

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

SUNDAY 25 JANUARY CONVERSION OF PAUL

This sheet contains the hymns, readings and prayers of the day for this service; you can follow all other parts of the service in the green 'Sung Eucharist' booklet.

11.00am Sung Eucharist

Celebrant: The Dean, The Very Revd Dr Edward Dowler

Preacher: The Revd Canon Dr Earl Collins, Chancellor

ENTRANCE HYMN

We sing the glorious conquest
before Damascus' gate,
when Saul, the Church's spoiler,
came breathing threats and hate;
the ravening wolf rushed forward
full early to the prey;
but lo! the Shepherd met him,
and bound him fast today!

O Glory most excelling
that smote across his path!
O Light that pierced and blinded
the zealot in his wrath!
O Voice that spake within him
the calm reproofing word!
O Love that sought and held him
the bondman of his Lord!

O Wisdom, ordering all things
in order strong and sweet,
what nobler spoil was ever
cast at the Victor's feet?
What wiser master-builder
e'er wrought at thine employ,
than he, till now so furious
thy building to destroy?

Lord, teach thy Church the lesson,
still in her darkest hour
of weakness and of danger
to trust thy hidden power.
Thy grace by ways mysterious
the wrath of man can bind,
and in thy boldest foeman
thy chosen saint can find!

Words: John Ellerton (1826-1893)

Music: ELLACOMBE, Mainz Gesangbuch (1833)

COLLECT

Almighty God,
who caused the light of the gospel
to shine throughout the world
through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul:
grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion
may follow him in bearing witness to your truth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Jeremiah 1: 4-10

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.' Then I said, 'Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.' But the Lord said to me, 'Do not say, "I am only a boy"; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.' Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, 'Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.'

PSALM 67

God be merciful unto us, and bless us : and shew us the light of his countenance, and be merciful unto us:
That thy way may be known upon earth : thy saving health among all nations.

Let the people praise thee, O God : yea, let all the people praise thee.

O let the nations rejoice and be glad : for thou shalt judge the folk righteously, and govern the nations upon earth.

Let the people praise thee, O God : let all the people praise thee.

Then shall the earth bring forth her increase : and God, even our own God, shall give us his blessing.

God shall bless us : and all the ends of the world shall fear him.

SECOND READING Acts 9: 1-22

Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' The men who were travelling with him stood speechless

because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.' All who heard him were amazed and said, 'Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?' Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jesus said, 'You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last.'

GOSPEL READING Matthew 19: 27-end

Peter said to Jesus: 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'

OFFERTORY HYMN

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways!
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence praise (x2).

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee (x2).

O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love! (x2)

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace (x2).

Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still small voice of calm! (x2)

Words: John Whittier (1807-1892)
Music: REPTON, C. Hubert H. Parry (1848-1918), from a
song in his oratorio Judith

COMMUNION HYMN—please remain seated

Just as I am, without one plea
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings within, and fears without,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am (thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down),
now to be thine, yea thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, of that free love
the breadth, length, depth and height to prove,
here for a season, then above,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Words: Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871)
Music: SAFFRON WALDEN, Arthur Henry Brown (1830-
1926)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty God,
who on the day of Pentecost
sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles
with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame,
filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel:
by the power of the same Spirit
strengthen us to witness to your truth
and to draw everyone to the fire of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL HYMN

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does his successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns;
the prisoner leaps to lose their chains;
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring
peculiar honours to our King;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the long Amen.

Words: *Isaac Watts (1674-1748)*

Music: TRURO, *Psalmody Evangelica (1789)*

TODAY'S MUSIC

Mass setting:	Messa à quattro voci <i>Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643)</i>
Motet:	Ego sum panis vivus <i>G. P. da Palestrina (1525-1594)</i>
Closing Music:	Prelude in C, BWV 545i <i>Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)</i>

Safeguarding Hello from the Cathedral Safeguarding Operations Subgroup (SOS)! Our group was set up in response to a Safeguarding Audit which took place in December 2024, so we have now been up and running for a year. We would like to provide our congregations with bimonthly updates relating to our safeguarding processes, and what we as the SOS group are doing.

We are also setting up a Congregation Safeguarding Forum to ensure we include the congregational voice in our decisions. If you are interested in finding out more about this, or have any questions relating to our safeguarding processes and procedures, please contact our Cathedral Safeguarding Officer, Hannah Cashman on hannah.cashman@chichestercathedral.org.uk.

SERVICES THIS WEEK AT THE CATHEDRAL

Monday-Saturday

7.30am	Quiet prayer (St Clement Chapel)
7.45am	Morning Prayer (St Clement Chapel)
8.00am	Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
5.30pm	Choral Evensong

Sunday 1 February—Candlemas

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.00am	Eucharist for children, families and caregivers
10.00am	Choral Mattins
11.00am	Choral Eucharist
3.00pm	Choral Evensong

On **Wednesday** we are delighted to welcome Eton College Lower Chapel Choir to sing Evensong.

Thursdays at 10.30am **Holy Communion** according to the Book of Common Prayer.

NOTICES

This afternoon at 1.00pm members of the Stichbury Singing Group will give a short, informal recital in the Cathedral. This is the final activity of their weekend of choral workshops in the city. All are welcome.

Funeral of Peter Harris Sadly Peter Harris, a longstanding member of the congregation died peacefully on 16 January. His funeral will take place in the Cathedral on Wednesday 11 February, at 11.30am. Mary Harris would like to invite everyone who knew Peter to the service.

Tuesday Lunchtime Concerts This week, 27 January at 1.10pm, we welcome organist Tom Howell. Tom was Organ Scholar here from 2020 to 2022. Entry is free, donations are welcome. Coffee is available, please bring your own mug.

Cathedral Library open morning Tuesday 3 February, 10.00am-12.00pm. You can find the entrance to the Library within the Cathedral Treasury and Shop, located in the North Transept. Please note that access to the Library requires ascending a narrow spiral staircase. No booking required.

Volunteers Needed for the 2026 Festival of Flowers

- The Bottlebola team is seeking volunteers to assist on our stall at the upcoming Festival of Flowers in 2026. If you are able to spare some time and would like to get involved, please contact Bruce Ruddock on 0791 9092504/rbruddock@outlook.com. Donations of wine for the stall would also be greatly appreciated.

- During the Festival of Flowers, a large jigsaw-style image of the Chagall window will be displayed to help raise funds for the Platinum Endowment Trust for Music. We're looking for volunteers who can spare an hour or more to encourage visitors to sponsor a piece of the jigsaw. If

you can help, please contact Trevor James at trevore-james@yahoo.co.uk or 01243 780334.

- Thank you for your support—we look forward to a wonderful Festival ahead! The Festival takes place from Wednesday 3 to Saturday 6 June.

Weaving workshops To celebrate the opening of *Glowing + Alive*, our new exhibition, Creative Learning is running two children's weaving workshops on Saturday 14 February. Each workshop will begin at the Piper tapestry, where children will learn about the artwork and draw inspiration from its imagery, textures, and colours. They will then move to the South Transept to create their own hand-woven bookmark.

As an Eco Church Gold award holder, I am keen to reflect the Cathedral's commitment to sustainability. I would therefore be very grateful for donations of spools of wool, ribbon, or pipe cleaners to use in the workshops, helping me recycle and reuse materials wherever possible. If you can donate, items can be dropped off to the Royal Chantry Offices during normal office hours, or left with the Verger at weekends. Please place items in a bag which is clearly labelled for Rosie Bradberry—Creative Learning. Thank you so much in advance for any contributions, they will make a real difference to these creative sessions. Rosie Bradberry

Save the date—Slow Art Day returns in 2026, guided by John Workman, an art history postgraduate researcher and member of the Cathedral congregation. 11 April, 10.00am. Bookings open February.

Religion, Rebellion & Reformation Our current exhibition sharing the story of Christian faith in Sussex from 1075 to the present day comes to an end on 1 February 2026. Almost 200,000 visitors have viewed the exhibition—don't miss your chance! This is your last week to see fascinating artefacts from across our Diocese, discover nine centuries of hidden histories, and reflect on the enduring role of faith during times of hardship and change. Entry is free, donations very welcome.

Glowing + Alive This year marks the 60th anniversary of the unveiling of one of the most significant ecclesiastical artworks of the twentieth century—the Piper Tapestry. Striking, colourful and dramatic, it continues to inspire reflection and wonder six decades on.

Our new exhibition—launching on 13 February and running until November—brings the story of the tapestry to life through personal correspondence, including between John Piper and Dean Hussey. It also showcases alternative designs for the tapestry as well as vestments designed by Piper, offering rare insight into the creative collaboration behind this iconic work. Entry is free, donations very welcome.

A complementary exhibition of new artworks by contemporary artist Alice Carter, **Ashes to Fire**, will comprise seven large-scale oil paintings, journeying from Ash Wednesday to Pentecost, in a fascinating dialogue with Piper's masterpiece. 13 February to 5 April.

Worthing Theological Society Lecture

Monday 26 January, 7.45pm, West Worthing Baptist Church. *Clergy in Crisis! The Church and Cinema in a Secular Age*. Dr Tommy Lynch, Reader in Political Theology, University of Chichester. Admission is free, retiring collection to defray expenses; further information from honsecwts1@outlook.com

Jerusalem Have you seen the Choir's new video? The hymn *Jerusalem* is deeply rooted in Sussex, where both poet William Blake and composer Hubert Parry lived and worked. Featuring stunning aerial images from across the Diocese, we hope this recording will inspire people to support the final stages of the campaign below.
www.chichestercathedral.org.uk/news

Match Funding for Music: securing the future

Our 950th anniversary Match Funding for Music appeal is close to reaching its target of £950,000, with £911,000 raised by the end of December 2025. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could raise the final £39,000 to complete the matched funding before the end of March 2026? Every donation up to £950,000 will be matched pound for pound by four generous donors, doubling its impact.

Reaching this target is vital. Over the last three years we have raised £4.8 million of an initial £5 million target for our capital endowment. Achieving the full £5 million, combined with revenue fundraising, will cover roughly half of the annual cost of all music-related activity at the cathedral, including 25% scholarships towards choristers' school fees.

Music is central to worship at Chichester Cathedral, and the dedication of choristers, lay vicars, organists, staff and volunteers ensures it continues to thrive. Your gift, large or small, will make a real difference while match funding is still available, helping to secure this living tradition for generations to come.

For more information on our appeal, or to make a donation, please call the Chichester Cathedral Restoration and Development Trust on 01243 812991 (Monday – Friday, 9am – 2pm).

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have a notice relevant to the ministry and mission of the Cathedral that you would like to submit for this notice sheet, please contact: chris.george@chichestercathedral.org.uk by 5pm on Tuesday.

If you have any **safeguarding concerns** in relation to the Cathedral, please contact safeguarding@chichestercathedral.org.uk or speak to a member of our Safeguarding team [please see the website or our Safeguarding posters for more details].