scholarly learning and church reform, Oswald died on 29 February 992 in the act of washing the feet of the poor and was hailed as a saint. His shrine in the Cathedral became a place of pilgrimage.

Next Sunday's Services

7.30 am Morning Prayer

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

10.30 am Sung Eucharist

3.00 pm Worship in the Garden

4.00 pm Evensong

6.30 pm Evening Worship (*sung by the Voluntary Choir*)

Forthcoming Services

Wednesday 5 March 5.30 pm Liturgy of Ash Wednesday (*with incense*)

Thursday 13 March 2.00 pm Funeral of Allan Laidlaw

Ash Wednesday

The Liturgy of Ash Wednesday (including imposition of ashes) will be celebrated at 5.30pm on Wednesday 5 March; incense will be used at this service. Ashes will also be imposed at the 8 am and 1 pm Holy Communion services that day. Please return last year's palm crosses to the vergers or welcome desk—they will be burned to produce this year's ash.

Worship in the Garden and Sacred Garden

You can find out more about these services and events by visiting www.worcestercathedral.org.uk/eco or by contacting the Revd Dr Robin Parry on RobinParry@worcestercathedral.org.uk

Worcester Cathedral Choir in Concert

The Cathedral Choir will give a concert in aid of the Friends of Worcester Cathedral on Saturday 15 March at 7.30 pm. The programme will include works by Edward Elgar, John Rutter and Pierre Vilette. Tickets: £20, £15, £10 (U16s Free) can be booked via FOWCCConcert.eventbrite.co.uk

Lunchtime Recitals

Recitals begin at 12.15 pm and last until around 1 pm. Admission is free with donations welcomed at a retiring collection.

Thursday 27 February	Jonathan Hope (organ)
Thursday 6 March	Ahmed Dickinson (guitar)
Thursday 13 March	Keith Hearnshaw (organ)
Thursday 20 March	Angelina Kopyrina (piano)
Thursday 27 March	Vocal students from RGS Worcester

GENERAL NOTICES

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 and now unlocked (though shut) for Sunday Evensongs. 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 Canon Kimberly Bohan, whose contact email is: kimberlybohan@worcestercathedral.org.uk The phone number is 01905 732906 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 inclusion in the Sunday News should be emailed (usually by the previous Wednesday) to sundaynews@worcestercathedral.org.uk Those seeking an online copy may wish to note it is now under the 'Worship' menu on the Cathedral website.