



ELY CATHEDRAL

27/11/2020

Dear Members of the Cathedral Community,

A FINAL WEEK OF LOCKDOWN



The spelling mistake, if perhaps deliberately done, amused me and, although we are still some way off dispensing with such dispensers, we are at least now within a week of the end of the second national lockdown. We have come to appreciate the value of the social, spiritual and creative interactions that enhance normal life. The announcement today that Ely is in Tier Two means that public worship at the Cathedral can recommence from 2 December and that the Almonry and the Cathedral Shops can reopen. The season of Advent begins on Sunday and brings with it a rich language of hope and forward looking. I think we are all ready for that.

CATHEDRAL SERVICES

This Sunday is Advent Sunday. The 10.30pm Eucharist and 4.30pm Advent Procession will be livestreamed on *YouTube* (links on page 3). The Government regulations enable us from next Wednesday to recommence the 12.10pm Holy Communion services on Thursdays (held in the Presbytery) and, from Sunday 6 December, the 8.15am celebration of Holy Communion using the traditional language of the Book of Common Prayer. Morning Prayer (7.30am) and Holy Communion (8.00am) will reopen to the public from Wednesday 2 December, as will Weekday Choral Evensong (5.30pm). This service, along with the Sunday services will continue to be livestreamed for those who need to worship at home at this time. Great, thanks. We are delighted that we will be able to worship together again in the Cathedral. Booking will be required for Sunday services and will be available from Tuesday. We are delighted that from Wednesday 2 December we will be able to worship together again in the Cathedral. There is no need to book for weekday services, however, in order to facilitate social distancing you will need to book for Sunday services. From Sunday 6 December please book a place on the website (www.elycathedral.org/public-worship) or, if you have no web access, on 01353 667735. As before you will be reserving a pair of seats (1 ticket = 2 seats) for yourself and another member of your household/bubble if required, 2 tickets for 3 or 4 people and so on. A booking is required at all services (8.15am, 10.30am and 4pm). All sung worship will continue to be available to watch via Livestream on the website and on *YouTube* including week day evensongs and Sundays services.

THE CATHEDRAL SHOPS, ALMONRY & STAINED GLASS MUSEUM

The end of lockdown signals the reopening of the Cathedral and High Street Shops (open daily), the Stained Glass Museum (Tuesday to Saturday) and the Almonry Restaurant (Tuesday to Sunday). The Almonry Christmas Menu will be running from 8-19 December and you can view the menu on the Almonry pages on the Cathedral website: <https://www.elycathedral.org/visit/the-almonry-restaurant>.



VISITING THE CATHEDRAL

If you are planning on coming into the Cathedral in December, or bringing visitors to see the tree who require a ticket, you will need to book all visitor tickets online, in advance. If you have a Cathedral Pass, this will not be necessary, but you will be required to give your contact details on arrival, in line with government legislation. Visit <https://www.elycathedral.org/> (or call 01353 667735).

ADVENT ONLINE



If you are looking for a virtual Advent Calendar, *Advent Online* offers daily reflections, music videos, and scriptural content submitted by Christians from around the world. “Advent Online hopes to offer something ... that will reflect the beauty, the universality, and the hopefulness that the Christian faith has to offer the entire world, by drawing them closer to the birth of Christ, and close to the message of Emmanuel; that God is with us.” <https://adventonline.faith>

CHRISTMAS AT ELY

The Christmas Tree was delivered to the Cathedral this morning! Full details of *Christmas@Ely* will be published online at the beginning of December and circulated with next week’s newsletter. So as to remain within our permitted maximum capacity, it will be necessary to book ahead online or by phone to attend these principal services and events and, so that we can enable as many individuals to be with us, we ask that between 23-25 December everyone attends a single Carol Service only and one Eucharist, please. Please note: booking for these services goes live in mid-December.

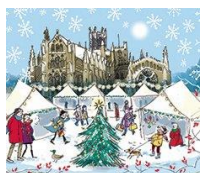


THE CATHEDRAL’S CHRISTMAS CHARITIES

This year we shall be raising funds for:

- **The Children’s Society** (a national charity) – to support their work with children in danger or difficulty in the UK and to help compensate for the lack of income from cancelled Christingle services.
- **The Fenland Women’s Refuge** (a local charity) – in response to the sadly increased need as a result of increased domestic abuse during lockdown and in line with the sixteen days of activism promoted by the Mothers’ Union.
- **Zanzibar Cathedral** (an overseas charity) – to assist in straitened times and to help maintain our established mission link.

THE CHRISTMAS GIFT AND FOOD FAIR



The fair remains open right up to 20 December and local businesses would greatly value your support: <https://www.elycathedral.org/events/virtual-christmas-gift-food-fair>. The Friends’ Christmas cards are available here: www.elycathedral.org/friends. Amazon shoppers can register for *Amazon Smile* and support the Cathedral with every purchase: <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/264803-0>.

ZOOM AT NOON

The next Zoom at Noon “coffee meeting” will be on Sunday 13 December. All are welcome to join us. The details and link are here: Meeting ID: 841 3565 3706 Passcode: 556665 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84135653706?pwd=UFIUNTBrTmtjY2hWR2F3bWxkWUdlcz09>

DAILY HOPE



A reminder that the Church of England’s *Daily Hope* service of hymns, reflections and prayers is available every day and all night on freephone 0800 804 8044. This could be ideal for those who don’t have internet access but is, of course, available to all.

STELLA BALAAM RIP

Stella Balaam’s funeral service will be at 12noon on Tuesday 8 December. Although we are still required to limit the number of those attending to thirty, we shall be livestreaming the service to an unlisted section of *YouTube* (i.e. it will not appear listed on the public Cathedral *YouTube* page). The link to find the video is here: <https://youtu.be/tfLfqoVtbhw>.

REPAIR THE HEDGE

Members of Café Church, having planted a Bee Friendly border, are mobilising to plant fifty new bare rooted whips, half hawthorn and half a mixture of other native hedging plants, to fill in the gaps in the hedge around the Dean's meadow. Anyone wishing to chip in £10 towards the £100 cost is invited to put cash or a cheque in a marked-up envelope and hand it to a verger over the coming week. Any surplus will be donated to the Cathedral's Christmas Charities.

JOIN THE CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY ROLL

Those who make the Cathedral their main place of worship are invited to become member of the Cathedral Community Roll. It costs nothing. For an application form, please see here: <https://www.elycathedral.org/who-we-are/useful-documents>. If you'd prefer a hard copy, please contact Emma Jones, Mission & Learning Assistant on e.jones@elycathedral.org or call her via the Chapter Office on 01353 667735.

SIXTEEN DAYS OF ACTIVISM

The Mothers' Union engagement with the *Sixteen Days of Activism* continues through into December so look out for their display when the Cathedral reopens at the end of lockdown. Further details are here: <https://www.mothersunion.org/projects/16-days-activism-against-gender-based-violence>.



FAITH ENGAGEMENT REVIEW

This is a reminder to submit your views in the *Independent Faith Engagement Review Call for Evidence*. The deadline is 11 December. <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/independent-faith-engagement-review-call-for-evidence>.

LIVESTREAMED WORSHIP

Advent Sunday:

- 10.30pm Eucharist (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWkGi9drlyY>)
- 4.30pm Advent Procession (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=biVeNN8DM9I>)

Weekday Choral Evensongs will continue to be livestreamed to *YouTube* at 5.30pm. Morning Prayer at 8.00am can be accessed on *Zoom* as well as Evening Prayer at 5.00pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Here are the details:

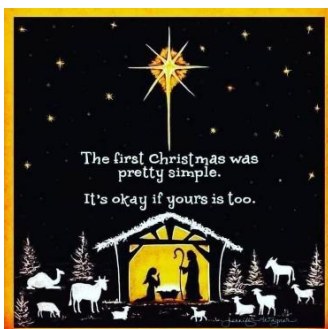
Zoom for Morning Prayer at 8.00am: Meeting ID: 729 302 849; Passcode: 827697

Zoom for Evening Prayer at 5.00pm (M, W, F, S): Meeting ID: 819 0657 0977; Passcode: 065383

Cathedral *YouTube* Channel: https://www.YouTube.com/channel/UCxdMTrNgBuMRq_lzwm0nbiQ

Orders of Service (Saturday / Sunday): <https://www.elycathedral.org/public-worship/orders-of-service>

A WORD FROM THE ARCHBISHOP



*If we want to see things changed, it starts with prayer.
It starts with a new spirit of prayer, using all the traditions, ancient and modern.
When it comes, it will be linked to what has gone before, but it will look different – because it is a new renewal for new times.
God's created community is perfectly designed for its time and place.
It almost always comes from below.
It comes 'from Christians seeking Christ.'*

Archbishop Justin Welby

Stay safe and God bless,



The Revd Canon James Reveley
Residentiary Canon for Congregation and Community