

**SUNDAY 22 MARCH 2026**  
THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
PASSION SUNDAY



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

### Consultation on the Cathedral's Future Sustainability

Chapter has begun a consultation about how we secure the Cathedral's long-term financial sustainability in the face of rising running and maintenance costs. As an independent charity responsible for funding our own ministry and the care of this building, we must plan responsibly for the future. This consultation explores whether visitor income might play a stronger role within a wider sustainability plan, including the potential introduction of a charged entry fee for visitors. No decisions have been taken. Our vocation as a place of worship remains unchanged, and access for prayer and services is not under review. Members of the Cathedral community will receive further information by email, including a link to the Dean's video message and the consultation survey.

You can also take part by scanning the QR code or visiting [www.worcestercathedral.org.uk/SustainabilityConsultation](http://www.worcestercathedral.org.uk/SustainabilityConsultation)

The survey closes on 10 April 2026. Your perspective matters greatly as we shape the Cathedral's future together, so please do take the time (no more than ten minutes) to participate.



### Pilgrimage from Great Malvern Priory to the Cathedral

You are warmly invited to join a 10-mile pilgrimage from Great Malvern Priory to Worcester Cathedral on Saturday 28 March. We will begin with a short act of worship at 9.45am at the Priory, setting out together shortly afterwards. Our journey will take us through the Worcestershire countryside as we walk, pray, reflect, and share conversation. The pilgrimage will conclude with Evening Prayer at the Cathedral. You are very welcome to join for the whole journey or for part of the route. Whether you come for the walking, the fellowship, the prayer, or simply the adventure of it, all are welcome. Further details about the route and practical arrangements can be provided by Reverend Gilly Maxim at [gilly.maxim@wcv.church](mailto:gilly.maxim@wcv.church) We hope you will consider being part of this shared journey as we prepare our hearts and minds for Holy Week.

## English Sacred Choral Music – Living Heritage

Cathedral Music Trust is leading a national initiative to recognise English sacred choral music as part of the UK's submission to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list. Members of the congregation who wish to support this recognition are warmly invited to find out more and sign the petition by scanning the QR code.



## 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](mailto:kimberlybohan@worcestercathedral.org.uk)

Details of how to apply can also be found at

[www.worcestercathedral.org.uk/community/st-oswalds-hospital](http://www.worcestercathedral.org.uk/community/st-oswalds-hospital)

## Nicholas Freestone

Our warmest congratulations to our Assistant Director of Music, Nicholas Freestone, on his appointment as Director of Music at Westminster Cathedral School from September. In this new role, Nick will oversee the provision of music across the school, will work with the Choristers of Westminster Cathedral Choir, will direct the Gallery Choir (who sing a weekly mass in the cathedral), undertake classroom teaching, and direct a range of school ensembles. There will be an opportunity later in the year to thank Nick for all he has contributed to cathedral music in Worcester over his 8 years in post, and to wish him well as he embarks on this exciting new chapter.

## Sponsored Marathon

Leo Atkinson is running his third London Marathon, raising funds for the NSPCC, and his class have set him some milestones. If he raises: £1000 he will dye his hair a colour of their choice for a week; £1500 he will sing a solo in front of the whole school; £2000 he will wear a costume of their choice for his longest training run. Let's help them make fun of their teacher!

<https://2026tcsllondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/leo-atkinson>

## Prayer and Intercessions

Please pray for the sick and those in need; and for all the departed, among them David New, Barbara Plant, Chris Guy, Ian Clargo, Lesley Sudwell, Andrew Watson, Olive Thompson, and Ernestine Everett. 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](mailto: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 Fabric Advisory Committee (Jennie Page, Victoria Harrison, Andrew McCrea, Stephen Oliver, Nigel Baker, Judith Leigh, Andrew Mottram, and Andrew Stonyer), and for the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England, which advise and approve work on the Cathedral building.

## Send Green Easter Greetings with Ease!

Many of us love to send Happy Easter best wishes for Easter Day to celebrate our Lord's resurrection. Rather than buying, writing, and sending cards to your friends at Worcester Cathedral, you can now send greetings to everyone through our virtual and sustainable e-aster Greeting, and at the same time support the Cathedral's work in the community.

Here's how it works:

1. **Don't spend money on cards this year** but instead make a donation to Worcester Cathedral for the **Communal e-aster Greeting**.

You can do this via <https://bit.ly/4izMdMC> or by scanning the QR code with your phone camera and click on the link. You will have the opportunity to let us know how you would like your name to appear in the list of senders, or if you would like to remain anonymous.



Please make your Communal e-aster Greeting by midnight on 1 April.

2. **On Easter Day, an e-greeting will be sent to all the Cathedral community** who receive our fortnightly e-news.

The names of all who have kindly made a donation to send the e-aster Greeting will be listed in this **e-greeting** as well as in the **Cathedral Sunday News**.

All funds raised will support the Cathedral's ongoing running costs, wherever those funds can be most effective in furthering our Vision.

## Adopt a Piece of History

Supporting the conservation and ongoing care of Worcester Cathedral can be done in a thoughtful and creative way, with adoptions starting from £25 for items such as stained-glass windows, misericords, and carvings. Adopters receive a personalised certificate and a high-resolution photograph in a presentation folder, with all funds contributing to the Cathedral's upkeep and running costs—creating a meaningful gift for someone you love, from somewhere you love. Choose your piece from the catalogue here: [www.worcestercathedral.org.uk/adophistory](http://www.worcestercathedral.org.uk/adophistory)

## 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](http://www.worcestercathedral.org.uk/support-us/perpetual-flame) or view the display near the Jesus Chapel.

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## ENVIRONMENT & SOCIAL JUSTICE

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### The Sophia Course

We are excited to announce that Worcester Cathedral will be running **The Sophia Course** (or Wisdom Course) again monthly through April to October, with one Learning Day per month (usually the third Saturday). It is a seven-month spiritual formation programme with a focus on creation-attuned spirituality, designed to engage body, soul, and spirit, and blending theological and practical teaching with hands-on activities, social time, and contemplative prayer. It is for anyone seeking to explore and grow in Christian discipleship in a world facing unprecedented environmental challenges.



THE SOPHIA COURSE  
A foundation in eco-spirituality

To learn more, see [www.worcestercathedral.org.uk/sophia-course](http://www.worcestercathedral.org.uk/sophia-course) or scan the QR code with your phone.



If you are interested in participating in the 2026 Sophia Course, get in touch with us:

The Revd Dr Robin Parry:

[robinparry@worcestercathedral.org.uk](mailto:robinparry@worcestercathedral.org.uk)

Canon Staffan Engström:

[ecogroup.staffan@worcestercathedral.org.uk](mailto:ecogroup.staffan@worcestercathedral.org.uk)

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## FAITH & SPIRITUALITY

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### Lent Group – Fresh Looks at Ancient Spirituality

This year's Lent Group will take place at on Wednesday evenings in March, 7.30 pm–9 pm in the Undercroft Learning Centre (enter from College Green).

25 March    The Litany: English Spiritual Tradition    *The Revd Dr Jamie Klair*

### Lent Poetry Group

Some will already be familiar with Janet Morley's book, *The Heart's Time: A poem a day for Lent and Easter* published by SPCK (2011). The book offers a poem and a short reflection for each day (except Sunday) between Ash Wednesday and the Saturday after Easter. Worcester Arts Collective Lent Poetry Group will meet informally on Wednesday lunchtimes, 12.30 pm–1.30 pm from now until 15 April, in 8 College Yard to chat about the poems for the previous week. All welcome.

## **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](mailto:prayer@worcestercathedral.org.uk) and request the link. The next meeting is at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 8 April; subsequent meetings will be on 8 April, 6 May, 3 June, 5 August, 2 September, 7 October, and 4 November.

## **Tewkesbury Theology Forum**

Thursday 26 March – ‘Mystery, Revelation and Imagination: the relation between theology and literature’. The Revd Prof Paul Fiddes. Tewkesbury Abbey Parish Hall at 7.30 pm; drinks and nibbles from 7pm.

## **Worcester Theological Society**

Thursday 21 May – ‘Abelard and Heloise Revisited’. The Revd Canon Glynn Richerby. St Andrew’s Methodist, Pump Street. 1.45 pm for a 2 pm start.

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## **SERVICES & EVENTS**

### **Today’s Services**

- 7.30 am Morning Prayer
- 8.00 pm Holy Communion (*Book of Common Prayer, with livestream*)
- 10.30 am Sung Eucharist
- 4.00 pm Evensong
- 6.30 pm Evening Worship (*sung by the Voluntary Choir*)

### **Wednesday 25 March**

- 5.30 pm Sung Eucharist for the Annunciation  
(*sung by the Choral Scholars; with incense*)

### **Next Sunday’s Services**

- 7.30 am Morning Prayer
- 8.00 pm Holy Communion (*Book of Common Prayer, with livestream*)
- 10.30 am Sung Eucharist
- 4.00 pm Evensong
- 6.30 pm Evening Worship (*sung by the Voluntary Choir*)

### **Holy Week Services**

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|-----------------|----------|--|
| Sunday 29 March | 10.30 am | The Liturgy of Palm Sunday   |
|                 | 6.30 pm  | Devotional Performance of<br>The Crucifixion <i>John Stainer</i><br>( <i>sung by the Voluntary Choir and Youth Choir</i> ) |
| Monday 30 March | 11.00 am | Chrism Eucharist   |
|                 | 8.00 pm  | Compline ( <i>sung by the Chamber Choir</i> )  |

Tuesday 31 March	8.00 pm	Compline ( <i>sung by the Youth Choir</i> )
Wednesday 1 April	8.00 pm	Compline ( <i>sung by lower voices</i> )
Thursday 2 April	8.00 pm	The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday ( <i>with incense</i> )
Friday 3 April	1.30 pm	The Liturgy of Good Friday
Saturday 4 April	8.00 pm	The Easter Liturgy
Sunday 5 April	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist for Easter Day
	6.30 pm	Music and Readings for Easter ( <i>sung by the Voluntary Choir</i> )

### Funerals

Monday 23 March	1.00 pm	Funeral of Chris Guy
Wednesday 25 March	11.30 am	Funeral of Olive Thompson
Thursday 26 March	10.00 am	Funeral of Barbara Plant
Monday 13 April	2.00 pm	Funeral of Ian Clargo

### Worship in the Garden and Sacred Garden

You can find out more about these services and events by visiting [www.worcestercathedral.org.uk/eco](http://www.worcestercathedral.org.uk/eco) or by contacting the Revd Dr Robin Parry on [RobinParry@worcestercathedral.org.uk](mailto:RobinParry@worcestercathedral.org.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 26 March      Fiona Hosford (harp)

### Youth Choral Course

Our first ever Youth Choral Course (for singers aged 14-21) will take place on 1 & 2 April, concluding with a free concert at 12.15 pm on Thursday 2 April. [www.worcestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/youth-choral-course](http://www.worcestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/youth-choral-course)

### Archaeology Symposium

Our annual Archaeology Symposium will take place on Saturday 28 March in the Undercroft Learning Centre. There will be two sessions *repeating the same content* at 9.30 am and 1.30 pm with an overlapping lunch in the Chapter House for all to share. [ArchaeologySymposium2026.eventbrite.co.uk](http://ArchaeologySymposium2026.eventbrite.co.uk)

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## GENERAL NOTICES

### Parking

Regular worshippers at Evensong or on Sundays may obtain the bollard code for College Green (email [parking@worcestercathedral.org.uk](mailto:parking@worcestercathedral.org.uk))—the entrance from College Green to the cloisters is open on Sunday mornings and unlocked

(though shut) for all Evensongs. Accessible parking spaces on College Yard can be booked for blue badge holders [www.worcestercathedral.org.uk/parking](http://www.worcestercathedral.org.uk/parking)

## **Safeguarding at Worcester Cathedral**

The Cathedral's Safeguarding Officer is Juliet Faulkner, whose contact email is [julietfaulkner@worcestercathedral.org.uk](mailto:julietfaulkner@worcestercathedral.org.uk) and phone numbers 07385662791 or 01905 732948. 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](http://www.worcestercathedral.org.uk/safeguarding)

## **Cathedral Newsletter**

Sign up to receive the fortnightly Worcester Cathedral News for the latest news, worship, music, events, exhibitions, blogs & more. [www.worcestercathedral.org.uk/newsletter](http://www.worcestercathedral.org.uk/newsletter)



## **Sunday News**

Notices for inclusion in the next Sunday News should be emailed by Wednesday 25 March to [sundaynews@worcestercathedral.org.uk](mailto:sundaynews@worcestercathedral.org.uk)