

CHICHESTER  
CATHEDRAL

## **CHORAL EVENSONG**

WITH THE INSTALLATION OF

**THE REVEREND DR DOMINIC KEECH**  
AS PREBENDARY OF SELSEY

**THE REVEREND STEPHEN MERRIMAN**  
AS PREBENDARY OF HOVA VILLA

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2026**  
**3.00PM**

For over 950 years, Chichester Cathedral has been a place of worship, welcome and community. Today, it costs us approximately £7,000 a day to maintain the Cathedral.

Chichester Cathedral does not receive any regular funding from government or from central church sources, and relies heavily on generous donations.

We kindly ask you to make a cash donation to the collection taken during this service. Whatever you give, whether large or small, will help to secure the future of this Cathedral.

If you do not have any cash, please scan the QR code below to donate online or tap to donate as you exit the Cathedral – our Stewards will be available to assist you.



Charity Name: Chichester Cathedral  
Charity Number: 1205740

# WELCOME

This booklet contains all you will need to follow the service. Please ask a Steward if you would like a large-print copy.

This service will be live-streamed and broadcast online via the Cathedral's website, YouTube channel and Facebook pages. Typically, services are made available for up to 48 hours, however this period may be longer for special recordings. For further information, please contact:

**[info@chichestercathedral.org.uk](mailto:info@chichestercathedral.org.uk)**

Photography, filming and audio recordings are not permitted during this service. Please ensure that mobile telephones are switched off or silenced.

An induction loop is provided for the benefit of hearing aid users. To use this, please switch your hearing aid to 'T'.

Parents and caregivers are reminded that children remain in their care throughout this service and must not be left unattended or to wander around the Cathedral by themselves.

Toilets and baby-changing facilities can be accessed from the North Transept of the Cathedral. Children using these facilities must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver.

In the event of an emergency please follow the direction of the Vergers and Stewards.

**[www.chichestercathedral.org.uk](http://www.chichestercathedral.org.uk)**

## THE REVEREND DR DOMINIC KEECH



Dominic Keech came to the Diocese of Chichester in 2017 to be Incumbent of St Nicholas', Brighton, after serving as Chaplain and Fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford. He trained for ordination at St Stephen's House, and completed his curacy in the town of Wantage, and at St Mary Magdalen's, Oxford.

Since November 2025 he has been Priest-in-Charge of Boxgrove Priory. He is a member of the Liturgical Chaplains team, which supports both parishes and the Bishops in significant liturgical celebrations through the year, and across the Diocese. Alongside this role, he assists in the development of new liturgical resources, and by offering liturgical training.

Originally a scholar of Augustine and the Early Church, he also has a keen interest in the history of liturgy, and the practice of the liturgy across the breadth of the Church of England today. Dominic shares his life with his civil partner Elliott, and their dog Scooby, who is mostly in charge of the Vicarage, and possibly the parish priest too. He is delighted to be joining the community of the Cathedral in a new way, and contributing to its ministry within the College of Canons.

## THE REVEREND STEPHEN MERRIMAN



Stephen grew up in a church family in Crawley, was a chorister before becoming a server, and at sixteen years old first served on the PCC. After his selection conference he served as pastoral assistant in West Worthing, before training at the College of The Resurrection, Mirfield. His curacy was served in the Littlehampton and Wick team ministry; he then served a second curacy in Hollingdean, Brighton. Following his curacy, Stephen became Team Vicar of St James the Great, Littlehampton, and has served in the Diocese as priest in Chichester, Arundel and Sompting, before becoming Rector of West Chiltington.

Alongside his parochial ministry Stephen has served as chaplain to the South East Coast Ambulance service, becoming the senior chaplain. He also served as an assistant chaplain at Worthing and Chichester hospitals. More recently he has served as liturgical chaplain to the Bishops, coordinating the chaplains and organising the liturgies at the Chichester Clergy Conference 2025. In January 2026 he became the senior liturgical chaplain.

Stephen is married to Beth, and they have four grown-up children, Hannah, Joseph, Isabelle and Thomas. The family have three dogs, Sophie, Humphrey and Elsie. Humphrey the dachshund accompanies Stephen in his pastoral ministry.

# ORDER OF SERVICE

*Please stand as the procession enters.*

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN



**Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
and in the depth be praise,  
in all his words most wonderful,  
most sure in all his ways.**

**O loving wisdom of our God!  
when all was sin and shame,  
a second Adam to the fight  
and to the rescue came.**

**O wisest love! that flesh and blood,  
which did in Adam fail,  
should strive afresh against the foe,  
should strive and should prevail;**

**And that a higher gift than grace  
should flesh and blood refine,  
God's presence and his very self,  
and essence all-divine.**

**O generous love! that he who smote  
in Man for man the foe,  
the double agony in Man  
for man should undergo;**

**And in the garden secretly,  
and on the cross on high,  
should teach his brethren, and inspire  
to suffer and to die.**

**Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
and in the depth be praise,  
in all his words most wonderful,  
most sure in all his ways.**

*NEH 439  
John Henry Newman (1801-1890)*

*Chorus Angelorum  
Arthur Somervell (1863-1937)*

***Please sit.***

## THE COLLATION OF HONORARY CANONS

*The Dean presents the Canons designate to the Bishop, who addresses them:*

The Church of England is part of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, worshipping the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It professes the faith uniquely revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds, which faith the Church is called upon to proclaim afresh in each generation.

Led by the Holy Spirit, it has borne witness to Christian truth in its historic formularies, the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion, the Book of Common Prayer and the Ordering of Bishops, Priests and Deacons.

In the declaration you are about to make, will you affirm your loyalty to this inheritance of faith as your inspiration and guidance under God in bringing the grace and truth of Christ to this generation and making him known to those in your care?

*The Declaration of Assent is then made:*

I, DOMINIC KEECH / STEPHEN RICHARD MERRIMAN, do so affirm, and accordingly declare my belief in the faith which is revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds and to which the historic formularies of the Church of England bear witness; and in public prayer and administration of the sacraments, I will use only the forms of service which are authorised or allowed by Canon.

*Then follow the Oaths:*

I, DOMINIC KEECH / STEPHEN RICHARD MERRIMAN, do swear by Almighty God that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King Charles the Third, his heirs and successors, according to law: So help me God.

I, DOMINIC KEECH / STEPHEN RICHARD MERRIMAN, do swear by Almighty God that I will pay true and canonical obedience to the Lord Bishop of Chichester and his successors in all things lawful and honest: So help me God.

I, DOMINIC KEECH / STEPHEN RICHARD MERRIMAN, do swear by Almighty God that I will faithfully observe the Constitution and Statutes, ordinances and laudable customs of the Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity in Chichester, so far as they concern me on account of my Canonry and Prebend of SELSEY / HOVA VILLA in the same Cathedral Church.

*After subscribing the Declaration and Oaths the Canons designate stand before the Bishop, who reads the Deeds of Collation.*

*The new Canons kneel before the Bishop, who says*

Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus  
who was wounded for our sins,  
that you may bear in your life and ministry  
the love and joy and peace  
which are the marks of Jesus in his disciples.  
The Spirit of God rest on you,  
filling you with wisdom, understanding  
and the fear of the Lord.  
The peace of Christ stand guard  
over your heart and mind.  
And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you always.

*All*    **Amen.**

## THE INSTALLATION OF HONORARY CANONS

*The Bishop reads the mandates for the Dean to install the new Canons.*

*The Dean leads the new Canons to their stalls as the choir sings*

Behold, how good and joyful a thing it is: brethren, to dwell together  
in unity!  
It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down unto  
the beard: even unto Aaron's beard, and went down to the skirts  
of his clothing.  
Like as the dew of Hermon: which fell upon the hill of Sion.  
For there the Lord promised his blessing: and life for evermore.

*The Dean addresses the new Canons:*

Will you promise and swear due fealty to the Cathedral, obedience to the Chapter according to the Constitution and Statutes, and will you observe the ancient customs of this Cathedral?

*Canons:* I will.

*The Dean presents the new Canons with a prayer book, a copy of the Constitution and Statutes of the Cathedral, which govern the Chapter and are symbolised by a rod or 'rule', together with a loaf of common bread symbolising the Prebend from which in the past the Prebendary obtained his daily bread, saying:*

In the name and on behalf of the Chapter of this Cathedral Church, I receive and admit you, DOMINIC KEECH and STEPHEN RICHARD MERRIMAN, to be Canons of this Cathedral Church and invest you in this Office by this Book as to Spirituals, and this Bread as to Temporals. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*All*     **Amen.**

*Being thus constituted, the new Canons lay their hands upon a book of the Gospels from the Cathedral Library, saying:*

I promise and swear upon the Holy Gospels of God that I will observe inviolate the articles proposed: So help me God and these Holy Gospels.

*The Dean leads the following responses:*

O Lord, save these thy servants;  
*All* **who put their trust in thee.**

Send them help from thy holy place;  
*All* **and evermore defend them.**

Lord, hear our prayer;  
*All* **and let our cry come unto thee.**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
look graciously upon thy servants DOMINIC and STEPHEN,  
and according to thy mercy lead them in the way of everlasting life;  
that they, desiring those things which are acceptable in thy sight,  
may daily proceed in all virtue and godliness of living;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*All* **Amen.**

Go before us, O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favour,  
and further us with thy continual help;  
that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee,  
we may glorify thy holy name,  
and finally by thy mercy obtain everlasting life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*All* **Amen.**

***Please stand.*** *The Dean installs the new Canons, saying*

By virtue of the mandate of the Lord Bishop, I, ROBERT EDWARD MACKENZIE DOWLER, Dean of this Cathedral Church, assign you:

- DOMINIC KEECH, the Stall in this Quire due of old and by custom belonging to the Prebend of SELSEY;
- STEPHEN RICHARD MERRIMAN, the Stall in this Quire due of old and by custom belonging to the Prebend of HOVA VILLA.

The Lord preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth for evermore.

*All*    **Amen.**

*The new Canons are greeted with applause.*

*Remain standing as the cantor and choir sing*

## THE PRECES AND RESPONSES

○ Lord, open thou our lips.  
And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

○ God, make speed to save us.  
○ Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.  
The Lord's Name be praised.

*The Book of Common Prayer*

*Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988)*

*Please sit.*

*The choir sings*

PSALM 30

I will magnify thee, O Lord, for thou hast set me up: and not made  
my foes to triumph over me.

O Lord my God, I cried unto thee: and thou hast healed me.

Thou, Lord, hast brought my soul out of hell: thou hast kept my life  
from them that go down to the pit.

Sing praises unto the Lord, O ye saints of his: and give thanks unto  
him for a remembrance of his holiness.

For his wrath endureth but the twinkling of an eye, and in his pleasure  
is life: heaviness may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the  
morning.

And in my prosperity I said, I shall never be removed: thou, Lord, of  
thy goodness hast made my hill so strong.

Thou didst turn thy face from me: and I was troubled.

Then cried I unto thee, O Lord: and gat me to my Lord right humbly.

What profit is there in my blood: when I go down to the pit?

Shall the dust give thanks unto thee: or shall it declare thy truth?

Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me: Lord, be thou my helper.

Thou hast turned my heaviness into joy: thou hast put off my  
sackcloth, and girded me with gladness.

Therefore shall every good man sing of thy praise without ceasing:

O my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever.

*Please stand as the choir sings the Gloria:*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

*Please sit.*

## THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall! My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.'

The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. It is good for one to bear the yoke in youth, to sit alone in silence when the Lord has imposed it, to put one's mouth to the dust (there may yet be hope), to give one's cheek to the smiter, and be filled with insults.

For the Lord will not reject for ever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

*Lamentations 3: 19-33*

*Please stand. The choir sings the canticle*

## MAGNIFICAT

My soul doth magnify the Lord,  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me,  
and holy is his Name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him,  
throughout all generations.  
He hath shewed strength with his arm;  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat,  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,  
as he promised to our forefathers,  
Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

*Luke 1: 46-55*

*Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924) in B-flat*

*Please sit.*

## THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

While Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside by themselves, and said to them on the way, 'See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified; and on the third day he will be raised.'

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favour of him. And he said to her, 'What do you want?' She said to him, 'Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.' But Jesus answered, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?' They said to him, 'We are able.' He said to them, 'You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.'

When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

As they were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. There were two blind men sitting by the roadside. When they heard that Jesus was passing by, they shouted, 'Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!' The crowd sternly ordered them to be quiet; but they shouted even more loudly, 'Have mercy on us, Lord, Son of David!' Jesus stood still and called them, saying, 'What do you want me to do for you?' They said to him, 'Lord, let our eyes be opened.' Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes. Immediately they regained their sight and followed him.

*Please stand. The choir sings the canticle*

## NUNC DIMITTIS

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,  
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation;  
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;  
to be a light to lighten the Gentiles,  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

*Luke 2: 29-32*

*Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924) in B-flat*

*Remain standing to say together*

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

*All*    **I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth:  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church;  
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

*The cantor and choir sing*

## THE PRECES AND RESPONSES

The Lord be with you.  
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

*Please sit or kneel.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
Amen.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.  
And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save The King.  
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.  
And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.  
And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.  
Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us.  
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

## THE COLLECTS

We beseech thee, Almighty God,  
mercifully to look upon thy people;  
that by thy great goodness  
they may be governed and preserved evermore,  
both in body and soul;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*Choir: Amen.*

Almighty and everlasting God,  
who hatest nothing that thou hast made,  
and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent:  
create and make in us new and contrite hearts,  
that we worthily lamenting our sins,  
and acknowledging our wretchedness,  
may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy,  
perfect remission and forgiveness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*Choir: Amen.*

O God, from whom all holy desires,  
all good counsels, and all just works do proceed:  
give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give;  
that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments,  
and also that, by thee,  
we being defended from the fear of our enemies  
may pass our time in rest and quietness;  
through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.  
*Choir: Amen.*

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord;  
and by thy great mercy defend us  
from all perils and dangers of this night;  
for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
*Choir: Amen.*

*The Book of Common Prayer*

*Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988)*

*Please sit. The choir sings*

## THE ANTHEM

Out of the deep have I called to thee, O Lord: Lord, hear my voice.  
O let thine ears consider well: the voice of my complaint.  
If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss: O Lord, who  
may abide it?  
For there is mercy with thee: therefore shalt thou be feared.  
I look for the Lord; my soul doth wait for him: in his word is my trust.  
My soul fleeth unto the Lord: before the morning watch, I say, before  
the morning watch.  
O Israel, trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy: and with  
him is plenteous redemption.  
And he shall redeem Israel: from all his sins. Amen.

*Psalm 130*

*Thomas Morley (c. 1557-1602)*

## THE PRAYERS

*Please sit or kneel. The Prayers conclude with the Grace:*

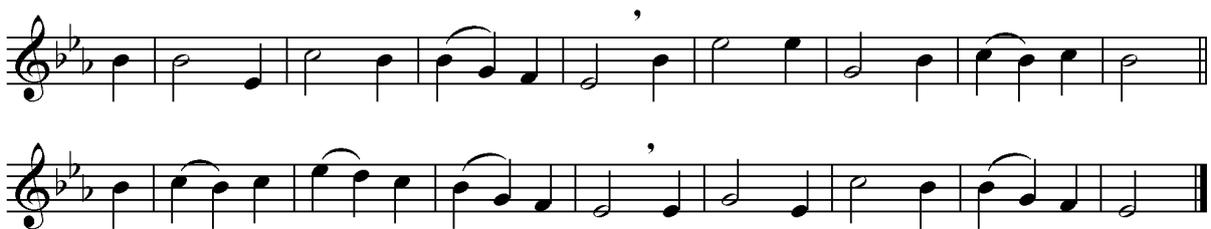
**All    The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore.  
Amen.**

*Please stand.*

## HYMN

*during which a cash collection is taken*

*Chichester Cathedral relies heavily on your generous donations. Whatever you give, whether large or small, helps us to maintain this special place and everything we offer. Other ways to donate are detailed at the front of this booklet.*



**It is a thing most wonderful,  
almost too wonderful to be,  
that God's own Son should come from heaven,  
and die to save a child like me.**

**And yet I know that it is true:  
he chose a poor and humble lot,  
and wept, and toiled, and mourned, and died  
for love of those who loved him not.**

But even could I see him die,  
I could but see a little part  
of that great love, which, like a fire,  
is always burning in his heart.

It is most wonderful to know  
his love for me so free and sure;  
but 'tis more wonderful to see  
my love for him so faint and poor.

And yet I want to love thee, Lord;  
O light the flame within my heart,  
and I will love thee more and more,  
until I see thee as thou art.

NEH 84  
W. Walsham How (1823-1897)

Herongate  
Essex folk song, arranged by  
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

## THE BLESSING

Christ crucified draw you to himself,  
to find in him a sure ground for faith,  
a firm support for hope,  
and the assurance of sins forgiven;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

## CLOSING MUSIC

FUGUE IN C MINOR  
BWV537II

*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

*Please remain standing as the procession departs.*

***All are invited to join us for refreshments after the service,  
which will be served in the South Transept.***

We hope that you have enjoyed today's service.  
If you have not yet been able to make a donation, there  
will be an opportunity to donate either by cash or card  
as you leave (our Stewards will be available to assist you),  
or you can scan the QR code below to donate online.

