



ELY  
CATHEDRAL

# Lent, Holy Week and Easter 2026

Worship, Prayer and Christian Formation at Ely Cathedral





## A Prayer for the Season

Thou whose eternal love for our weak and struggling race was most perfectly shown forth in the blessed life and death of Jesus Christ our Lord, enable me now to meditate upon my Lord's passion that, having fellowship with him in his sorrow, I may also learn the secret of his strength and peace.

*John Baillie, 1886-1960*

# Lent, Holy Week and Easter 2026

We are invited to a Holy Lent, through a wide offering of opportunities for prayer and worship and reflection in this **Lent, Holy Week and Easter** programme.

We will be accompanied by sermons and music which will orientate us in this unique period of focus and preparation.

We look forward to meeting the risen Christ at the end of these forty days.

Grant, we beseech thee, O Lord, that by the observance of this Lent we may advance in the knowledge of the mystery of Christ, and show forth his mind in conduct worthy of our calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*Gelasian Sacramentary, 5th century*

## **Worship is offered daily, all are welcome.**

### **Monday - Saturday**

7.30am	Morning Prayer ( <i>said service with Bible readings and prayers</i> )
8.00am	Holy Communion ( <i>said</i> )
5.30pm	Choral Evensong or Evening Prayer ( <i>said</i> )

### **Sunday**

8.15am	Holy Communion ( <i>said service, in traditional language with a short address</i> )
10.30am	Sung Eucharist with music, hymns and sermon
4.00pm	Choral Evensong with short address

On **Wednesdays and Fridays** a short service is offered by our Day Chaplains in St Catherine's Chapel at 12.15pm.

On **Thursdays and Saints' Days** there is an additional Eucharist at 12.10pm.

A full list of services can be found on the Cathedral website: [www.elycathedral.org](http://www.elycathedral.org)

\* Incense is used at services in this booklet marked with an asterisk

# Lent Worship

Wednesday 18 February, 7.30pm

## **Ash Wednesday Solemn Eucharist with ashing\***

### **Preacher: The Dean**

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. It gets its name from the practice of 'ashing': marking the forehead of each worshipper with the sign of the cross in ash, as a remembrance of our mortality, while the priest says to each person, *'Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.'* Music includes Lassus' setting of *Miserere Mei*.

## **Eucharist followed by Lent Charity Lunch**

### **Fridays in Lent, 12.10pm**

20, 27 February, 13, 20 March

*in St Catherine's Chapel, followed by lunch in the Cathedral Centre*

6, 27 March (Eucharist - no lunch)

Come to a simple Eucharist on Friday lunchtimes during Lent. The Mothers' Union will offer Lent lunch at 1pm. All donations to **Away From it All (AFIA)**, the Mothers' Union holiday scheme, which funds breaks for those who may be experiencing stress or difficulties in their family life. See [www.mothersunion.org/projects/afia](http://www.mothersunion.org/projects/afia)

## **Candlelit Compline**

### **Tuesdays in Lent, 8pm**

24 February, 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 March

*in the Lady Chapel*

The ancient monastic office of Compline derives its name from a Latin word meaning 'completion'. It offers a period of reflective quiet before rest at the end of the day but meditates also upon the end of life. This candlelit service is sung by a gathered choir who lead the responses, psalms and sing two anthems. The service lasts about 30 minutes.

On Tuesday 31 March the service will include an address by Holy Week Preacher, the Revd Dr Stephen Hampton.

Sunday 1 March, 6.30pm

## **Lent Taizé Service**

*in the Presbytery*

The Taizé community is an ecumenical monastic order in Taizé, Saône-et-Loire, Burgundy, France. The community searches for communion with God through community prayer, song, silence, personal reflection and sharing. The community has become one of the world's most important sites of Christian pilgrimage, with a focus on youth. Over 100,000 young people from around the world make pilgrimages to Taizé each year. The music of Taizé is based on simple sentences from the psalms or from scripture often sung in canon, and in many languages. Services based on this model and using the music of Taizé are held in churches of all denominations around the world.

# Feasts around the Fast



## Feast of St Joseph

Thursday 19 March, 5.30pm

### Festal Evensong\*

*in the Quire*

We celebrate the obedience and faithfulness of Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who trusted the promise of God's messengers and protected Mary and the infant Jesus in times of great danger.

## Feast of the Annunciation

Wednesday 25 March, 5.30pm

### Festal Evensong\*

*in the Lady Chapel*

The moment at which the young girl Mary encountered the message of an angel, announcing to her that she was chosen to bear God himself in her body and turn the world of human values and expectations upside-down, has been the focus of intense devotion – in music, in art, in prayer and speech – for millennia. Mary's intercession is sought for our own obedient and attentive service, both in the conduct of our lives and at the hour of death.

# Lent Sunday Eucharist Sermon Series



Sunday 22 February

## **First Sunday of Lent**

**Preacher: Canon Jenny Wright**

**10.30am Sung Eucharist**

**Matthew 4.1-11**

Today's Gospel speaks of the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness by the Devil. Jesus was weakened by lack of food and was shown the glittering prizes and temptations of power over others that the world can offer if we turn our backs on the call of God and the needs of our fellow human beings. The choir sings David Hall's *Wash me Thoroughly*.

Sunday 1 March

## **Second Sunday of Lent**

**Preacher: Canon James Reveley**

**10.30am Sung Eucharist**

**John 3.1-17**

Nicodemus the Pharisee comes to see Jesus by night and Jesus reveals what it is to enter God's kingdom by water and the spirit. Reborn in Christ we see the world in a totally new light. He concludes God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have everlasting life. The anthem is Byrd's setting of *Miserere Mei*.

Sunday 8 March

## **Third Sunday of Lent**

**Preacher: Prof David Fergusson**

**10.30am Sung Eucharist**

**John 4.5-42**

Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at the well, breaking the boundaries of convention by talking to her and showing her where true and living water and refreshment can be found which will sustain her and all people to eternal life. The challenge to her lifestyle, the right way to worship God and the harvest of souls about which he instructs the disciples make this a very powerful passage. The choir sings *Quid retribuam Domino*.

Sunday 15 March

## **Fourth Sunday of Lent - Mothering Sunday**

**10.30am Sung Eucharist with Installation of Choristers**

**Preacher: Canon Jenny Wright**

**John 9.1-41**

We honour all who have cared for us; the communities which have nurtured us; the Church which is our Mother; the tender love of our God. Music Includes Dupre's *Ave Maria*.

In this service we also have the distinct pleasure of installing several new probationer choristers to the foundation.

Sunday 22 March

## **Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**Preacher: The Dean**

**10.30am Sung Eucharist**

**John 11.1-45**

Jesus comes to the tomb of his friend Lazarus, delaying his arrival. He shares the emotions of his sisters and all mourning his death. When Lazarus is raised from the dead Jesus acknowledges the power of God. The religious authorities take this as their cue to seek Jesus' death. The anthem is Sumsion's *There is a Green Hill Far Away*.



Sundays 22 February, 1, 8, 15 March, from Noon

### **Meet the Preacher**

*in Powcher's Hall*

### **Facilitated by the resident clergy**

Everyone is invited to discuss the insights and questions the sermons raise, from noon after the 10.30am Eucharist in Lent.

Excellent coffee and biscuits.

Pictured: David Fergusson, Regius Professor of Divinity in the University of Cambridge.

# Lent Sunday Evensong Sermon Series

The seven deadly sins developed within the early Christian theological tradition, drawing on the sins or vices found in Scripture. We will be exploring these during our Evensong sermons.

Sunday 22 February, 4pm

## First Sunday of Lent

### Pride

#### Preacher: Canon James Reveley

We are warned often in Scripture against boasting in our strength, encouraged instead that all our words and deeds should bring glory to God. The self stands always in opposition to God; pride is often thought to be the source of the other sins on this list and the original and worst of the sins.



Sunday 1 March, 4pm

## Second Sunday of Lent

### Lust and Gluttony

#### Preacher: The Dean

Lust is the intense desire or longing for money, power or sex, which can lead to sinful acts with little regard for others. Gluttony is overindulgence or overconsumption to the point of excess, which may lead to others going without.



Pictures from  
"Les Péchées  
Capitaux"  
(The Deadly Sins),  
Jacques Callot,  
ca. 1620.  
The Metropolitan  
Museum of Art  
Collection.



Sunday 8 March, 4pm

## Third Sunday of Lent

### Greed

**Preacher: Steven Brooker**

Greed, sometimes called avarice, is the desire to possess more than you need. The heart is hardened against compassion, and it can lead to evil acts such as treachery, fraud, deceit and violence.



Sunday 15 March, 4pm

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

### Anger

**Preacher: Alan Wakely**

Uncontrolled anger seeks vengeance; it may often be directed against an innocent person, be unduly strong or desire excessive punishment. Anger becomes sinful when it is self-serving - seeking control and power, rather than righteous anger directed towards challenging injustice.

Sunday 22 March, 4pm

## Fifth Sunday of Lent

### Envy and Sloth

**Preacher: Canon Jenny Wright**

Insatiable desire for what another owns destroys relationships and cuts a person off from their neighbour. It leads to resentment and indignation. Sloth is less about laziness, than about a failure to participate in spiritual responsibility and moral community. We are called to be the people of God and to find freedom in walking in God's way.





## **Inquirers' and Confirmation**

### **Preparation Course**

**Wednesdays in Lent, 7.30pm - 8.45pm**  
*in Powcher's Hall*

Canons Jenny and James will be leading a five-week Christian Inquirers' 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 on 4 April.

For further information or to register, contact: [courses@elycathedral.org](mailto:courses@elycathedral.org)

Wednesday 18 February, 7.30pm

**Ash Wednesday Service**  
*in the Cathedral*

25 February

**Needing God in our lives**

4 March

**Becoming Christian**

11 March

**Loving others**

18 March

**Serving the Lord**

25 March

**Walking the way of the Cross**  
(Palm Sunday to the Emmaus Road)

Saturday 4 April, 8pm,  
(rehearsal at 7.15pm)

**Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter  
with Baptisms and Confirmations**  
*in the Cathedral*



**Lent Book Group  
The Women of Holy Week  
by Paula Gooder  
Mondays in Lent  
23 February, 2, 9, 16 & 23 March,  
7.30pm - 8.45pm  
in Powcher's Hall**

Paula Gooder retells the events of the Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension through the eyes of nine female characters she imagines accompanying Jesus during these momentous days.

Canon Jenny will be facilitating discussion on this book over five Mondays in Lent. You will need to have access to a copy of the book, as reading the chapters ahead of the sessions will be helpful for a fruitful discussion.

Or listen to the **Women of Holy Week** podcast here:

<https://cofe-women-of-holy-week.captivate.fm/listen>

For further information or to register, contact: [courses@elycathedral.org](mailto:courses@elycathedral.org)

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## Holy Week at Ely Cathedral

### Holy Week Preacher: The Revd Dr Stephen Hampton

The Revd Dr Stephen Hampton was ordained in Ely Cathedral, and served his curacy in St Neots. Since then, he has worked in university ministry, as Chaplain of Exeter College, Oxford, Senior Tutor of St John's College Durham, and Dean and then also Senior Tutor of Peterhouse, Cambridge. His academic research focuses on Early Modern Reformed theology.

### Palm Sunday 29 March

10.30am

#### **Sung Eucharist**

We gather on Palace Green to hear the Gospel of the Palms, and to follow our Lord not only in procession but in heart and mind as he enters Jerusalem in royal humility to face his death. Music includes Gibbons' setting of Hosanna to the Son of David.

4pm

#### **Palm Sunday Evensong**

The Revd Dr Stephen Hampton will preach his first address. We hear Owain Park's setting of *Vinea mea electa*.

### Monday in Holy Week 30 March

7.30pm

#### **Stations of the Cross**

A traditional reflection on the events of Holy Week through the 'Stations' or scenes from the Passion of Jesus on his way to Crucifixion on Calvary. Each station is marked by an image, reflection and music as we mark the searing events of this week.

### Tuesday in Holy Week 31 March

8pm

#### **Candlelit Compline and Address**

*In the Presbytery*

The second of the Holy Week Addresses will be given by the Revd Dr Stephen Hampton.

## **Wednesday in Holy Week** 1 April

7.30pm

**The Façade Ensemble** present a liturgical performance of *Passio*, Arvo Pärt's extraordinary treatment of the Johannine Passion narrative for soloists, choir, and instrumental ensemble.

## **Maundy Thursday** 2 April

10.30am

**Chrism Eucharist**

**President and Preacher: The Bishop of Huntingdon**

With the Blessing of Oils and Renewing of Ordination Vows.

5.30pm

**Choral Evensong**

7.30pm - 11pm

**Eucharist of the Last Supper**

**with Washing of Feet, Stripping of the Altar and Watch of the Passion\***

We commemorate Jesus' institution of the Eucharist, the night before his death, where bread and wine are named as his body broken and his blood shed for humanity, to restore a people impoverished by sin and mortality into the endless life of God. The president washes the feet of the people to remind us that, like our Lord, our calling is to serve others. The Revd Dr Stephen Hampton will preach the sermon. At the end of the Eucharist we hear the Gospel narrative of Jesus' arrest, and the altar is stripped; its richness and beauty vanishes, to be replaced by darkness, emptiness, and disarray. We maintain a prayer vigil, a Watch in St Dunstan's Chapel, remembering Jesus' agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.

## **Good Friday** 3 April

On Good Friday we watch the death of our Lord over the course of three hours, keeping company with disciples, bystanders, scoffers, those for whom Jesus was much beloved; and we stand with all who have witnessed the pains of death.

Midday until c.1.15pm

**Preaching of the Cross**

Addresses are given by the Revd Dr Stephen Hampton, with hymns and readings.

1.30pm - 3pm

**The Liturgy of the Day**

With the singing of the *Passion Gospel* and *Improperia* by Victoria, and the Veneration of the Cross, in which all are invited to participate.

5.30pm

**Choral Evensong**

A solemn act of worship. Music includes Sanders' setting of *The Reproaches*.

## **Holy Saturday** 4 April

A day of mourning, emptiness; a day stripped of every adornment.

5.30pm

### **Evensong**

with plainsong.

8pm

### **Easter Vigil with Baptism and Confirmation\***

#### **Preacher: The Revd Dr Stephen Hampton**

Out of the darkness and sorrow of human violence emerges the light and life of God's presence: in the risen Jesus; in God's enduring promise to be with his people; in the transforming sacrament of baptism. This is the first celebration of Easter, with the lighting of the New Fire and the Paschal Candle and the bringing of that resurrection light into a darkened church, the admission of new Christians to baptism and communion, and the rising of light, joy, colour and life for the first time since the events of Good Friday.

## **Easter Day** 5 April

8.15am

### **Holy Communion**

A said service, in traditional language with a short address.

10.30am

### **Orchestral Eucharist\***

#### **President and Preacher:**

#### **The Bishop of Huntingdon**

A joyful celebration of the risen life of God's people upon Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

Music includes the *Messe*

*Solennelle* by Langlais.

4pm

### **Festal Evensong and Procession\***

An Orchestral Evensong including music by Stanford, Haydn and Mascagni.





## Children and Families

Saturday 28 March - Sunday 12 April

### **Joanna: A Woman's Holy Week Journey**

An exploration of the Easter story for children, families and adults of all ages.

Explore the Easter story through the eyes of Joanna, one of the first people to witness the resurrection, this Easter at Ely Cathedral.

Pick up a map, activity sheet (bring your colouring pencils if you can!) and borrow a set of reflection cards to help you connect with the events of Holy Week.

**Good Friday** 3 April, 10am

### **Christians Together Walk of Witness**

Join us for the Christians Together in Ely, Walk of Witness on Good Friday.

We meet at 10am outside St Mary's Church, with a service in the market Square, before joining together for worship at Ely Cathedral at 11.30am.

**Easter Day** 5 April, 10.30am

### **Eucharist with Children's Activities and Easter Egg Hunt**

Children and families are very welcome to the Easter Day Cathedral service and there will be a parallel act of worship for children. The children also help process the decorated cross through the Cathedral and are invited to an Easter Egg Hunt at the end of the service. Join us for beautiful music, joyous hymns and a triumphant celebration that Christ is risen.



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More details about 'Lent, Holy Week and Easter'  
can be found on our website.

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