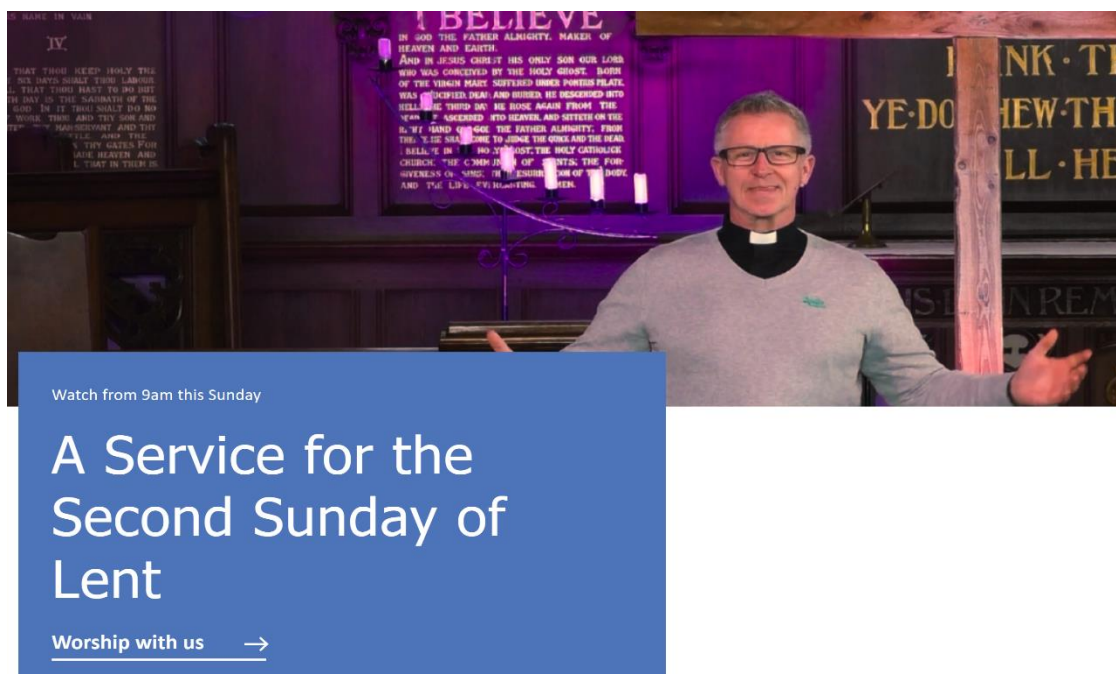


Watch the service – A Service for the Second Sunday of Lent



What can we learn from Nicodemus?

Rev Gareth Dickinson, Vicar at [St. Luke's Maidstone](#) leads a Service for the Second Sunday of Lent.

We hear St John's account of the story of Nicodemus and how God wants to work in and through us by the renewing work of the Holy Spirit.

The service is broadcast on the [Church of England's website](#), [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#). The service remains available to view afterwards.

All of the video content is manually subtitled. To turn these on, go to the bottom left of the video and click the filled-in box with two broken lines inside. The service is BSL-interpreted throughout.

Local Services & Events

Sunday 5th March

10.30am Sibsey Morning Worship

10.45am Kirton Holme Holy Communion

All welcome.

Why might Christians consider cutting down meat for Lent?

Reducing meat consumption is a great way for anyone to respond to the Climate Emergency; cutting carbon impacts while saving money and potentially improving personal health, writes Bishop Graham Usher, the Church of England's Lead Bishop for Environmental Affairs.



"Long before the impacts of meat on the climate were understood, the idea of Christians periodically foregoing meat was not so very new"

According to the UN's Food and Agricultural Organisation, about 14 per cent of all emissions come from meat and dairy production. Within this, chicken and pork have a smaller climate impact. Dairy and lamb sit in the middle, while beef is nearly always the least sustainable choice. Yet, long before the impacts of meat on the climate were understood, the idea of Christians periodically foregoing meat was not so very new. Days of fasting have been observed in the Church of England for centuries and are marked in the Church's calendar, although there are no particular instructions on how fasting should be constituted.

The Book of Common Prayer calls for the following as 'days of fasting and abstinence': Every Friday of the year except Christmas Day if it falls on a Friday, the forty days of Lent and Certain days in the four seasons of the year (Ember days and Rogation days) which call for penitence and prayer. Common Worship calls for 'days of discipline and self-denial' in the 'weekdays of Lent and every Friday in the year' excluding Principal Feasts and Festivals outside Lent and Fridays in Eastertide.

And one of the Books of Homilies (a series of 16th century sermons developing the authorised reformed doctrines of the Church of England) contains references to fasting being an abstinence from 'meat, drink, and all natural food'. These days, many people choose to 'give something up' for Lent. This is an opportunity to stop and think about what we consume, and the kind of impact our consumption has on the world we live in.

Climate change is already having a devastating impact on some of the world's most vulnerable communities and the World Health Organisation estimates that between 2030 and 2050, climate change will cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year.

This will be through malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress, and regions with weak health infrastructure – mostly in developing countries – will be the least able to cope without assistance to prepare and respond.

Christians are called to safeguard creation and renew the life of the earth, and in doing so we cannot ignore the plight of our brothers and sisters both near and far.

So, during Lent, when many will consider how to take better care of creation, choosing to be meat-free one or more days a week can be about both our spiritual practice of fasting and a practical way to tread more lightly on the earth.

Whether that's on a Friday, which is traditional in the Church, or joining in with 'meat-free Monday', it's a positive step we can take for our spiritual health, our physical health, and the health of the planet. And when we do eat meat, find out more about the factors that can increase carbon impacts, and choose more local sustainable sources.

Graham Usher is Bishop of Norwich, and Chair of the Church of England's Environmental Working Group



Diocese of Norwich

‘For many, pets are a lifeline’ – church pet food bank launches amid cost of living crisis

A pet food bank set up with support from a church is helping people to feed their dogs, cats and even guinea pigs amid the cost of living crisis.



‘Leonard’s lunchbox’ meets at St Matthew’s Church in Bethnal Green east London with the support and advice of the church’s Rector, Mother Erin Clark.

The new service for pets follows the rapid growth of Bethnal Green food bank, founded by the church in January 2020. The food bank met in the church’s hall until 2021 when it moved to another site and now provides food for around 900 people a week.

Grace Hui, who has three rescue dogs and founded Leonard’s lunchbox – named after one of her dogs - said: “I work with a lot of animal rescue centres and I have three rescue dogs. I know how much they contribute to people’s mental well-being. For some people, especially elderly people, who live on their own, walking a dog is their only way of going out and seeing other people, especially during the pandemic when it was very lonely. Giving up your pet because you can’t afford to feed it would feel like letting down your best friend.”

Mother Erin, who owns a Great Dane called Soren, said she had noticed people coming to the food bank choosing cans of dog and cat food over extra food for themselves. “People were choosing dog and cat food which is quite a sacrifice to make when you could choose other items for yourself, she said. “It was a sign of just how much pets mean to people. We do not realise how much people rely on their pets for their mental well-being. There is a lot of poverty around here and other social issues, I think for a lot of people their pet is their lifeline, it is what gets them out, it is a big part of their well-being.”

Book of prayer for the coronation of King Charles III published

The Church of England is calling for a period of prayer leading up to the Coronation and has released a book of Daily Prayers for the Coronation of King Charles III.



Running from Easter Day (April 9) for 28 days, up to the day of the Coronation on May 6, the book provides daily themes, reflections and prayers for use by individuals, churches or groups.

The booklet is designed to help people pray for The King, The Queen Consort and the Royal Family and their calling to a life of public service; to pray for our nation and the world at this special time; to learn about the spiritual significance of the Coronation Service and contemplate the person of Jesus – the servant King.



Commending the book of Prayers, the Archbishop of Canterbury and Archbishop of York said: "We are delighted to offer this book to everyone who wishes to join us in praying for The King, The Queen Consort and the Royal Family as they prepare for the Coronation. "Looking ahead to this historic moment in the life of our nation, we give thanks for His Majesty The King's example of lifelong public service to others. The Coronation will be a time to celebrate community, faith and service – values that are reflected in these prayers. Please set aside some time each day between Easter and the Coronation to pray with us for Their Majesties, the Royal family and our nation."The

book of prayers combines themed daily readings and shares features of the Coronation Ceremony, exploring the Christian symbolism behind it. The readings also reflect the value that King Charles III places on charitable work, environmentalism, volunteering and community life.

The design of the Daily Prayers book carries a pattern derived from the spoon that The Archbishop of Canterbury will use in the Coronation service to anoint King Charles. The spoon is first recorded in 1349 as preserved among St Edward's Regalia in Westminster Abbey.

Throughout history, the anointing is the most sacred part of the coronation ceremony and takes place before the investiture and crowning. The archbishop pours holy oil from the Ampulla (or vessel) into the spoon and anoints the sovereign on the hands, breast and head. The tradition goes back to the Old Testament where the anointing of Solomon by Zadok the Priest and Nathan the Prophet is described.

The Daily Prayers – a sample of which can be read online [here](#) – are available to order as a booklet from Church House Publishing now. They will also be available free via email and audio via the Church of England website and social media.

A wide range of further resources for cathedrals, churches and schools to use locally will be made available on the Church of England website in March.



Lincoln Cathedral will host a special concert on Saturday 13 May 2023, to mark the 80th anniversary of Operation Chastise, better known as the Dambusters Raid.

The Band of the Royal Air Force College will perform a musical programme with pieces from the WWII era to present day, highlighting Lincolnshire's strong aviation history as the original home of the RAF 617 Squadron. Internationally renowned composer, Sir Karl Jenkins will join the concert to conduct *For the Fallen* alongside Lincoln Cathedral Choir who also join the event, which will be compered by Melvyn Prior, BBC Radio Lincolnshire. Tickets for the concert can be purchased via the cathedral's website at: <https://lincolncathedral.com/forthcoming-events/dambusters-anniversary-concert/>

Church transforms unused land into biodiverse community garden

An urban church community has developed an abandoned patch of church land into a thriving garden, teeming with wildlife and benefitting the locals.



The Woodseats Garden

Until 2020, St Chad's Church in Woodseats, Sheffield, was regularly dealing with the cost of mowing and maintaining a disused field to the south-east of its church building.

Now, that patch of green has become The Woodseats Garden – a haven for the community – thanks to a group of green-fingered locals who dreamt of putting it to good use.

Ideas for how the garden could be used came from across the community, including to promote health and wellbeing, for leisure, for education, and to support biodiversity. They planned to avoid pesticides, use green manure, and plant a varied selection of flora and fauna to keep the project environmentally-friendly.

They set up a committee and achieved their aims – with the garden now boasting a range of biodiversity including a wildflower meadow, a bug hotel, and through supporting plants such as apple trees, roses and dahlias.



The Woodseats Garden
The garden even has composting facilities and a willow dome: a living domed shelter made of latticed willow branches which provides an attractive screen from the surroundings in winter and, when its leaves appear, natural shade in summer.

The garden has been funded entirely by

donations, including approximately £450 so far, and is set to receive a further £1,000 this autumn from the Co-op Local Community Fund. Other donations have come in the form of plants and equipment.

Each weekend, between 12 and 30 volunteers from the local community come to work on the garden.

The garden has allowed St Chad's to be relieved from its maintenance costs while the community benefits physically, mentally and socially from the new urban green space.

Future plans include a wildlife pond, infrastructure for rainwater collection, and planting lavender and other bee-friendly plants. The garden's committee also hopes to see an increase in social prescribing of the garden by local GPs. The Woodseats Garden

Nathan Edwards, co-founder of The Woodseats Garden, said: "It is an absolute joy seeing people coming to the garden and getting stuck in, or just stopping and relaxing for a moment to enjoy the space.

"The garden is transformative. It's boosted local wildlife and formed friendships. Me and my family love coming, the kids play, build, garden and explore and each time we see the garden develop and change.



"The key to the garden's success has been the partnership that has formed between the community and the church."

Annual Baptism and Confirmation in the Cathedral at the Easter Vigil

There will be an opportunity for candidates from across the diocese to be confirmed during the Easter Vigil in Lincoln Cathedral at 8pm on Easter Eve (8th April). Parishes with candidates for confirmation at this service are asked to contact the Precentor at precentor@lincolncathedral.com with the following details for each candidate:

- Name of candidate
- Date and place of baptism (or indication that they need to be baptised within the vigil)
- Age

Candidates, alongside a parish representative, are asked to attend a rehearsal in the cathedral at 10am on the morning of Easter Eve. The person who is accompanying candidates from their parish is asked to bring a completed copy of the 'Blue Form' and the parish's Confirmation Register for the bishop to sign at the end of the service.

Please make sure that all information is with the Precentor by Friday 24th March so that the printed order of service can include all names.

If you have contacted the cathedral but not heard back by 24th March, please get in touch in case there has been a problem in receiving the original email.

Take a Pilgrimage to the Cathedral

The foundation of the cathedral's daily life is praying for and offering worship on behalf of the diocese, its bishop and parishes. We hold the communities of the diocese in our daily prayers, but it is a special joy to welcome individuals or groups to the cathedral – then those we pray for become not only names, but people!

Of course, everyone is welcome to attend any service at the cathedral at any time, and there are also the 'big' diocesan occasions like the Chrism Eucharist, Ordinations and Annual Lay Ministry Service. However, we would also like to encourage groups from the diocese to consider coming on pilgrimage to the cathedral. We have already welcomed several parishes from the diocese and beyond to the cathedral on pilgrimage – and each pilgrimage has been different. We suggest that a pilgrimage to the cathedral is centred around attending either the lunchtime eucharist or evensong as a group, and various visits have also included the following activities:

- A walking pilgrimage to the cathedral (there are several well-researched books available from the Cathedral Shop)
- A guided tour of the building (or specialist tour, such as a roof or tower tour)
- Spending time in the Visitor Centre, including visiting the learning and exhibitions spaces
- Refreshing the body as well as the soul in the Cathedral Café, or having a picnic on Dean's Green
- Using various areas of the cathedral as foci for reflection (e.g. Stations of the Cross in the Nave, or small group meditation/study in one of the side chapels)

If you are interested in a parish pilgrimage to the cathedral, please contact the Visitor Experience Manager, Ruth Creasey by emailing visitors@lincolncathedral.com or the Precentor, Nick Brown at precentor@lincolncathedral.com.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Church of England's Social Impact Investment Programme to invest £1.1m in Charity Bank

The Church of England's Social Impact Investment Programme has made a £1.1m investment in Charity Bank and will take a 3.6% stake in the bank.



Charity Bank uses savers' money to provide much-needed loans to UK charities and social enterprises working to drive positive social change – bringing benefits for people, communities and the environment.

The Church of England Social Impact Investment Programme is managed by the Archbishops' Council and was established in 2020 to support projects which share the Church of England's Christian values and benefit society.

The investment will enable Charity Bank to make more than £8.8m in new loans to charities, social enterprises and faith based organisations serving their communities. Charity Bank has over £315m in deposits from a wide range of charities, social enterprises, faith-based organisations and ethically conscious individuals.

Vanessa Morphet, Head of Social Impact Investment at the Archbishops' Council, commented on the investment:

"Charities, social enterprises and faith-based organisations provide key services to communities in areas such as housing, social care, food banks, skills development and tackling loneliness. Charity Bank loans are a vital part of the funding landscape for these organisations enabling them to sustain, improve and grow their services. We are delighted that our equity investment will enable Charity Bank to support more of these organisations across the UK."

Ed Siegel, CEO at Charity Bank said:

"Investment capital is vital to our mission. It underpins our lending activity and enables us to leverage

our savers' money. For every £1m of capital, we can make more than £8m of loans to the charities and social enterprises that are tackling some of the most challenging issues facing UK society today.

"We are very excited about the potential of this partnership, particularly as we seek to grow our activities in the 'green lending' space, which is a specific area of interest for the Church, and as we continue to expand our lending to housing and social care providers, Christian charities and other faith based organisations. We look forward to working together to use our financial resources to build a better world."

Charity Bank is uniquely owned by charitable trusts and foundations and other social purpose organisations. By investing in Charity Bank, the Church of England's Social Impact Investment Programme joins this esteemed group as they continue to enable the bank to support UK charities and social enterprises.

What are we giving up for Lent?

What are we giving up for Lent?

Nowadays that's all many people can think of as something to do with the Church. They are more familiar with Dry January, a public health campaign which aims to reduce over-consumption of alcohol.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Christian season of Lent, forty days preparation for Easter. Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence, and from the Middle Ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked by the ash with a sign of the cross. We turn away from sin, to be more faithful to Christ.

During Lent we are called to reflect, to take time out and reassess our priorities. To take a long hard look at ourselves – our behaviour, our relationships, our faith. Giving up our weaknesses.

Taking up something better for Lent perhaps.

Prayer for Lent

Holy God, as you have called us, make us holy.

Shield us from all that is evil and destructive,

protect us in body and soul;

extend our vision of our purpose and journey,

that we may know we are your people and citizens of your kingdom.

Amen

St Botolph's Church, Boston

Sunday services

First Sunday of the Month

11am – Sung Eucharist (also available online)

5pm – Choral Evensong (also available online) *during term time*

All other Sunday's in the month

11.00am – Sung Eucharist (also available online)

Wednesday midweek service

10.30am – Said Eucharist (also available online)



Explore the roof space of Lincoln Cathedral with views across the City.

Our friendly guides will show you the fascinating structures that hold up the roof of the Cathedral. We'll give you an insight into the workmanship required to build and maintain this stunning building.

You'll also get up close to our stained glass windows, visit one of our bell chambers and for those who are not afraid of heights, there is an opportunity to enjoy views down the full length of the Nave and across the City from the Cathedral's West Front.

If you love architecture, this tour is for you.

How long will the tour last?

Each tour will last approximately 90 minutes.

How much does it cost?

Tours cost £7.50 per person **in addition to the general admission fee.**

What else do I need to know?

Please note: A general level of fitness is required to climb the steep staircases.

Dates available and how to book?

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/guided-roof-tour-of-lincoln-cathedral-tickets-154101502743>

The Revd Canon Dr Simon Jones is to be the Interim Dean of Lincoln following the retirement of Dean Christine



Simon is Chaplain and Fellow of Merton College, Oxford where he has overall responsibility for the Chapel and Choral Foundation, welfare provision and student financial support. He teaches liturgy and is a member of the University of Oxford's Faculty of Theology and Religion.

Simon said: "It's a great privilege to have the opportunity to serve the Cathedral and Diocese of Lincoln in this interim role.

"I am grateful to colleagues at Merton for making this secondment possible, and very much look forward to working alongside new colleagues in Lincoln and becoming part of the Cathedral community".