



ELY
CATHEDRAL

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OCTAGON

MAGAZINE

**2020 YEAR OF CATHEDRALS
YEAR OF PILGRIMAGE**

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ON TOUR**

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Issue 11 - Spring 2020

Welcome from The Dean



Welcome to this edition of the Octagon Magazine which covers the events of the most important time of the Christian Year - Lent, Holy Week and Eastertide. Each year we go through the same cycle, and you can find the details of what is happening elsewhere. The important thing is that we do so prayerfully and hopefully so that we enter ever more deeply into deep truths that underpin the Christian faith.

Those deep truths centre on living and dying, things that happen to all of us which we cannot avoid - though many of us try. In the gospels Jesus reminds us that in order to live we have to die. At the heart of the Christian story is an unselfish giving in love that finds that death is not the end.

Christianity isn't, at its heart, about being good, though that is an offshoot; at its heart it is about the sacrificial love that overcomes everything. The Resurrection isn't the easiest thing to appreciate, but as St Paul says, 'If Christ is not risen our preaching is in vain.' It takes many repetitions of the Holy Week and Easter cycle to begin to grasp this - and I invite you to join us to enter more fully into the heart of the Christian faith.

The Very Reverend
Mark Bonney,
Dean of Ely

Regular Service Times

- Sundays:
- 8.15am: Holy Communion
 - 10.30am: Sung Eucharist
 - 4pm: Evensong
- Daily Services:
- 7.30am: Morning Prayer
 - 8am: Holy Communion
 - 12.10pm: Holy Communion (Thursdays and Saints' Days)
 - 5.30pm: Evensong



2020
Year of Cathedrals
Year of Pilgrimage

This is a national project led by the Association of English Cathedrals in association with the British Pilgrimage Trust. During the year there will be a pilgrimage route to every single

Church of England Cathedral. These Pilgrimages will take in other places of faith and lesser known pilgrim ways and be used to highlight the importance of spiritual, mental and physical well-being. Ely Cathedral will be acknowledging 2020 Year of Cathedrals by being part of a special Pilgrimage from St Benet's Abbey to The Abbey of St Edmund in Bury St Edmunds from 18 - 22 May 2020. Further information can be found on the Cathedral website.

2020 also brings together a remarkable number of individual English Cathedral anniversaries and initiatives that help tell Britain's story - past and present - and offer a creative and positive way to look to the future of these magnificent buildings and all that they stand for. Many of our Cathedrals are already planning major celebrations - from Canterbury, with its Becket anniversary, to Coventry with the anniversary of the bombing of its old Cathedral. All 42 Cathedrals will be hosting special events as well as participating in 'Cathedrals At Night' events - Ely's will take place on 5 June. Further details are available via the Cathedral website.

John Talbot

It is with sadness that we acknowledge the recent death of John Talbot, a former member of the Cathedral staff and the very first manager of the newly acquired Cathedral Centre. When John was appointed



in 2000 his brief was to set up a community meeting-place and conference facility with the express purpose of supporting the education facility at Ely Cathedral. At the age of 70, John approached this challenge with the enthusiasm and commitment that was his hallmark. Within a few months, the empty building had been transformed into a vibrant meeting-place and an educational resource for visiting schools. John's unflinching courtesy and generous spirit established the Centre as a place of welcome and care for everyone within the Cathedral community and beyond.

Jan Munt, former Director of Education

Octagon Magazine

Copies are available in the Cathedral, Cathedral Gift Shops, Refectory Café and Almonry Restaurant. Electronic copies can be viewed at www.elycathedral.org. Comments or suggestions for Octagon are welcome. Please direct them to: news@elycathedral.org
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New members of staff

I am very pleased to report the arrival of two new members of the Cathedral's Senior Management Team.

Hannah Wilcox has joined us as **Director of Fundraising**, a role that has been vacant for the past year. Hannah is from Cambridgeshire, though she went away to the University of Brighton for her BA degree. Until 2012, she was a teacher, but more recently worked for The Animal Health Trust near Newmarket where she gained widespread experience in fundraising at home and abroad. The Cathedral has a lengthy list of potential projects that will require funding over the next decade, so she should be kept busy!



Philippa (Phil) Stevens is another local resident, who has come to the Cathedral as its new **Director of Learning**. She earned her BA degree in Religious Studies from King's College, London, followed by a PGCE in Religious Education from Homerton College. She went on to specialise in teaching these subjects at GCSE and A Level, becoming a Head of Department. Phil has also been an Assistant Principal at Downham Market Academy School - valuable experience as she leads our Learning team in developing its offering for the many hard-pressed schools in the Diocese of Ely.



We are delighted that both Hannah and Phil have chosen to remain in this area and to join the Cathedral team.

Stephen Bourne

10th Anniversary of the Community Christmas Lunch

The 10th Anniversary of the Ely Cathedral Community Christmas Day Lunch was a great success and we would like to thank all of those involved. The Christmas lunch has come a long way since Canon Alan Hargraves and a member of the Congregation, Gretchen Floyd, started looking into creating a community lunch for those in need and those who would be spending Christmas on their own. The first one provided lunch for around 50 people and was kindly sponsored by Tesco in Ely.

Over the years Tesco have continued to work with us and support this amazing and much needed event. We have also forged partnerships with Ely Foodbank, our local MP Lucy Frazer and with other supermarkets and catering suppliers.

The 10th anniversary lunch welcomed 160 people and was supported by over 60 volunteers many of who gave up their Christmas Day to come and help cook, serve, clear and clean. As always, Father Christmas dropped off presents, seasonal entertainment was provided by a magician and the Cathedral Clergy Choir sang Christmas Carols.

We would particularly like to thank all those who donated to the 'Make Someone's Christmas' Appeal. It was humbling to see how many people were happy to donate to ensure we could continue to provide a special Christmas lunch for those in need. Any excess funds will be used to continue this type of work within our community. We would also like to acknowledge the generosity of Ely Business Travel, who picked up and dropped off anyone who needed to get to the Cathedral, and Ely Fire Service who kindly lent a hand to move the food from the Almonry Restaurant kitchens, where the food was prepared, to the Lady Chapel inside the Cathedral.

It is a huge amount of work but most will agree it is one of the most joyous and satisfying occasions for all concerned.

Canon Johnson's Installation at York Minster



A very good crowd from Ely made the trek to northern climes on 11 January to see Vicky installed as the new Precentor of York Minister.

Earlier in the day she had been to Bishopthorpe Palace to be licensed by the Archbishop of York. Before Evensong, some of us attended a ceremony in the Chapter House where she took her seat amongst the Canons and then, in a beautiful service of Evensong sung by the Minster Choir, she was installed in her Precentorial seat and sang the versicles for the second part of Evensong. Vicky looked happy and excited to be in York and we wish her every blessing in her new ministry.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP

Choirs of Ely Cathedral on Tour

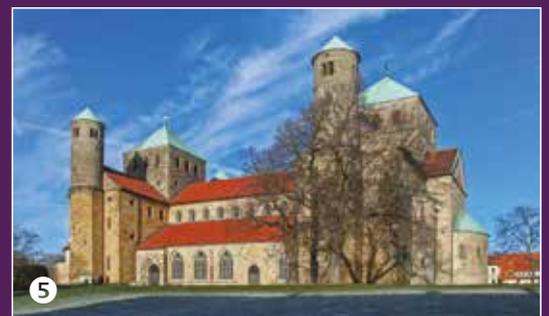
Where the choirs of Ely Cathedral and foreign tours are concerned, the well-worn adage about buses springs to mind: after a long gap, three are about to arrive almost simultaneously this Spring!

Both the boy and girl choristers have toured before, and the first trip abroad takes the **Boy Choristers and Lower Voices** back to France, last visited in 2014. They are undertaking a mini-tour to Paris on 7 and 8 March, and will participate in a concert and two services during their time in the French capital. The concert is at one of the city's most famous landmarks, the Eglise de la Madeleine, ❶❷ which gained unlikely international prominence in 2017 as the venue for the funeral of French rock star, Johnny Halliday. The choir also sings Sunday Eucharist at the American Cathedral, an Anglican foundation housed in a fine 19th century building by George Edmund Street, and a Sunday evening mass at the Roman Catholic Church of Notre Dame d'Auteuil, which boasts one of the finest organs in Paris. There'll be time for relaxation too, with a boat trip on the Seine and a tour of one of France's premier sporting venues, the Parc des Princes football stadium.

Next to embark are the **Girl Choristers**, who tour just after Easter for the first time since 2012. Their destination is Amsterdam, where they will be performing at venues including the English Reformed Church (on 15 April). This fascinating building in the historic Begijnhof has housed an English-speaking protestant community since 1607. The choir also sings at the Nikolaasbasiliek ❸ (16 April), the major Catholic church in Amsterdam and a thriving centre of choral music. Audiences at both venues will enjoy a concert programme designed around the liturgical year. Like the boys, in their free time the girls will sample the delights of Amsterdam's canals on a boat trip, and experience the fascinating Anne Frank House.

While European trips are nothing new for our choristers and Lay Clerks, a visit to Germany in early May is a first for **ECOS**, the Cathedral's adult voluntary choir. They will be singing in the beautiful Romanesque church of St Michael in Hildesheim, Lower Saxony ❹❺. Saturday 2 May sees a concert centred around the much-admired English tradition of Choral Evensong, with organ meditations interspersed between settings of the evening canticles, psalmody and anthems. The high point of the visit will be on the Sunday as they join forces with the Church's adult choir, who celebrate their 150th anniversary in 2020. Bach's Cantata no. 29, *Wir danken dir, Gott* will be the centre-piece of the music for a Lutheran Eucharist sung by both choirs. The Hildesheim church has a special link to Ely Cathedral which brought this tour about: its fine thirteenth-century painted ceiling is thought to have provided the inspiration for Ely's Victorian Nave artwork.

All three groups of singers are looking forward to their visits abroad and the opportunity to contribute in this way to the Cathedral's wider mission. There is widespread admiration and respect for the English Choral Tradition throughout continental Europe, and the Cathedral's Choirs will be lively ambassadors for it in the coming months.

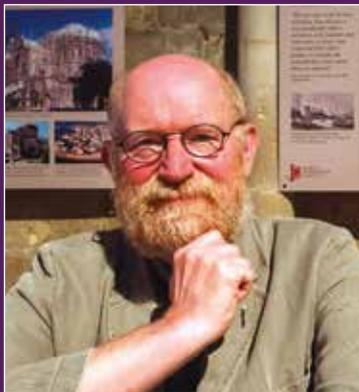
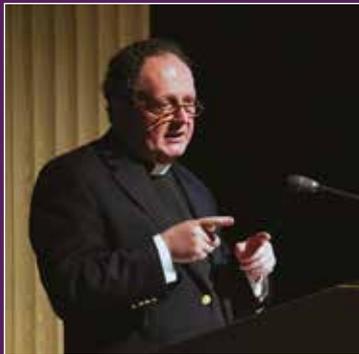


MUSIC AND WORSHIP

Lent, Holy Week and Easter

Lent and Easter are seasons which turn our usual human expectations upside-down. Rather than thinking of our lives as starting with birth and ending with death, Lent and Easter go the other way round! Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, is the day for remembering that we are mortal, and the 'ashing' we experience is a reminder of that fact. But Easter, the season of new life and resurrection, is a time for rebirth, the traditional time for baptism, which Jesus called 'being born from above'.

So our Lent to Easter programme this year is called 'From Death to Life', and explores this topsy-turvy way of seeing our existence in God's life-giving perspective. We will look at what it means to be human and mortal through a series of lectures, 'The Deep Waters of Death'. James Woodward, Principal of Sarum College and author of several pastoral reflections on aging, will talk about 'living with mortality', and our very own Alan Hargrave will offer his reflections on living with unexpected tragedy, while Hannah Cleugh will help us think about the 'art of dying'. Meanwhile our 'Music and Meditation' sessions on Tuesday lunchtimes, where short meditations are offered on pieces of organ music, will have the theme of 'mortality and immortality'. The Sunday sermons will support the work of the confirmation group in exploring the story of salvation which leads all God's children from death to life. Other events during this season will include Mark Oakley, Dean of St John's College, Cambridge, lecturing on 'Missing God' for the Christian Evidence Society and Fiona Lucreft's study day exploring Christ's Passion through the Western



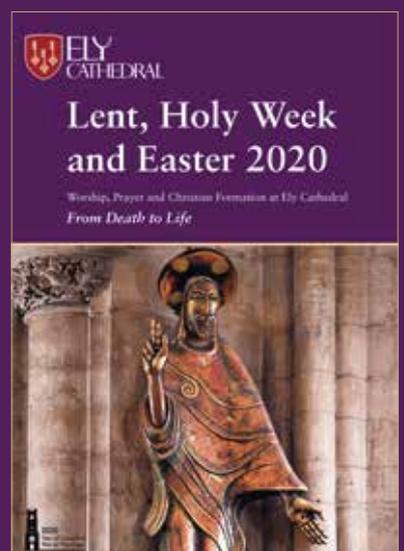
art of the 14th to the 20th centuries. And don't miss the Organ Recitals offered on Sunday afternoons in Lent by our organists!

There will also be events and services for children and families, from the 'Story and Song Time' for the season on 26 March, through the activities for children on the morning of Good Friday, to the fun of the Easter egg hunt after the morning service (with activities for children during church) on Easter Sunday!

Our Holy Week preacher this year is the Right Revd Tim Stevens, former Bishop of Leicester and Acting Principal of Westcott House, one of the residential theological colleges in Cambridge. He will lead us through the events of Christ's Passion, supported by the powerful liturgy and music of Holy Week, including the performance of James MacMillan's Seven Last Words from the Cross on Holy Wednesday.

Maundy Thursday will see the solemn eucharist which commemorates our Lord giving us the Sacrament, and the washing of feet which reminds us that our call is to serve, not to be served. At the end of the service the altar will be stripped, preparing us for the bare sorrowfulness of the Good Friday services - the Walk of Witness which all the Churches in Ely participate in, the Preaching of the Cross by Bishop Tim, the Veneration of the Cross and the musical narration of the crucifixion which becomes the focus of our devotion.

On Easter Eve we turn from mourning to the new life of Resurrection in the Easter Vigil with Baptism and Confirmation, which traces the movement from death to life, darkness to light and joy, for the whole people of God. Celebrations continue on Easter Day, rejoicing in the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead with a marvellous Orchestral Eucharist and Festal Evensong.



Pick up the 'Lent, Holy Week and Easter' programme for a full account of everything that is going on, or download it from the website.

EVENTS / CONCERTS

BERT, HIS DOG, OUR GOD AN ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

19 March - 16 April | Ely Cathedral Lady Chapel



Bert, His Dog, Our God is a series of thought provoking paintings which feature a man (Bert) and his dog (the commentator) telling the story of the life of Christ - from The Nativity to The Ascension. All 51 paintings have a relevant

poem and together they create a personal and imaginative view of The New Testament.

Gary Bunt is recognised as one of the U.K.'s most popular contemporary figurative artists. His paintings are held in collections in the UK, Europe, USA, Hong Kong and Australia. He is represented by Portland Gallery, London.

An app of the exhibition together with a video by the artist will be available to download. A hardback book will accompany the exhibition. The exhibition is supported by the Farmington Institute.

Entry included with Cathedral admission.

HEAVEN & EARTH 'THE WORLD IN OUR HANDS'

16 May - 15 June



Luke Jerram's spectacular installation 'Gaia', a 7-metre replica of planet Earth, will be on display at Ely Cathedral. Suspended from high above, this globally acclaimed work of art will be the focal point of a dedicated exhibition to highlight some of the very real issues affecting our world and the impact we have on it. There will also be a series of talks and events on environmental issues and climate change. The installation of Gaia is kindly sponsored by The Friends of Ely Cathedral. Other contributors include: AMY CESP, The V&A, Cambridge University British Antarctic Survey, Welney Wetlands Centre and The Wildlife Trust. Further information at www.elycathedral.org.

AD ORIENTEM AN ELY LITURGY

Monday 22 June | 6.30pm



Ely Cathedral has commissioned a leading young British composer, James Olsen, to write a major new work to be premiered at Ely. The new work entitled '*Ad orientem: An Ely Liturgy*' is written for choristers, organ, orchestral musicians from the Britten Sinfonia and over 250 Cambridgeshire school children.

It tells the story of the original Anglo-Saxon monastery at Ely, founded by Saint Etheldreda in 673, and subsequently destroyed by the Vikings in 870. The piece will combine theatre with music to create a unique site-specific work for Ely Cathedral, by making use of different parts of the building during the performance. *Ad orientem* will also include a series of short *Meditations by a Larval Eel*, written especially for the work and read in the performance by the distinguished local writer Francis Spufford.

'THROUGH MUSIC WE CARE' THE CENTRAL BAND OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

Saturday 18 July | 7.30pm



A rare and unique opportunity to hear the world-renowned Central Band Of The Royal Air Force in concert to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

The concert will also feature the vibrant London Show Choir along with Organist James Banville and hosted by Alan Dediccoat (the voice of *Strictly Come Dancing* and the National Lottery) **Tickets £35, £25, £15**

RETROSPECTIVE

Crowns & Gowns Exhibition *continues until 15 March*

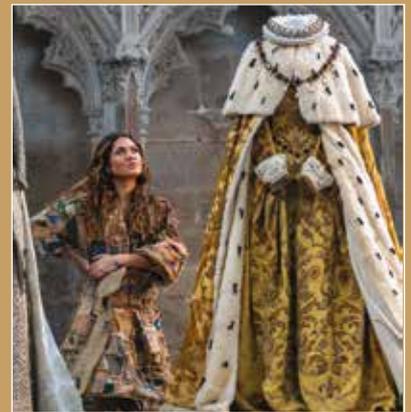
The Spring exhibition at Ely Cathedral has welcomed several thousand visitors and attracted much interest from the press and media. The event has run since the beginning of February and has been one of our most eye-catching and exciting to date.

Crowns and Gowns has showcased original dresses and outfits from some of the most high profile films shot inside Ely's beautiful medieval Cathedral, namely *The Other Boleyn Girl*, *The King's Speech*, *Macbeth*, *Elizabeth: The Golden Age* and *The Crown*. These productions brought a constellation of Hollywood stars to Ely Cathedral, including Cate Blanchett, Geoffrey Rush, Scarlett Johansson, Natalie Portman, Michael Fassbender and Colin Firth. In addition to the costumes, the exhibition includes a few pieces of fascinating movie memorabilia such as original film scripts, daily call sheets and on-set photographs.

Crowns and Gowns features several costumes from the very first film to use Ely as a location back in 2006, *Elizabeth: The Golden Age*. Three of the dresses on display were worn by the actress Cate Blanchett who starred in both Elizabeth films. Due to the complexity of the outfits and the number of garments involved, the mannequins were dressed by a specialist costumier who had the knowledge and expertise to ensure each costume accurately reflected the period of that time.

Another highlight of the exhibition is a replica of HM The Queen's Coronation robe. The dress on display was originally made for a special exhibition at Harrods to mark the Queen's Jubilee and was subsequently worn by the actress, Claire Foy, for the TV production of *The Crown*. The dress has attracted much attention due to the exquisite detail of the floral emblems representing all the countries which make up the United Kingdom plus the Commonwealth states. The original gown took 8 months to create from the design concept to the finished article and currently forms part of the Royal collection.

It is anticipated that the Cathedral will host a similar exhibition during the summer of 2021.



The Chorister Experience



Saturday 18 January saw the boy chorister ranks more than double in size, as we welcomed twenty boys from as far away as London to participate in its first Chorister Experience event. In the months preceding the event the music department had written to hundreds of schools across East Anglia to invite keen young singers to participate, and this direct approach aroused significant interest in the day. The main aim was simple: to give any boy in Year 2 or 3 the chance to experience singing Evensong in the Cathedral, as well as allowing them and their families to meet the current choristers and find out about their daily lives. The participants also joined in with singing workshops, enjoyed arts and crafts activities in Choir House, and had the chance to dress up in cassocks, something of a challenge with robes significantly larger than many of the boys! The day ended with a well-attended Evensong under the Octagon, including music chosen specially to allow visiting boys the chance to participate fully.

Some who attended in January have since expressed an interest in finding out more about the Cathedral Choir, and for them the next step is an informal audition, followed by the more formal 'voice trial' at the end of March. Recruitment is a year-round process. The Director of Music, Edmund Aldhouse would be pleased to hear about boys who might be interested in joining the choir throughout the year.

The same is true for the girl choristers, who begin their career in Year 7: events allowing potential recruits to experience life in the choir and meet current girl choristers are held every year in the autumn, and voice trials take place in January. The Director of the Girl Choristers, Sarah MacDonald, is delighted to know about girls with a love of singing, at any time.

MARCH

Sunday 1 - 1st Sunday of Lent

5.15pm Organ Recital *Glen Dempsey*

Tuesday 3

1pm Music and Meditation

9pm Compline (Lady Chapel)

Thursday 5

6.30pm Lent Lecture *James Woodward*,
'Living with Mortality'

Friday 6

12.10pm Holy Communion
followed by Lent Lunch

Saturday 7

2.30pm A Celebration of
Workplace Chaplaincy

Sunday 8 - 2nd Sunday in Lent

5.15pm Organ Recital *Andrew Parnell*

Monday 9

1.10pm Lunchtime Concert
Westover Glee Club

Tuesday 10

1pm Music and Meditation

6.30pm Lent Lecture *Alan Hargrave*,
'Unexpected Tragedy and
Unanswered Prayer'

9pm Compline (Lady Chapel)

Friday 13

12.10pm Holy Communion
followed by Lent Lunch

1.10pm Lunchtime Concert
Miguel Mandelli, guitar,
Stephen Armstrong, piano

Saturday 14

9am Diocesan Celebration of
Wholeness and Healing 2020

Sunday 15 - 3rd Sunday of Lent

5.15pm Organ Recital *Edmund Aldhouse*

6.30pm Lent Taizé

Tuesday 17

1pm Music and Meditation

6.30pm Lent Lecture *Hannah Cleugh*,
'The Art of Dying'

9pm Compline (Lady Chapel)

Thursday 19 - Joseph of Nazareth

1.10pm Lunchtime Concert
*Ian Close and Dominic Beeton -
Sanctus*

6.30pm Lent Lecture *Mark Oakley*,
'Missing God'

Friday 20

12.10pm Holy Communion
followed by Lent Lunch

2pm Katie's Flower Workshop -
'Mothering Sunday'

6.30pm Katie's Flower Workshop -
'Mothering Sunday'

Saturday 21

7.30pm *Ely Consort* Concert

Sunday 22 - Mothering Sunday

5.15pm Organ Recital *Glen Dempsey*

Tuesday 24

1pm Music and Meditation

6.30pm Lent Lecture *Jessica Martin*,
'Baptism as Dying and Living'

9pm Compline (Lady Chapel)

Wednesday 25 - The Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary

12.10pm Holy Communion

Thursday 26

10.30am Easter Story and Song Time
for parents, carers and toddlers

Friday 27

12.10pm Holy Communion
followed by Lent Lunch

Saturday 28

10.30am Volunteer Recruitment Event

1.10pm Lunchtime Concert
The Suffolk Singers

Sunday 29 - 5th Sunday in Lent

5.15pm Organ Recital *Edmund Aldhouse*

Tuesday 31

1pm Music and Meditation

9pm Compline (Lady Chapel)

APRIL

Thursday 2

1.10pm Lunchtime Concert
Neil Colledge, piano

Friday 3

12.10pm Holy Communion
followed by Lent Lunch

Saturday 4

7.30pm *Ely Choral Society* Concert
'African Sanctus' *David Fanshaw*

Sunday 5 - Palm Sunday

10.30am Procession with Palms and
Sung Eucharist (We gather on
Palace Green and then process
into the Cathedral)

6 April - Monday in Holy Week

7.30pm Tenebrae

7 April - Tuesday in Holy Week

1pm Music and Meditation
7.30pm Compline with address

8 April - Wednesday in Holy Week

7.30pm 'The Seven Last Words
from the Cross' *James MacMillan*
performed by *The Façade Ensemble*

9 April - Maundy Thursday

10.30am Chrism Eucharist with the
Blessing of Oils and Renewal
of Ordination Vows

7.30pm The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday,
Solemn Eucharist and the
Washing of Feet followed by
The Watch of the Passion

Friday 10 - Good Friday

10am Children's Activities and Worship
10.15am Walk of Witness
(starts from St Mary's Church)

Midday Preaching of the Passion

1.30pm The Proclamation of the Cross
and the Liturgy of the Sacrament

11 April - Easter Eve

8pm Easter Vigil, Baptism, Confirmation
and First Eucharist of Easter

12 April - Easter Day

10.30am Orchestral Eucharist
4pm Festal Evensong and Procession

Sunday 19 - 2nd Sunday of Easter

Tuesday 21 April - Monday 12 May

Five Textile Artists Exhibition

Thursday 23 - George, Patron of England

12.10pm Holy Communion

Saturday 25 - Mark the Evangelist

12.10pm Holy Communion

5pm RSCM Festival Service

Sunday 26 - 3rd Sunday of Easter

MAY

Friday 1 - Philip and James

12.10pm Holy Communion

Saturday 2

7.30pm *Ely Sinfonia* Concert
Haydn and Mahler

Sunday 3 - 4th Sunday of Easter

Saturday 9

5.30pm Come and Sing 'Evensong'

Sunday 10 - 5th Sunday of Easter

Thursday 14 - Mathias the Apostle

12.10pm Holy Communion

1.10pm Lady Chapel Lunchtime Concert
Marja-Kaisa Korkala

Friday 15

6.30pm Heaven & Earth
Friends' Launch Event

Saturday 16 May - 15 June

HEAVEN & EARTH

'The World in our hands'

For a full list of Heaven & Earth events
please visit www.elycathedral.org

Sunday 17 - 6th Sunday of Easter

Wednesday 20

8.15pm Compline (Lady Chapel)

Thursday 21 - Ascension Day

7.30pm Sung Eucharist

Friday 22

1.10pm Lady Chapel Lunchtime Concert
Esbjerg Koncertkor

Saturday 23

7pm *London Welsh Male Voice Choir*
and *Waterbeach Brass* Concert

Sunday 24 - 7th Sunday of Easter

Monday 25

1.10pm Lady Chapel Lunchtime Concert
University of London Chamber Choir

Wednesday 27

10am School Holiday Drop-in Session

Thursday 28

10.30am Retired Clergy Eucharist

Saturday 30

CATHEDRAL CLOSED TO VISITORS ALL DAY

10am Etheldreda Fair (Palace Green)

11am & 3pm (Open University Degree Ceremonies)

Sunday 31 - Whit Sunday

6.30pm Pentecost Praise with
Baptism and Confirmation

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