



ELY CATHEDRAL

CATHEDRAL AND COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

September 2026

Dear members of the cathedral congregation and community,

WORSHIP, PRAYER AND CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Our autumn booklet has been printed and is available in hard copy from the cathedral or electronically on this link: www.elycathedral.org/worship/autumn-programme. Introducing it, Canon Jenny quotes the Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple, who once said, “When I pray, coincidences happen; when I don’t, they don’t.” This is a reminder to us as autumn approaches, with its focus on creation, fairtrade, black history, harvest and remembrance, that whilst working and campaigning for justice is an imperative for discipleship, so too is prayer. Let us go into this season looking to see where God is at work in the world around us, participating as and where we are able to do so, but always praying ‘your Kingdom come, your will be done’.

CONSULTATION: APPOINTMENT OF A NEW DEAN OF ELY

Gemma Hardy, Executive Assistant to the Dean and Chief Operating Officer, will shortly be writing to members of the Worshipping Community Roll to invite expressions of interest in taking part in a short online consultation as part of the process to appoint a new Dean of Ely. The consultation will take the form of a 15-minute online meeting, providing an opportunity for participants to share their views on the opportunities and challenges facing the Cathedral, and on the qualities and leadership needed in its next Dean. The consultation session will take place on 6 October. Members of the Worshipping Community Roll who would like to participate are asked to express their interest by next Wednesday. Further information will be sent directly to members of the Roll by email. (If you worship regularly at the Cathedral and are not on the Roll, please email Rosie.LeCheminant@elycathedral.org to request an application form.)

CANON ROB’S INSTALLATION



We are looking forward to Canon Rob Mackley joining us as a Residentiary Canon. His installation will take place at Evensong on Sunday 20 September. All are welcome to this service, which will be followed by suitably celebratory refreshments. Please hold Rob and the parish of Little St Mary’s, Cambridge, in your prayers.

BACK TO SCHOOL SERVICE

This year’s ‘Back to School’ service will be held in the Presbytery at 3.45pm on Tuesday 8 September. Children are welcome to come to this service to mark the beginning of a new school year. Simple school songs will be sung and backpacks blessed. Refreshments will follow.

ANIMAL SERVICE



Come along with your pets or working animals to this popular service on Sunday 20 September at 1.30pm. All creatures, great and small, furry, feathered, scaly or smooth, are welcome. Bring a photograph if you can't bring your pet (or if your beloved animal friend is no longer with you). We'll bless the animals and reflect on how we are called to live well with all of creation.

MUSICANS SUPPORT CHARITIES

Two recent musical fundraising events with cathedral connections raised significant sums for people in need. Peter Harris organised three charity concerts featuring scholarship students from the Royal College of Music and the Royal Academy of Music, raising £780 for *EmbraceMe* through donations from appreciative local audiences. Meanwhile, local musicians and several from the Cambridge Sinfonietta formed a 'flashmob' on the cathedral's Cross Green on 22 August to perform excerpts from Holst's *The Planets* and raised around £3,000 for *ShelterBox*.

DEANERY SYNOD LAY REPRESENTATIVE



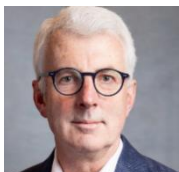
We are seeking nominations for a lay representative to join the Ely Deanery Synod. There are five or six meetings each year, usually on Tuesday evenings in churches in or around Ely, from which the synod members are drawn. If you are on the Cathedral Worshipping Roll and wish to stand, please request a nomination form from Rosie (email congregationalforum@elycathedral.org) or call 01353 260318 and find someone to propose and second your nomination. Nominations have to be in by noon on Monday 12 October, ahead of the next congregational meeting at noon on 18 October.

HARVEST SUPPER



The cathedral Harvest Supper with harvest hymns will be held after Evensong on Friday 9 October in the Lady Chapel. The menu includes jacket potatoes with generous fillings and homemade desserts. This year all tickets are free but must be booked either in person at the ticket office or by phoning 01353 660349 or emailing box.office@elycathedral.org. Donations will be received on the night to help cover costs (suggested minimum donation £5) and all proceeds will be donated to the Ely Food Bank. Our thanks to the Pastoral Hospitality Group for organising this event.

EARTH IN OUR HANDS - BREAKFAST WITH PROFESSOR JULIAN ALLWOOD



Join Professor Julian Allwood, a leading Cambridge expert on climate mitigation, for a clear-eyed, hopeful conversation about practical climate action that communities and individuals can take today. Saturday 17 October at 9.00am in the North Transept. Tickets are £6, including a light breakfast. To book, visit: [Breakfast with Professor Julian Allwood](#)

AND FINALLY

This is the sixty-eighth Congregation and Community Newsletter I have produced since joining the cathedral. I shall now be passing this responsibility to Canon Rob as he takes up my former role and while I focus on other areas of responsibility at the cathedral. So, I sign off with one of my favourite prayers.

A PRAYER

Give us a sense of humour, Lord,
and also things to laugh about.
Give us the grace to take a joke against ourselves
and to see the funny side of the things we do.
Save us from annoyance, bad temper,
or resentfulness against our friends.
Help us to laugh even in the face of trouble.
Fill our minds with the love of Jesus,
our brother, friend and redeemer. Amen.

A G Bullivant (adapted)

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

Canon Precentor and Interim Dean - 01353 660302 - james.reveley@elycathedral.org.