



ELY CATHEDRAL

CATHEDRAL AND COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

February 2025

Dear members of the Cathedral congregation and community,

LENT, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER



Details of services and events to keep Lent and Holy Week, and to celebrate Easter are in the seasonal booklet soon available in the Cathedral and listed on our website: www.elycathedral.org/worship/len-holy-week-and-easter. This year's Holy Week preacher is The Revd Dr Stephen Hampton. Please find details here of the Evensong Sermon Series on the Seven Deadly Sins, the Lent Course, the Friday Lent Lunches, Compline Services and the Lent Taizé Service, as well as details of activities for children and young people.

MY NEW ROLE

The Dean has announced today that, following the sad death of our friend and colleague, Canon Jim Garrard, Chapter has agreed that I will become the Cathedral's Precentor, officially taking on those duties at a date yet to be announced. We shall be advertising for a new Residentiary Canon to serve as 'Canon Pastor' in due course. The full text of the Dean's announcement is printed on page four of this newsletter. It will be an honour to assume precentorial responsibilities and to build upon the faithful and dedicated service that Jim gave among us.

OUR NEW DIOCESAN BISHOP



Last week it was announced that the Right Reverend Sarah Clark, Acting Bishop of Durham and Suffragan Bishop of Jarrow in the Diocese of Durham, has been nominated as the next Bishop of Ely. Bishop Dagmar will continue to serve as Acting Bishop until our new Diocesan Bishop is installed, at which point she will return fully to her ministry as Suffragan Bishop of Huntingdon. Bishop Sarah introduces herself to the Diocese in this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-rYhj6bk8FU>. It is anticipated that Bishop Sarah will be welcomed and enthroned at Ely Cathedral in the early summer. Further details about this service will be shared as soon as they are available.

SAFEGUARDING

Thank you to everyone who has participated in the INEQE Audit in recent days and especially to those who joined volunteer or chorister parent focus groups. The Auditors have given The Dean, our COO and me some initial feedback on their observations. They find that our safeguarding is 'good', we're 'on a positive trajectory' and we 'are to be congratulated'. Their recommendations for improvement are likely to be in areas that we are already working on. The full report will be made publicly available on the INEQE website later in the spring. You can find out more about their work here: <https://ineqe.com/churchofengland/>.

JOIN TO VIEW THE 'ABC' ENTHRONMENT

We are beginning to make plans for a cathedral gathering on the afternoon of 25 March to watch together the live broadcast of the Enthronement of the Archbishop of Canterbury. If you would like to join us, please make a note in your diary - the service is expected to being at 3.00pm. Free tickets and more information will be available next month.

THANK YOU!

We are delighted to report that that the charities we supported through the Christmas collections last year (The Ely Baby bank, The Mothers' Union and The Friends of the Holy Land) will each have received close on £3,000. This represents an increase of nearly 10% on what we were able to send in the previous year.

A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The next meeting of the congregation will be on Sunday 22 February at noon in the South Transept. All are welcome to attend. At this meeting we will be electing representatives to stand on the Congregational Forum, a committee that serves as a bridge between the congregation and Chapter. Please email Rosie.LeCheminant@elycathedral.org by Wednesday 11th February if you are a member of the Worshipping Community Roll and wish to stand for this office.

ENQUIRERS' / CONFIRMATION COURSE



Canon Jenny and I will be leading a five-week Christian Enquirers' course for adults on Wednesday evenings beginning on 18 February. The course will cover our search for the divine, what it means to be Christian and what Holy Week and Easter can mean for us today. The sessions are suitable for those who are just beginning to explore faith or wanting to find out more. There is no charge to attend. The course may also be taken as preparation for Baptism and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil (4 April). For further information or to register, contact courses@elycathedral.org.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

The latest news from our Environmental Group is available to read on this link: <https://cdn.elycathedral.org/uploads/pdfs/Environment/Environment-News.pdf?v=1769180922>. Other environmental news is on the Cathedral website, here: <https://www.elycathedral.org/community/environment-action/renew>.

CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY



A free 'money coaching' course is available from *Christians Against Poverty* at St Mary's Church in Ely in February aimed at helping participants to improve their knowledge, skills and confidence in financial management. Sessions are held on Wednesday evenings or Saturday mornings. More details are here: <https://www.elycap.org/moneycoaching>.

A HELPING HAND



Simon Fraser at St Mary's Ely is available to help anyone in Ely with small tasks at home or out and about. This could be as simple as changing a lightbulb, pruning a shrub, moving some furniture or going for a walk. There is no charge. Contact St Mary's office on 01353 659550 or email simon.fraser@stmarysely.org to find out more.

A COURSE FOR THE BEREAVED

The Cathedral will be hosting *The Bereavement Journey* course once again this spring. This free course is for anyone who has experienced a bereavement either recently or longer ago and would like to join with others to find ways of adjusting to change and moving forward. The seven sessions begin on Thursday 28 May at 2.00pm in Powcher's Hall. Please email on courses@elycathedral.org for more information.

A PRAYER

Please pray for Bishop Sarah as she prepares to take up her post:

We praise and thank you, God of the journey, for all your gifts to us in the past.
We look to you as fellow traveller and faithful companion on the way ahead.
Strengthen, bless and guide Bishop Sarah by your Holy Spirit
as she prepares for this calling
that with her we may serve you
as generous and visible people of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Reveley', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Canon James Reveley

Residentiary Canon for Congregation and Community 01353 660302 james.reveley@elycathedral.org.

To all Cathedral Users and members of the Community Roll

Canon Residentiary and Precentor

Following the unexpected and sad death of Canon Jim Garrard I have been discussing and reflecting with Chapter on how best to proceed in appointing a new Precentor.

I am very pleased to be able to say that at its meeting on Monday 26 January Chapter agreed that Canon James Reveley would become the Precentor, and soon we will advertise for someone to become a Residentiary Canon with the responsibilities for the Congregation and Community that James now holds. It is likely that we will re-name this role Canon Pastor. James has all the skills we're looking for in a Precentor and it is a role he is really interested in taking on and I have every confidence he will excel in.

Canon Jenny Wright will take on the role of Chapter Safeguarding Lead when this change happens as she has experience from her previous role and is interested in doing this work. Safeguarding remains a responsibility of all of us.

It is of course important that the pastoral areas that James currently oversees continue until a new canon is in place, and during the next few months I will continue to do much of the Precentorial administrative work, as has been the case for the last two months, and all of us resident clergy will work closely together to make sure that everything runs as smoothly as possible. We will announce a date later when James officially assumes the title 'Precentor'.

Assuming we make an appointment we would hope to have another canon in place by September and have as short a period as possible with only two resident clergy.

Mark Bonney

February 2026