Reflection – Come and See

For almost five hundred years Christ Church Cathedral has stood at the heart of the city of Oxford as a place of encounter and transformation. Tucked away at the far side of a stunningly beautiful quadrangle, Oxford's Cathedral isn’t immediately prominent, but now as ever, it is open to all as a place to meet and worship God.

During this season of Lent, Holy Week and Easter, in common with our fellow Christians across the globe, we will be marking the life-changing events of Christ's passion, death and resurrection. More than any other time in the Church's year, these weeks around Easter have the power to draw us into an encounter with God who made us, who saves us and sanctifies us.

In the pages of this guide you will find numerous services, activities and events and I very much hope that you will wish to be part of them.

On behalf of all at the Cathedral I invite you to ‘come and see’ (John 1:39):

Come and see this beautiful place...

Come and share in the beauty of the worship that is offered here...

Come and meet the God we seek to serve, and allow yourself to be changed, challenged and enriched by His blessing...

The Revd Canon Edmund Newey, Sub Dean
Fighting Modern Slavery: 21st Century Faith in Action

Tuesday 30 January • 5.30pm. Sir Michael Dummett Lecture Theatre

A talk by prominent anti-slavery campaigner James Ewins QC highlighting the prevalence of slavery today and the campaign to abolish it.

Sermon Series

Sundays in January at Choral Matins 9.45am

A series of sermons to tie in with Imagining the Divine: Art and the Rise of World Religions at the Ashmolean in Oxford.

7 January: The Venerable Martin Gorick
14 January: Canon Dr Grant Bayliss
21 January: Canon Professor Sarah Foot
28 January: Canon Professor Nigel Biggar

The exhibition runs until 18 February. For more information, see www.ashmolean.org/imaginingthedivine


28 January: Joel Huffstetler on Michael Mayne
11 February: Melvyn Matthews
25 February: Rachel Mann

Informal evening worship, 8 to 9pm Sunday evenings, North Transept

This term we look at the range of contemporary Anglican spiritual thinking. Conversation partners include Rachel Mann, author of Dazzling Darkness: Gender, Sexuality, Illness and God and Fierce Imaginings, a meditation on the theme of remembrance; Melvyn Matthews, author of Both Alike to Thee: The Retrieval of the Mystical Way; and Joel Huffsteltler, who is editing the unpublished works of Michael Mayne, spiritual writer and former Dean of Westminster Abbey.
Lent – a season to encounter God

Lent is often thought of as a time to give things up. Relinquishing things is undoubtedly a good discipline; peeling away some of the clutter and the bad habits that stifle our lives. But more importantly, Lent is a time to try something new; to renew and refresh the connections that link us with our fellow human beings and the world we share. And above all, the season of Lent invites us to return to the source of all life in God.

We know that God is eternal and unchanging. What we tend to forget is that God is also inexhaustibly new – as Sydney Carter’s hymn puts it;

\[
\begin{align*}
&\text{You are older than the world can be,} \\
&\text{You are younger than the life in me.} \\
&\text{Ever old and ever new,} \\
&\text{Keep me travelling along with you.}
\end{align*}
\]

In these days of Lent, the Church invites us to encounter God, the world and one another afresh, learning what it is to follow Christ’s new commandment that we should love one another; ‘as I have loved you, you also should love one another’ (John 13:34).

The Revd Canon Edmund Newey, Sub Dean
Return to Me:
A Service of Words and Music for Ash Wednesday

14 February 2018 • 6pm
All welcome

We mark the beginning of Lent with this service of words and music, culminating in the imposition of ashes. Sung by the Cathedral Singers.

Compline during Lent

Wednesdays in Lent • 9pm
21, 28 February and 7, 14, 21 March

Compline with a short reflection on a single verse of Scripture by members of the Cathedral Chapter.

Sundays in Lent

Choral Eucharist • 11am
18 February, 25 February, 4 March, 11 March

A series of sermons on the Beatitudes to tie in the with the diocesan vision, ‘Called to be Christ-like’.
Easter Transformation

We should see Easter not so much as the Feast that puts the broken back together, but as the Feast of Total Transformation. It offers us a sense of re-creation. The Easter stories are a narrative of light. Not just because the darkness of Good Friday is dispelled by the shattering light of the resurrection, but also because Jesus, now he has been raised, is recognised as the new light. A light so dazzling that it cannot be comprehended. As the poet Emily Dickinson has it:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{As lightning to the children eased} \\
\text{With explanation kind} \\
\text{The truth must dazzle gradually} \\
\text{Or every man be blind.}
\end{align*}
\]

Emily Dickinson, *Tell All The Truth*

Christ’s resurrection returns us to the first light of creation. This is a new dawn. God’s light now shines – a sign of the realm of heaven, where there is neither day nor night, but one light of equal brightness. This is a light beyond the sun, moon and stars. The light of the resurrection is the light of a whole new creation; a revelation of radiance that can barely be worded.

Easter is the festival of fire, light, dawn – a new age dawns the moment the stone is rolled away, and the Son of God bursts forth in a radiant splendour that is simultaneously blinding and illuminating. It is in this light that we are all now transformed – in awe, wonder and worship.

The Very Revd Professor Martyn Percy, Dean
Holy Week at Christ Church Cathedral

Event

Organ recital
Tuesday 27 March • 7.30pm
Organ Meditations for Holy Week. Performed by William Wallace (Senior Organ Scholar) and Makoto James (Junior Organ Scholar).
J. S. Bach Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor BWV582
F. Martin Passacaille
L. Vierne Symphonie op 28 no 3

Event

J. S. Bach St John Passion

Wednesday 28 March • 7.30pm
Stephen Darlington conducts Oxford Baroque and Christ Church Cathedral Choir performing Bach’s St John Passion as part of the devotions for Holy Week.
Benjamin Durrant (Evangelist)
William Gaunt (Christus)
James Jenkins (Pilate)
Aileen Thomson (Soprano)

Free event
No tickets required

Event

Journey to the Cross

Good Friday 30 March • 12 noon
A processional and interactive service for all the family, especially suitable for primary school age children. Approximately 45 minutes.

Free event
No tickets required
Supper talk
Thursday 22 February • 7.30 for 8pm in the McKenna Room

Professor Jerry Brotton, Professor of Renaissance Studies at Queen Mary University, London. The Sale of the Late King Charles I’s Pictures. Drinks followed by a two-course supper with wine and coffee

Tickets: Friends £43, Guests £45. Dress: Black tie. Tickets available by post from the Hon. Sec of the Friends, Priory Room Office, Christ Church, Oxford OX1 1DP

Exhibition

The Deo Gloria Trust exhibition Prayer by Jacqui Parkinson will be on display in the North Transept from 12 February to 9 April 2018

The life of St Frideswide
Monday 26 February • 2 to 3.45pm North Transept of the Cathedral

An illustrated talk by Ruth Buckley, followed by The St Frideswide Cantata composed by Deborah Rose and sung by the boys of Abingdon Preparatory School.

Tickets £15 per person (£12 for parish groups). Tickets available by post from the Hon. Sec of the Friends, Priory Room Office, Christ Church, Oxford OX1 1DP
Special Events and Services at Christ Church Cathedral in Lent and Holy Week 2018

FEBRUARY 2018
Ash Wednesday 14 February
7.15am Morning Prayer
7.35am Holy Communion*
1pm Holy Communion (BCP)*
6pm Return to Me: A Service of Words and Music*
* with the imposition of ashes

Compline will be sung at 9pm on Wednesdays during Lent beginning 21 February

Sunday 25 February
2.30pm Baptism and Confirmation

MARCH 2018
Mothering Sunday 11 March
8am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.45am Choral Matins
11am Choral Eucharist
6pm Choral Evensong

Palm Sunday 25 March
8am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.45am Choral Matins
11am Choral Eucharist with procession
6pm Choral Evensong with Reflection by the Dean

Monday 26 March
7.15am Morning Prayer
7.35am Holy Communion
6pm Choral Evensong with Reflection by the Dean

Tuesday 27 March
7.15am Morning Prayer
7.35am Holy Communion
6pm Choral Evensong with Reflection by the Dean

Wednesday 28 March
7.15am Morning Prayer
7.35am Holy Communion
1pm Holy Communion
6pm Said Evening Prayer
7.30pm J.S. Bach St John Passion with Christ Church Cathedral Choir and Oxford Baroque

Maundy Thursday 29 March
7.15am Morning Prayer
7.35am Holy Communion
11am Chrism Eucharist
7.30pm Choral Eucharist with foot-washing followed by vigil until Midnight Reflection by the Dean

Easter Eve Saturday 31 March
7.15am Morning Prayer
8pm Easter Vigil
Note: Our evening liturgy replaces Evening Prayer

APRIL 2018
Easter Day Sunday 1 April
8am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.45am Choral Matins
11am Choral Eucharist
6pm Choral Evensong

Good Friday 30 March
7.15am Morning Prayer
10am Good Friday Liturgy
12noon Journey to the Cross: for children and families (45 minutes, see p.7)
6pm Choral Evensong with Reflection by the Dean

Note: Our evening liturgy replaces Evening Prayer
Educational visits and workshops

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays
Primary pupils: £3 plus VAT • Secondary pupils: £4 plus VAT

A microcosm of British history, the Cathedral offers a rich learning experience for pupils of all ages. Younger children can dress in historical costumes and engage in story and role play. By exploring the Cathedral’s sacred space they deepen their understanding of Christian values and worship and how these have evolved over time.

Older students are invited to discover Christ Church’s hidden secrets and stories and find out how Christ Church’s famous alumni have searched for answers to BIG questions...

All our educational visits are tailored to meet your learning objectives.

**Easter Encounters:** Bring your KS 2 class to the Cathedral to find out more about the meaning and impact of the Easter story. An interactive workshop is available throughout March. Advance booking essential.

For more information contact: Jacqueline.holderness@chch.ox.ac.uk or 01865 286003. See www.chch.ox.ac.uk/schools
Our regular pattern of worship at Christ Church Cathedral

The daily offering of worship to God is at the heart of Christ Church. Everyone is welcome to join the worshipping community of Christ Church Cathedral, whether for a single service, or more regularly.

**Sundays**
- 8am: Holy Communion (1662)
- 9.45am: Matins and Sermon (1662)
- 11am: Choral Eucharist (CW)
- 6pm: Choral Evensong (1662)

**Weekdays**
- 7.15am: Morning Prayer (CW)
- 7.35am: Holy Communion (CW)
- 1pm: Holy Communion (Wednesdays only) (1662)
- 6pm: Evening Prayer – Choral Evensong (1662)

On Mondays, Evening Prayer is either a said service or, during university term time, sung by the College Choir.

On Thursdays, the evening service is usually a Choral Eucharist.

Please note that our services begin five minutes later than ‘normal’ time, because the Cathedral keeps the old ‘Oxford Time’ (i.e. five minutes west of Greenwich). This means 6pm Oxford Time is 6.05pm GMT or BST.

Book a parish visit to your Cathedral

The Dean and Chapter of Christ Church warmly invite parishes in the Diocese of Oxford to visit the Cathedral, to share in its worship and discover its history.

**The programme for the day is as follows:**
- 3pm: Arrive at Christ Church for a guided tour of the Cathedral
- 4pm: Visit to Upper Library or Picture Gallery
- 4.30pm: Afternoon tea in the Great Hall
- 5pm: Visit to the Treasury and Cathedral Shop
- 6pm: Choral Evensong
- 7pm: End of visit

The programme runs during university term-times throughout the year: 14 Jan to 10 March / 22 Apr to 16 June / 7 Oct to 1 Dec 2018

There will be a charge for the tea but guided tours are FREE.

For further information go to www.chch.ox.ac.uk/cathedral or email Miranda Hockliffe at miranda.hockliffe@chch.ox.ac.uk.
Who’s who at Christ Church Cathedral

Dean: The Very Revd Professor Martyn Percy
Sub-Dean: The Revd Canon Dr Edmund Newey
Canon Precentor: The Revd Canon Dr Grant Bayliss
Organist: Canon Dr Stephen Darlington
Registrar: Mr John Briggs

The Cathedral, Christ Church, St Aldate’s, Oxford OX1 1DP
cathedral@chch.ox.ac.uk Tel: 01865 276155
For up to date information go to www.chch.ox.ac.uk/cathedral

Registered charity in England and Wales number: 1143423

On display at Christ Church Picture Gallery as part of Nick Schlee: Drawing to Painting (20 January-9 April 2018). For information about visiting the Picture Gallery, see www.chch.ox.ac.uk/gallery

Nick Schlee, Christ Church, 1993