



# ELY CATHEDRAL

5/11/2020

Dear Members of the Cathedral Community Roll,

As we enter a second national lockdown, I wanted to write to bring you up to date with what is happening in the cathedral and what we are offering in terms of help and resources during this time.

## THE NATIONAL CHURCH

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York wrote a letter to the nation yesterday in which they said, “These are deeply challenging and difficult times for us all. When we are surrounded by fear and suffering, it can be hard to feel hopeful. This coming winter feels like it will be longer and darker than usual. There is a story in the Bible where Jesus and his disciples are caught in a storm. The disciples are understandably terrified as the wind and waves threaten to overpower them. ‘Why are you so afraid?’, Jesus asks. This year, we too have been caught in a storm which often feels overwhelming. And yet we can look to Jesus, in the boat with us, who calms the storm and comforts us in our fear.”



We are encouraged to be as calm, courageous and compassionate as we can in the coming days. In addition, as part of a national programme, *#PrayerfortheNation*, we are all invited to pause and pray at 6.00pm for those impacted by the pandemic. Church bells will be rung across the UK (we are ringing ours a little before 6.00pm), and a seven-day prayer cycle has been produced to guide us through the next four weeks. I have attached the booklet to this email. Further details, the text of the Archbishops’ letter, and many other resources are all on the CofE website: <https://www.churchofengland.org/>

## PRIVATE PRAYER

The Cathedral is open for private prayer from noon to 3.00pm on Monday to Saturday, and from noon to 2.00pm on Sundays. Come with your own meditative reading, pick up a prayer sheet to guide your devotions, or simply enjoy some peace and quiet in the ambiance of the magnificent building.

## LIVESTREAMED WORSHIP

At the time of writing, we are working on the assumption that public worship will continue to be suspended during lockdown. However, the Remembrance Sunday services at 10.30am and 4.00pm will be live on YouTube, and you can join us virtually on weekdays as follows next week:

- Morning Prayer from the Cathedral (Monday to Saturday) at 8.00am on Zoom
- Evening Prayer (Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday) at 5.00pm on Zoom
- Evensong from the Cathedral (Weekdays except 11/11/20) at 5.30pm on YouTube

Please contact me if you need help in downloading Zoom or accessing YouTube. To follow Morning and Evening Prayer on Zoom, you may wish to download the CofE *Daily Prayer* App from your app store. This provides the entire text of each service along with Night Prayer, which you might like to say privately before retiring. Login details are at the end of this newsletter.

## MEDITATIONS

Canon Jessica is planning to present a weekly meditation during this time of lockdown. These will be available on Facebook and in hard copy, beginning next week.

## PASTORAL SUPPORT

I am very pleased to report that a team is being drawn together to contact everyone on the Cathedral Community Roll over the next couple of weeks with a telephone call to see how each of you are feeling and whether we can offer any practical help. This *Pastoral Link Scheme* should help us support one another during these difficult days. In the meantime, if you are in need, please contact us on 01353 667735 or by emailing [support@elycathedral.org](mailto:support@elycathedral.org)

## YOUTH NEWS

In addition to planting hundreds of bulbs in the Almonry Garden, members of the Cathedral's Café Church youth group recently dug in a selection of bulbs and bee-friendly plants – lavender, rosemary, etc. - to a bed in Oyster Lane. The picture shows them before they got really quite muddy.



## THE CHRISTMAS GIFT AND FOOD FAIR

This year's Ely Cathedral Christmas Gift & Food Fair will be online from 15 November to 20 December. Instead of attending in person in the Cathedral, a simple-to-use website will enable you to browse over 200 of our most favourite festive exhibitors from the comfort of your own home. Please see the Cathedral Website for more details. (The Almonry restaurant, High Street shop and Cathedral shop have temporarily closed for the duration of the national lockdown.)

## CHRISTMAS CARDS FROM THE FRIENDS

Four designs of Christmas card are available from the Friends, one of which is new for 2020. They can be viewed on the Friends page of the Cathedral Website where an order form can be downloaded. See: [www.elycathedral.org/friends](http://www.elycathedral.org/friends). The cards can be collected from the Chapter House,



or delivered, or posted at the special rate of £2 p&p for any order as most appropriate. Sales are not restricted to Friends and all money raised goes to the Cathedral. There are also a few wooden perpetual Advent Calendars (pictured left) made by Ed Gifford. These are not available to post but can be collected or delivered. They are £12 each. Please email [sue.hunting@elycathedral.org](mailto:sue.hunting@elycathedral.org).

## ZOOM AND YOUTUBE DETAILS:

Zoom for Morning Prayer at 8.00am from Saturday 14 November

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/729302849?pwd=NkhxTmZBVDh3TFICU0crRStjb0d4dz09>
- Meeting ID: 729 302 849; Passcode: 827697

Zoom for Evening Prayer at 5.00pm on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81906570977?pwd=ZTJ2QnNhYkVHNFP5eTJmV2hIUm5XQT09>
- Meeting ID: 819 0657 0977; Passcode: 065383

The Cathedral YouTube Channel:

- [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxdMTrNgBuMRq\\_Izwm0nbiQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxdMTrNgBuMRq_Izwm0nbiQ)

Stay safe and God bless,

The Revd Canon James Reveley  
Residentiary Canon for Congregation and Community