

SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER 2024
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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 vergger for a welcome booklet.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Christmas Cards

The Congregational Christmas Cards postal service will be operating as usual this year. Starting on Sunday 8 December, enveloped cards (please ensure each envelope has a legible full name) may be dropped off at the coffee get together following the 10.30 am service. On 15 December, cards may be dropped off and collected; while on 22 December cards may only be collected.

New Vergger

We are delighted to welcome Hugh Setterfield to our verggers team this week. Hugh has been a familiar face around the cathedral since 2018, first as a Bursary Student then apprentice Stonemason. His formal admission to office will follow in the new year.

Charity Nominations

Each year the Cathedral donates a portion of its income from congregational giving to external charities. The Congregational Committee would welcome suggestions for charities we might support this way in 2025. We are especially seeking charities (or causes) that (1) might have the potential for further practical involvement beyond financial giving; (2) advance the cathedral's vision to catalyse campaigning and awareness on the environment and social justice; (3) already have a personal connection to one or more members of the cathedral community; (4) address a particularly timely or topical concern; and/or (5) where our support might be able to make a significant difference. Please send nominations, together with links to the charity's website (if applicable) and a brief indication how it might meet some of the above criteria, to robertbeattie@worcestercathedral.org.uk by Epiphany (6 January).

Calling all Angels, Innkeepers, and Holy Families...

We are currently casting for this year's Crib Services, which take place on Christmas Eve at 1 pm and 3 pm. If you would like to be involved, please contact kimberlybohan@worcestercathedral.org.uk or come to a short meeting after the 10.30 am Eucharist next Sunday (8 December).

Christmas Puddings for sale in aid of The Friends of Worcester Cathedral

As we did last year, The Friends will be selling 'Ultimate Plum Pudding' Christmas puddings in the Chapter House during coffee after the morning service. They come in three sizes: Small 120g = £5; Medium 454g = £10; Large 908g = £15. They are delicious as anyone who had them last year will tell you.

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 Phil Mullington, Mike Grundy, Neil Thackeray, Janet Shuard, Owen Barraclough, and Frank Bentley. 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 the Cathedral's Finance team and the Finance Committee.

Prayers at the Candlestand

When they are in the Cathedral, some people like to light a candle and place it on the candlestand as a form of prayer. This may be to remember someone who has died, either recently on an anniversary of their death or birthday, but it can also be to offer thanks for something good or to pray for someone who is sick or another request. After lighting the candle, some people also write their prayer request in a book that is next to the candlestand. They may just write the person's first name or give more detail. Once a week a member of the Pastoral Care Group takes a photo of the pages of prayers that have been written that week and distributes these around other members of the Pastoral Care Group who have promised to pray the prayers that have been requested. Whether you are accustomed to lighting a candle and writing a prayer request, or you would like to do so for the first time, it may be encouraging to know that your prayers will also be prayed by a member of the Pastoral Care Group.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4.6.

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

DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal

The Disasters Emergency Committee, which brings together 15 UK charities, including Christian Aid, have launched an emergency appeal to raise funds for the humanitarian response to the escalating crisis in the Middle East. As the conflict in Gaza continues, a new disaster is unfolding in Lebanon. This conflict is taking a devastating toll on the lives of innocent people, more than a million of whom have fled their homes in search of safety. To donate visit www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/dec-middle-east-humanitarian-appeal

[In]Visible Exhibition

There is an installation in the Lady Chapel by artist Stephanie Green to mark the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence 2024, offering a poignant juxtaposition—delicate fabrics moving gently, veiling the harsh and

painful words of those who have shared their stories. At a distance, the beauty of the installation captivates. Yet, as you draw closer, the weight of these hidden truths becomes inescapable.

FAITH & SPIRITUALITY

Advent Group: Slowing the Season

Wednesdays in Advent (4, 1, & 18 December), 7 pm–8.30 pm in the Undercroft (enter from College Green). Advent is a season of hope and expectation—but often we are too busy to notice. This year’s Advent Group offers a space to slow down. Each week, we will consider a story from scripture, share 30 mins of silence, then have a short conversation. The evening ends with Compline. The silence is for you to use as you wish, but there will be quiet crafts and things to do for those who wish. These evenings are for anyone who wants to explore what it means to keep Advent. No prior knowledge necessary. Email kimberlybohan@worcestercathedral.org.uk for parking access.

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 last meeting of 2024 will be on Wednesday 4 December.

Worcester Theological Society

Thursday 16 January ‘A Good Read’. 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
- 3.00 pm Worship in the Garden
- 4.00 pm Evening Prayer (*said*)
- 6.30 pm The Advent Procession by Candlelight

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*)

Advent Procession

Advent is about the coming of God and the coming of the kingdom of God. It prepares us for Christmas by setting the story of Jesus against the backcloth of time and eternity, life and death, judgement and glory. During this evening's candlelit Advent Procession the choir moves from west to east, from darkness to light. It is a highlight of the cathedral's year—if you've not been before, why not this year?

Worship in the Garden and Sacred Garden

You can find out more about these services and events by visiting www.worcestercathedral.org.uk/community/environment-social-action/eco-cathedral or by contacting the Revd Dr Robin Parry on revdrobin@gmail.com

Christmas at the Palace

A 3 course traditional Christmas Dinner will be served at the Old Palace on several evenings between 5 and 13 December. For further information, or to book: www.worcestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/christmas-at-the-palace

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