

**SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER 2023**  
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



# Worcester Cathedral

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## 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. Do join us for refreshments in the Chapter House after the service, provided by the Friends of Worcester Cathedral. 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](mailto:stephenedwards@worcestercathedral.org.uk)

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### COMMUNITY NOTICES

#### Crib Service

Shepherds swiftly from your stupor rise! Would-be shepherds and angels are invited to a brief meeting in St George's Chapel after this morning's service about our hugely popular Crib Services on Christmas Eve.

#### The Souls of our Shoes

To mark 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (25 November–16 December 2023) we are partnering with the diocesan Mothers' Union and Worcester Community Trust to exhibit dozens of pairs of shoes in the Lady Chapel with quotes from survivors of gender-based violence printed on the inner soles, symbolising how inner hidden souls are affected by such violence.

#### Congregational Christmas Card Exchange

It is proposed to continue the customary Congregational Christmas Card Exchange again this year. Commencing this Sunday, any cards that you have for other members of the Cathedral Family may be brought to the Chapter House at coffee time and on following Sundays cards may be brought and collected as well.

Please write the full name of the intended recipient. It should be noted that this service is not intended for relatives living elsewhere in the UK! (Yes it has happened!) Any queries or problems to Phil Hancock [filjoy@icloud.com](mailto:filjoy@icloud.com)

#### Immediate Changes to Parking on College Yard

The work on the new landscaping project for College Yard, beginning in the new year, will require a strict control of parking to allow for the construction phase and safety of all who use the north side of the Cathedral. As well as this

exciting development the next few weeks increase footfall considerably on College Yard – starting with the extremely busy Victorian Fair this week and then all our Advent and Christmas events.

As a result of this College Yard will now be unavailable for parking apart from residents and emergency vehicles – the gates will be locked. To assist with the introduction of this new system there will be two attendants at the College Yard gates this Sunday 3 December to help those arriving for services, but from then on please note there will be no vehicular access to College Yard. For those attending services our usual parking provision of code-accessed parking on College Green is available – details below in the Sunday News.

### **Friends of Worcester Cathedral**

The Friends of Worcester Cathedral would welcome new members, please consider joining. They have recently granted money to provide new Altar Frontals for St Andrew's Chapel and Prince Arthur's Chantry and for the cushions in the Quire to be refilled with fire retardant foam and steam cleaned. Do go and look at them. The more members we have the more we can do to enhance this beautiful place. Joining booklets are available on the stand by the North Porch door and in the Chapter House during coffee. Or visit online [www.friendsofworcestercathedral.org.uk](http://www.friendsofworcestercathedral.org.uk)

### **Library Fire Rescue Plan**

Have you got a burning desire to help? The Cathedral library is appealing for any spare "Bags for Life" (preferably strong ones). We would like to try and aim for a total of 300 bags we can store in the library. The Fire brigade could pack each medieval manuscript into one and send it down to the ground on a zip line in the event of a major fire. That means the bags can't be too flimsy. If you can help, even with just one or two, please leave them at the reception desk.

### **Cathedral Stewardship Scheme ('TRIO')**

The Cathedral's stewardship scheme, known as TRIO – The Responsibility Is Ours, has been running for many years and constitutes a significant part of the Cathedral's income. Giving is part of Christian stewardship and discipleship and if you'd like to find out more about the Scheme please visit the website [www.worcestercathedral.org.uk/community/the-responsibility-is-ours-trio](http://www.worcestercathedral.org.uk/community/the-responsibility-is-ours-trio)

### **Prayer and Intercessions**

Please pray for all the departed, among them Paul Simpson. 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 all those who read lessons and lead intercessions at our services.

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## **ENVIRONMENT & SOCIAL JUSTICE**

### **Christian Aid Middle East Appeal**

To make a donation to the Christian Aid appeal and find out more about how you can respond to the current crisis, visit

[www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/middle-east-crisis-appeal](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/middle-east-crisis-appeal)

### **Addressing the climate crisis: A Living Gently on the Earth event**

A debate with Worcester's parliamentary candidates: Thursday 7 December 2023, 7-9pm in The Great Hall, The Old Palace. To coincide with the United Nations COP28 climate change conference, Worcester Cathedral Eco Group has invited Worcester's prospective parliamentary candidates to discuss their parties' approaches to tackling the climate crisis. The evening will be conducted with respect for differing opinions and views.

Chair: H-J Colston-Inge, Director, Engage with China

Panel members: Mel Allcott (Liberal Democrat Party)

Marc Bayliss (Conservative Party)

Tom Collins (Labour Party)

Tor Pingree (Green Party)

The format will be a panel debate and Q&A session. Please register your attendance (free places) here

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/753166951627?aff=oddtcreator>



Questions can be submitted in advance using the QR code or this link <https://forms.gle/gSCAHJXvASrWzYKs7> or by email to [ecogroup.staffan@worcestercathedral.org.uk](mailto:ecogroup.staffan@worcestercathedral.org.uk)

### **Praying for the Holy Land**

There is a prayer station in St George's Chapel in the Cathedral where you can light a candle and follow a prayer written by the Archbishop of Jerusalem.

### **Worcester Theological Society**

Future date: 18 January 'A Good Read'.

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## **ADVENT 2023**

### **Outdoor Advent Worship: Light in the Dark.** A service for children and families

Today, Sunday, 3 December, 4.30–5.15 beginning on College Green.

The Revd Dr Robin Parry will lead a special outdoor advent service with prayer, activities, songs and fire. There are 20 places available. Please email [kimberlybohan@worcestercathedral.org.uk](mailto:kimberlybohan@worcestercathedral.org.uk) to book.

### **Advent Procession**

Today, Sunday 3 December, 6.30 pm

The Advent Procession by Candlelight (sung by the Cathedral Choir, Youth Choir and Voluntary Choir; a highlight of the season!)

### **Advent's Happy Heresies: Things we don't believe but enjoy anyway**

Mondays, 4, 11, 18 December. 7–8.30 pm in the Severn Room of the Old Palace. Each week one of the Canons will offer an Advent Carol or Seasonal Image that they love, but that they would not wish to defend theologically. We'll explore the theology, enjoy the traditions, and explore the relationship between 'proper theology' and popular tradition.

### **Advent Quiet Morning: Between Darkness & Light**

Saturday, 9 Dec 8.30–10.30 am in the Undercroft

This is an invitation to step away from the rush towards Christmas and rest in the shadows. There will be some music and speech at the start and end, but mostly silence for you to use as you wish. There will be things to look at and ponder, and prompts for prayer should you wish them. Participants may wish to bring a cushion or blanket to soften the stone floor. Some may also like to join Morning Prayer at 7.30 am, or the Eucharist at 8 am (both in the Crypt).

### 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 Evening Prayer (*said*)
- 4.30 pm Light in the Dark (*outdoor Advent service for families and children, beginning on College Green*)
- 6.30 pm The Advent Procession by Candlelight (*sung by the Cathedral Choir, Youth Choir and Voluntary Choir*)

### 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
- 4.00 pm Evensong
- 6.30 pm Evening Worship (*sung by the Voluntary Choir*)

## GENERAL NOTICES

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### Parking

Those attending the Sung Eucharist 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. Please note that parking on College Yard is no longer possible.

### Safeguarding at Worcester Cathedral

The Cathedral's Safeguarding Lead is Matthew Hall, whose contact email is: [matthewhall@worcestercathedral.org.uk](mailto:matthewhall@worcestercathedral.org.uk) The Cathedral Safeguarding Phone number is 07391 557802 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](http://www.worcestercathedral.org.uk/safeguarding)

### Sunday News

Notices for including in the Sunday News should be emailed to [stephenedwards@worcestercathedral.org.uk](mailto:stephenedwards@worcestercathedral.org.uk) preferably by the Wednesday before.



# JOIN US FOR A DELICIOUS SOUP LUNCH

With live music from *Five-for-Silver*

At St Stephen's Church, St Stephen's St.  
WR3 7HS

On Saturday 9 December, 12.30–2.00 PM

For fun and friendship and a chance to  
support Christian Aid's Christmas Appeal



**Christian Aid's Christmas Appeal 2023 shines a light on poor and marginalised women in Bangladesh. Through our fundraising, we can help these women and girls in get their chance to shine.**

**You are the Light of the world. ...Let your light shine before others. Matthew 5: 14, 16**



Contact: Margaret Mandrell—  
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