

SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2026

THE FIRST 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. New Worshippers are especially welcome, please ask a steward or a verger for a welcome booklet.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

The Revd Dr Jamie Klair – new role

Jamie Klair, priest on secondment, will be taking up a role as Associate Vicar at St Andrew's, Oxford in early summer.

Jamie writes: "I have loved totally the invitation over these months to serve and pray at this most special place. I believe God is encouraging this diverse community to breathe deeply in prayer and love in the coming year. I have so enjoyed dwelling with God and with you within the precincts, and across the city. Though parting will be bittersweet, I am delighted to take up this great opportunity in Oxford: to help a church discern what God is calling it to next for the life of the city, and to deepen its hunger for life in God."

Jamie's final Sunday will be on 26 April, and his last leading of worship at Holy Communion on Wednesday 29 April.

Flowers for Mothering Sunday

On Saturday 14 March from 2 pm we're having our usual working party in the summer house on the top lawn of the Old Palace to make posies for Mothering Sunday. Please join us if you can, bringing flowers and greenery if you're able. We can guarantee good conversation, good fun and cake. Further information from Rachael lenzi, Liz Hoskins or Diana Gant.

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

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 Lord Howard Flight, David New, and Barbara Plant. 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, our ancient foundation of almshouses.

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

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 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

Canon Staffan Engström:

ecogroup.staffan@worcestercathedral.org.uk

Refugees & Asylum Seekers – What's Going On?

There will be two Lent gatherings to come and find out about life for refugees and asylum seekers in our communities, and think about our response as Christians:

Monday 23 February	7.30 pm	Revd Peter Hart at St Martin's Church, London Road
Wednesday 4 March	2.00 pm	Revd Lindsay Coulthard at St Stephen's Church, Barbourne

FAITH & SPIRITUALITY

Lent Group – keep the date

This year's Lent Group will take place on Wednesday evenings in March and be led by the Revd Dr Jamie Klair and others. Further information to follow.

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 25 February to 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@worstercathedral.org.uk and request the link. The date of the next meeting has **changed** to 7.30 pm on **Thursday 5 March**; subsequent meetings will be on 8 April, 6 May, 3 June, and 5 August.

Worcester Theological Society

Thursday 19 March – 'Eco-Spirituality – what it is and why it matters'.
The Revd Dr Robin Parry (Minor Canon for Eco-Spirituality, Worcester Cathedral). 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 pm	Holy Communion (<i>Book of Common Prayer, with livestream</i>)
10.30 am	Sung Eucharist (<i>sung by the Hi Lo Singers</i>)
4.00 pm	Evensong (<i>sung by the Hi Lo Singers</i>)

Saturday 28 February

5.30 pm	Sung Eucharist for the Feast of St Oswald (<i>with incense</i>)
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Next Sunday's Services

7.30 am	Morning Prayer
8.00 pm	Holy Communion (<i>Book of Common Prayer, with livestream</i>)
10.30 am	Sung Eucharist
3.00 pm	Worship in the Garden
4.00 pm	Evensong
6.30 pm	Evening Worship (<i>sung by the Voluntary Choir</i>)

Forthcoming Services

Tuesday 24 February	12.00 noon	Funeral of Andrew Peter Bennett
Sunday 8 March	6.30 pm	Organ Devotion (<i>from J. S. Bach's Clavier-Übung III</i>)
Wednesday 25 March	5.30 pm	Sung Eucharist for the Annunciation (<i>sung by the Choral Scholars; with incense</i>)

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 Saints

The coming week sees the celebration of two Worcester saints:

Charles Gore (Wednesday 25 February): Born in 1835, Gore became one of the most influential of Anglican theologians. He helped reconcile the Church to some aspects of biblical criticism and scientific discovery, yet was Catholic in his interpretation of the faith and sacraments. He was also concerned to bring Catholic principles to bear on social problems. As an Oxford don and then as a Canon of Westminster, he was renowned for his preaching. In the 1890s, he was the founder, and first leader, of the Community of the Resurrection, which in later years settled at Mirfield in Yorkshire. From 1902, he was successively bishop of Worcester, Birmingham and Oxford. He died in 1932. 25 February is the anniversary of his enthronement at Worcester in 1902.

St Oswald (Saturday 28 February): 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.

Funeral of Barbara Plant

We were sad to hear of the death of Barbara Plant. Barbara and her late husband Terry worshipped in the Cathedral for more than half a century, and joined the Friends of Worcester Cathedral in April 1991. From then on, they both enhanced the welcome in the Cathedral by stewarding and guiding. Barbara was a valued member of the now disbanded Embroidery Guild, taking part in making cushions, kneelers and the panel now hanging at the crypt entrance; she also helped the vergers care for the cathedral's vestments and linen. She became Honorary Assistant Secretary to the Friends and was renowned for her perfect cucumber sandwiches produced for AGM teas. Her funeral will take place in the Cathedral on a date still to be confirmed.

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 5 March	Alexis Hutchinson (alto)
Thursday 12 March	Musicians from Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
Thursday 19 March	Peter King (organ)
Thursday 26 March	Fiona Hosford (harp)

Archaeology Symposium – keep the date

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. Tickets will be on sale shortly on the What's On listing on the Cathedral website.

GENERAL NOTICES

Parking

Regular worshippers at Evensong or on Sundays 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 unlocked (though shut) for all Evensongs. Accessible parking spaces on College Yard can be booked for blue badge holders 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 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

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



Sunday News

Notices for inclusion in the next Sunday News should be emailed by Wednesday 25 February to sundaynews@worcestercathedral.org.uk