



WORCESTER
CATHEDRAL

Preserving the Past, Securing the Future

A guide to supporting Worcester Cathedral through a gift in your Will.





Our generation
are the guardians of
Worcester Cathedral;
our legacy will be the
Cathedral we pass on
to our children and
grandchildren.

We, the Chapter and community of Worcester Cathedral, wish to secure the future of a Cathedral that is financially strong and secure. As a platform that not only preserves everything we love and hold dear, but also allows the Cathedral to thrive and move forward.

The reality – brought home in stark terms during the pandemic – is that if we fail, the Cathedral will be severely diminished as a place of worship, as a driver of community engagement, as a beacon of hope. We will be less able to meet the needs of local people. But if we succeed, we will preserve the Cathedral's work and place in our community; we will lift it to new heights.

We will maintain and restore this unique, exceptional building that has stood here for over 1,000 years. It will reach out and become more to more people than it has been before.

This is the legacy we will leave to future generations.



Gifts in Wills: providing a foundation for the future of Worcester Cathedral.

Contrary to many peoples' expectations, the Cathedral is not a wealthy organisation and nor does it have huge financial reserves. Each year, it is a challenge for us to raise the money needed to maintain and repair a building that is, in parts, over 1,000 years old – and to keep the Cathedral open, well-lit and welcoming.

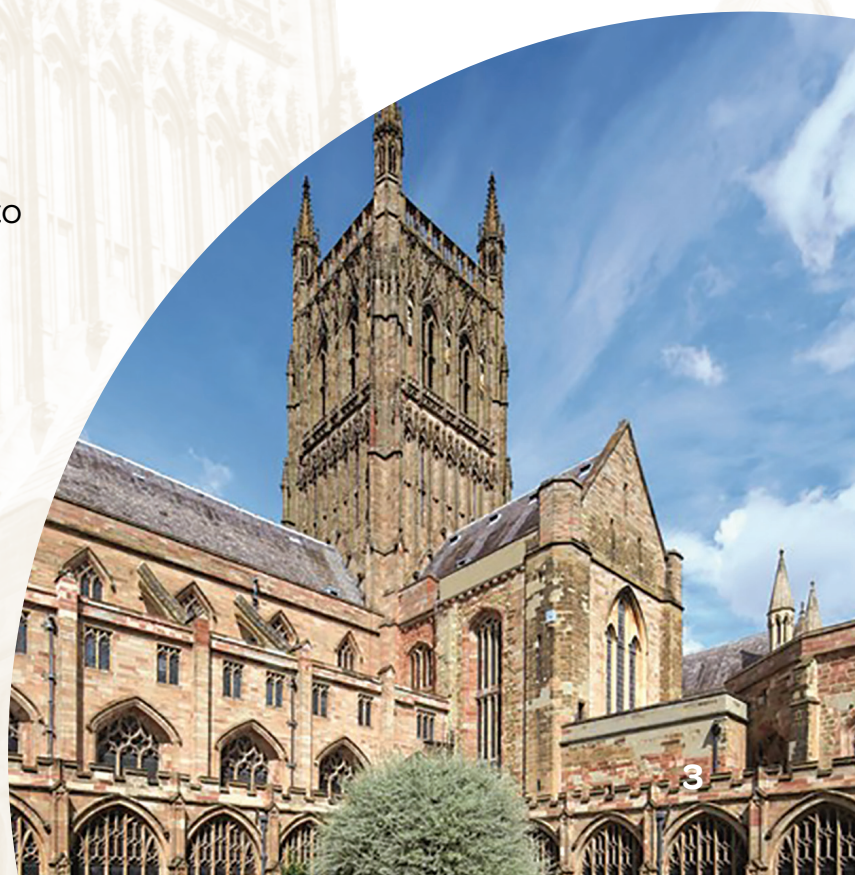
In the years before Covid, we managed to pay our way, but never without immense hard work and never without anxiety for the future. We never had sufficient reserves to fend off that anxiety, and we never had the funds to enable us to do all that we wanted to make the Cathedral more accessible and welcoming to visitors.

Our aim now must be to get beyond that vulnerable position but we face a real struggle to find the funds needed to preserve the Cathedral we all wish to have for ourselves and those we care about.

Gifts in Wills have always been a very important source of income; but in future years we expect these gifts to become the single largest source of the income needed to preserve and support the Cathedral.

A gift in a Will is a thoughtful, long-lasting gift that will help to keep the Cathedral open today – and help to secure the future of the Cathedral for years to come.

This guide explains the different types of gift you might consider leaving – and how you can ensure that your Cathedral can continue to benefit from your generosity.



“Worcester Cathedral is part of our shared history – it’s vital we protect it for generations to come.”



When we lived in Worcester we found ourselves drawn back to the Cathedral, over and over again. On each visit we’d find something new – and wonder how many of our ancestors had trod these same ancient stones over the many centuries.

We were particularly fascinated by the Cathedral Library – a hidden gem which houses a priceless collection of unique historic documents. During a visit with the Cathedral’s librarian, we were able to actually see a royal letter signed by Queen Elizabeth I – an utterly moving experience.

We chose to remember the Cathedral in our Will because we want others to know this place as we have come to, to be able to have the same revelatory experiences. Cathy in the fundraising team was so helpful in guiding us to make the decision that was right for us – and how to word our bequest to ensure our wishes were clear and specific.

It gives both of us joy and contentment to know that half of our gift will be dedicated to the preservation of the Library, the other half going towards general repair costs. We would urge all who share our love of the Cathedral to make a similar pledge.

*Brian and Nikki
Matthews*

How a Gift in your Will could support the Cathedral now – and for decades in the future.

Some of Mr S's gift could go into the 'Fabric Fund' towards the almost constant repair and maintenance this iconic 1,000-year-old building inevitably needs. Money could also be invested in the Cathedral's own team of specialist stonemasons and carpenters who keep the Cathedral in good repair.



Mr S's gift could also enable the expansion of on-line worship within the Cathedral. This gift could pay for the technical equipment needed to broadcast services to homes across Worcestershire and around the world.

Your thoughtful gift will support and enable the Cathedral in so many ways. Here is an example of how a bequest of £65,000 by "Mr S" could be invested.



The Cathedral has been the venue for moments of national and local mourning, remembrance and celebration. Some of the gift could cover the cost of a service of celebration and remembrance, when only Worcester Cathedral is the appropriate venue.



Part of the gift could be invested in the Cathedral's programme of music – and a further sum given as a contribution towards the restoration of the Transept Organ. Mr S's legacy could include securing the future of the music he loved so much.

Mr S was a volunteer in our Education Team and a passionate advocate of the Cathedral's role as an enabler of community learning and engagement. Some of his gift could fund educators and materials to deliver high quality, memorable experiences for all ages.



Having lived and worked in the Middle East for 30 years, my wife and I decided to retire to Worcester. We did not have any firm retirement plans but we were quickly drawn to the Cathedral – who could not be? – with the result that we both became volunteer vergers.

My duties as a verger mainly involve opening up the Cathedral which I have done literally hundreds of times. I usually arrive at about 6.30am and I have the Cathedral all to myself until the duty priest arrives. These times are very special to me, when I not only carry out my duties, but I also pause, reflect and say my prayers out loud.

I have seen the Cathedral in the early morning in all the seasons of the year and in all weathers.

My favourite times are the frosty mornings of winter when the sun is just rising and there is a mist hanging over the Cathedral, its grounds and the River Severn. To me it is a truly beautiful sight.

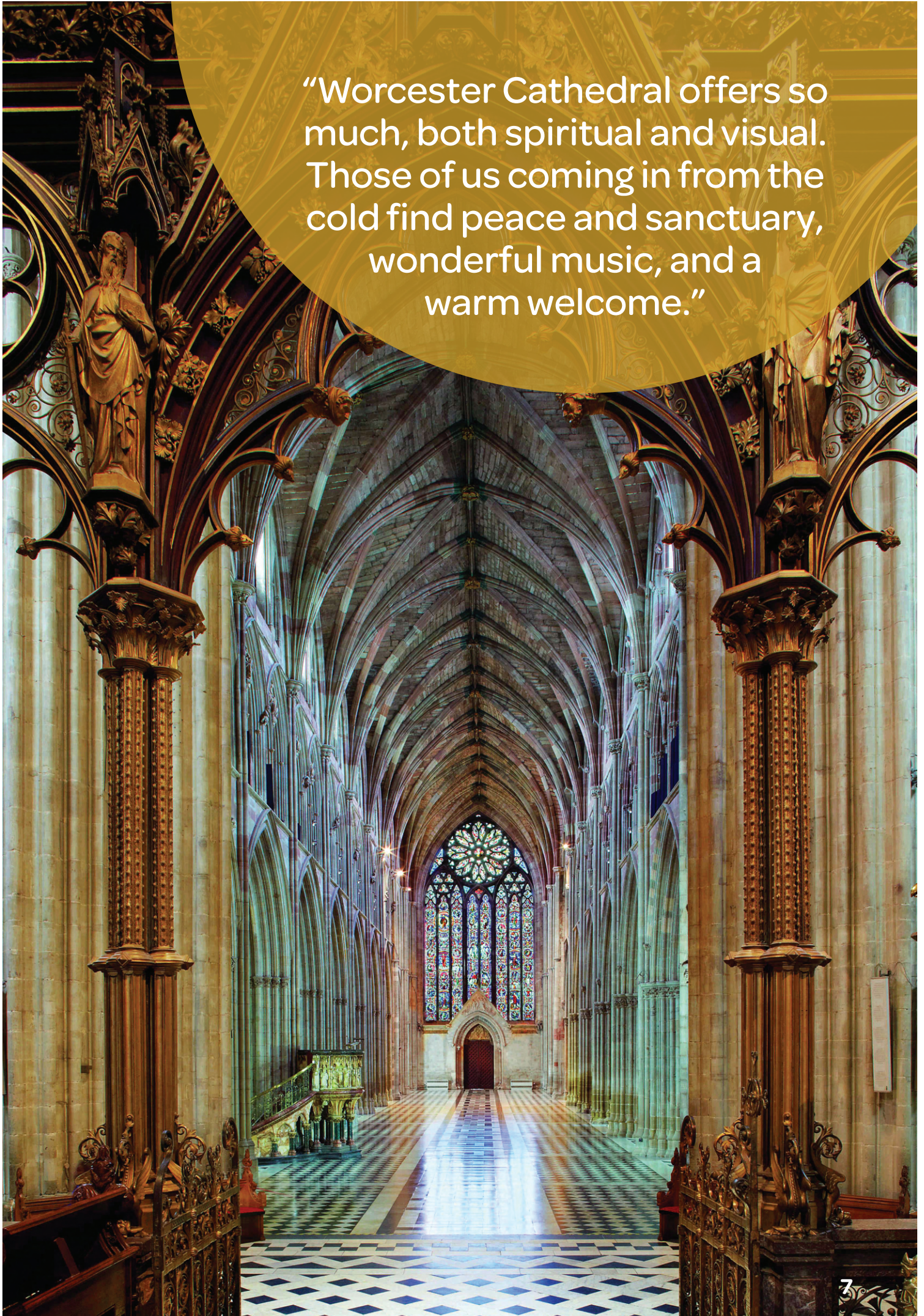
Worcester Cathedral is blessed with talented musicians and singers and, as a musician myself, I am more than pleased to make a gift to the Cathedral in my Will that will help to fund music at the Cathedral in the future.

My role at the Cathedral has been performed by many others over the centuries. A gift to the Cathedral in a Will is so very important for the future well-being of the Cathedral. I like to feel confident that in the years to come someone else will stand where I have stood and gaze in awe and wonder as, so often, I have done.

Ivor Pond

“The Cathedral means so much to me – and I know that a small percentage of my assets will make a big difference.”

“Worcester Cathedral offers so much, both spiritual and visual. Those of us coming in from the cold find peace and sanctuary, wonderful music, and a warm welcome.”



Making a Will.

To protect your wishes for those dear to you.

Writing a Will allows your loved ones to be cared for after your death. Having this important document ensures that your specific wishes will be carried out exactly as you would like – and can help to alleviate some of the distress of those dear to you at a difficult time.

Without a valid Will, your specific wishes for your family may not be met. What you leave behind becomes subject to intestacy laws and gifts may go to those you had not intended to benefit.

If you have not yet made a Will, it is strongly recommended that you do so to protect the best interests of your loved ones. It is a simple process that most solicitors will be able to guide you through. The Law Society offers a free 'Find a Solicitor' service which can be found at The Law Society's website lawsociety.org.uk – or by calling 020 7320 5650.



If you are planning to include Worcester Cathedral in your Will, the solicitors listed in the panel below will kindly provide more information on how you can do this.

**Hallmark Whatley
Hulme**

3, 4 & 5 Sansome Place
Worcester
WR1 1UQ
01905 731731

**Harrison Clark
Rickerbys**

5 Deansway
Worcester
WR1 2JG
01905 612001

mfg Solicitors LLP

20-21 The Tything
Worcester
WR1 1HD
01905 610410

**QualitySolicitors
Parkinson Wright**

Haswell House
St Nicholas Street
Worcester
WR1 1UN
01905 721600

SME Solicitors

8 Sansome Walk
Worcester
WR1 1LW
01905 723561

Thursfields Solicitors

9-10 The Tything
Worcester
WR1 1HD
01905 730450

Waldrons

City Wells House
26 Sidbury
Worcester
WR1 2HZ
01905 900900



Hello Friends,

My name is Cathy Sloan and I am the Fundraising Manager at Worcester Cathedral. Every day, I am fortunate enough to speak with interesting people from all walks of life, all with a shared love of the beautiful Cathedral.



People often ask me how they can best support the Cathedral to ensure it remains a symbol of love, hope and strength for the community. While there are many fantastic ways to show your support, leaving gifts in Wills is the most effective and valuable means to protect our wonderful historic landmark today and for the next thousand years.

Every gift in a Will we receive will be thanked and your name will be recorded in the Cathedral's Book of Wills, which will be preserved in the Cathedral Library. We are also very happy to arrange a private meeting with key, relevant Cathedral staff, should you wish to direct your gift towards a specific aspect of the Cathedral's work.


Leaving a gift in your Will is an important decision to make and one that deserves careful thought and consideration. If you would like to talk through any questions, queries or concerns you may have, I would be delighted to arrange a meeting – either in person or over the phone – whenever you feel ready to do so. **Please email me at cathysloan@worcestercathedral.org.uk or call 01905 732912.**

Or, please fill in the form at the end of this brochure and I will be in touch with you soon.

Thank you very much for taking the time to consider this important decision. We are so grateful for your support and friendship.

Cathy Sloan

Fundraising Manager, Worcester Cathedral

A group of children, mostly in school uniforms, are looking upwards with expressions of awe and interest. They are in a large, brightly lit space, likely a cathedral, with tall, narrow windows in the background. The lighting is warm and golden, suggesting sunlight streaming in. A large, semi-circular yellow graphic element is overlaid on the top right of the image, containing white text.

'Thank you Worcester Cathedral, for being a consistent place of calm support and safety for everyone.'



Different ways to support Worcester Cathedral in your Will.

There are several kinds of gifts you can leave. Each gift is special and plays a vital role in preserving the Cathedral's rich heritage for the enjoyment and benefit of all those it serves – now and for future generations.

A cash or 'pecuniary' gift

This is a fixed sum of money left to a particular person or charity.

A specific gift

This type of gift is a specific item, such as an antique or piece of jewellery.





A share of all your assets 'your estate' or 'residuary' gift

After your loved ones have been provided for and your taxes have been settled, you may wish to leave a share or the full remainder (the residue) of your estate to Worcester Cathedral. In doing so, you will ensure your loved ones are cared for as well as support the Cathedral for the future.

A letter of wishes

If you already have your Will, you might choose to write a 'letter of wishes'. This is not a legally binding document, it is a morally binding one and a guide to your executors on how you wish them to deal with your estate.

Inheritance Tax

If your estate is worth over a certain sum of money, it's likely that some of it will be paid in Inheritance Tax when you pass away. Any gift to Worcester Cathedral will be free of Inheritance Tax.

For more information, please visit the HMRC website:
[hmrc.gov.uk/inheritancetax](https://www.hmrc.gov.uk/inheritancetax)

Your local solicitor will guide you through the process.



It is strongly recommended that you use a specialist solicitor or Will-writing expert to help create or alter your Will. They will be able to offer professional advice to ensure that your estate is distributed exactly according to your wishes. They can also inform you on how to minimise the impact of Inheritance Tax on your estate.

If you do decide to leave a gift to Worcester Cathedral in your Will, you will need to provide clear and unambiguous instruction to your executors. The following is wording that is recommended you consider with your solicitor:

For a residuary legacy: I give all / a fraction / a percentage of the residue of my estate absolutely to Worcester Cathedral Dean and Chapter, Chapter Office, The Old Palace, Deansway, Worcester, WR1 2JE, to be applied by Worcester Cathedral, and I further direct that the receipt of the Chief Operating Officer or any other proper officer of Worcester Cathedral for the time being shall be sufficient discharge to my trustees.

For a pecuniary legacy:

I give to Worcester Cathedral Dean and Chapter, Chapter Office, The Old Palace, Deansway, Worcester, WR1 2JE, absolutely, the sum of (amount in figures, amount in words) to be applied by Worcester Cathedral, and I further direct that the receipt of the Chief Operating Officer or any other proper officer of Worcester Cathedral for the time being shall be sufficient discharge to my trustees.

For a specific gift: I give to Worcester Cathedral Dean and Chapter, Chapter Office, The Old Palace, Deansway, Worcester, WR1 2JE, absolutely, (write in here your specific gift) to be applied by Worcester Cathedral, and I further direct that the receipt of the Chief Operating Officer or any other proper officer of Worcester Cathedral for the time being shall be sufficient discharge to my trustees.

Worcester Cathedral is an ecclesiastically exempt charity and does not have a Registered Charity Number (RCN). Please use our charity name 'Worcester Cathedral Dean and Chapter'.

Your Will protects your wishes for those dear to you – and can help preserve Worcester Cathedral for future generations.

Please choose below all the options that apply to you and send this form back to us at: Worcester Cathedral, Chapter Office, The Old Palace, Deansway, Worcester, WR1 2JE.

I have already included the Cathedral in my Will. Letting us know this will help us to plan for our future. From time to time we invite those who have left legacies to exclusive supporter events;

If you would prefer not to be contacted, please indicate here:

I would like a member of the Cathedral Fundraising Team to contact me to discuss giving in Wills.

Please do not contact me again about leaving a gift in my Will.

First name:

Surname:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

We have updated our privacy policy and we are now operating under Legitimate Interests for mailing; you can read our privacy policy on www.worcestercathedral.co.uk or on request from the Development Team.





WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

Kindly supported by SME Solicitors



Worcester Cathedral

Chapter Office, The Old Palace, Deansway, Worcester WR1 2JE

T: 01905 732912

E: development@worcestercathedral.org.uk

www.worcestercathedral.co.uk

Images kindly provided by:
Pages 2, 5-9, 11 & 12: JDA Media
Page 4: Brian & Nikki Matthews
Page 6: Ivor Pond
Page 12-13: Colin Nash