

# Draw Near

Lent 2026



RIPON  
CATHEDRAL



## The Dean's Introduction

Draw near!

With the Church of England across the nation, Draw Near is our theme for Lent this year. This isn't an assertive command but a humble, confident invitation to each one of us to draw nearer to God, to others in fellowship and exploration, and to ourselves.

This is a wonderful invitation to use Lent well. This season is associated with the forty days and nights Jesus spent withstanding the devil's temptations in the wilderness. Since the early centuries of the Church, this has been a time of preparation for those to be baptised and confirmed at Easter. It is a season for people of faith to reflect on their relationship with God, seeking to draw nearer to him so that they can enjoy life more fully. It provides an opportunity for those who are inquisitive about the Christian faith to explore without feeling any pressure to make a commitment.

The cathedral has a generous offering of opportunities - both for those who are searching and for Christians at different points along the pilgrimage of faith – choosing as much or as little as we find helpful.

We are all invited to draw near to Jesus through the liturgy, music and preaching of these days as He reveals the extent of God's life-transforming, hope-giving, indestructible love for His creation.

We are delighted that we will be led this Holy Week by the preaching of The Very Revd Jerry Lepine, former Dean of Bradford.

I wish you a good and life-giving Lent.

**Dean John**

# Discovering the Power of Faith in a Conflicted World

Explore faith. Embrace difference. Build understanding

Join Christians from across the churches in Ripon as we explore together what it might mean to live together with difference.

**The Difference Course** equips us to cross divides, navigate disagreement and pursue a just and flourishing world.

## Course Options

Choose the group that works best for you



### Sundays at 7pm

Starting February 15 on Zoom

Led by: Canon Wendy Dalrymple and Tshada Shada Vause

To book a place, email: [canonwendy@riponcathedral.org.uk](mailto:canonwendy@riponcathedral.org.uk)



### Thursdays at 7.30pm

Starting February 19 in Thorpe Prebend House

Led by: Canon Matthew Pollard and Father Jonathan Hart

To book a place, email: [office.stwilfrid@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:office.stwilfrid@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)



### Mondays at 2pm

Starting February 23 in Allhallowgate Methodist Church

Led by: The Revd Ian Pruden and The Revd Phil Carman

To book a place, email: [ianpruden@btinternet.com](mailto:ianpruden@btinternet.com)

— £3.50 per person for participants guide —



RIPON  
CATHEDRAL



# Lent Lectures

## Issues of Faith

**Wednesdays 2.30pm in the quire**

or available as a recording afterwards

A weekly series of talks hosted by the Dean and Canons with a series of speakers helping us to reflect on issues of the day through the eyes of faith.

Each talk will be followed by the opportunity for questions.

**£5 each**

Tickets can be bought in advance from [riponcathedral.org.uk](http://riponcathedral.org.uk) and will be available on the door.

Ticket holders also receive a link to a recording of the talk.



February 25

**Of Flags and Faith:  
How to be a Positive Patriot**  
Bishop Arun Arora



March 4

**Looking to the Future:  
Finding God in our Endings**  
Dr Katherine Froggatt

More details of each talk can be found on our website  
**[riponcathedral.org.uk](http://riponcathedral.org.uk)**



# Lent Lectures

## Issues of Faith

Scan the code to  
find out more  
and purchase  
your tickets



March 11

**Why Christians Care about Creation**  
Jo Chamberlain



March 18

**Our Christian Anthropology: From  
Idealised Bodies to Risen Wounds**  
The Revd Canon Timothy Goode



March 25

**Thinking about Mary - A Reflection on  
the Earthly Dimension of Jesus' Mother  
through Sculpture and Poetry**  
The Revd Toddy Hoare

More details of each talk can be found on our website  
[riponcathedral.org.uk](http://riponcathedral.org.uk)

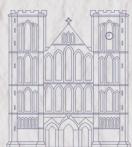
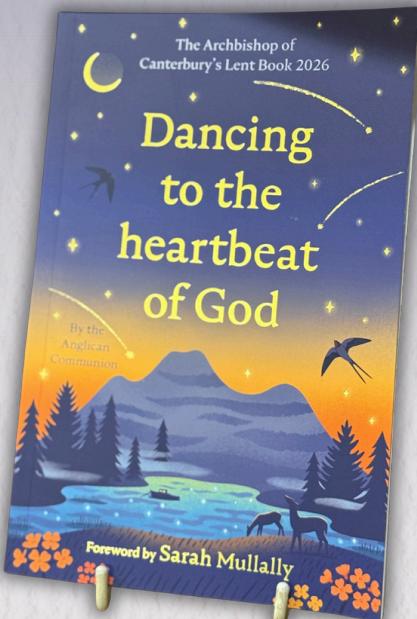
# The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book

# Dancing to the heartbeat of God

A collection of reflections and stories from the Anglican community with contributions from over thirty authors, offering a sense of excitement, dynamism and faithful witness.

A book designed to create a sense of community and shared faith during Lent.

Available to purchase for  
**£11.99** from the cathedral shop



**RIPON**  
CATHEDRAL

# Lent Book Group

## Join others this Lent

As we read this year's Lent book together, we'll meet weekly to share reflections and explore the questions offered by each author.

Each session will be gently facilitated by a member of the cathedral clergy.

Weekly during Lent

Thursday February 26 - Thursday March 26

Thursdays at 2pm

Meeting downstairs in the Claro Lounge

Market Place South, Ripon

**Cost:** Book purchase required

Drinks and refreshments available to purchase

All are welcome - no need to book

## A Prayer of Preparation for Lent, inspired by the writing of St. Augustine

Lord Jesus, our Saviour, let us now come to you:  
Our hearts are cold; warm them with your selfless love.  
Our hearts are sinful; cleanse them with your precious blood.  
Our hearts are weak; strengthen them with your joyous Spirit.  
Our hearts are empty; fill them with your divine presence.  
Lord Jesus, our hearts are yours; possess them always and only for yourself.

**Amen**

## A Prayer for Lent

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,  
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:  
give us grace to discipline ourselves  
in obedience to your Spirit;  
and as you know our weakness,  
so may we know your power to save;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

**Amen.**





# Lent Quiet Day

 **Saturday March 21**

 **9.30am-2pm**

 **Ripon Cathedral**

Join us in the cathedral on Saturday 21 March for a Bishop's Quiet Day, led by the Right Revd Anna Eltringham, Bishop of Ripon and Canon Matthew Pollard, Canon Chancellor of Ripon Cathedral.

Teas and coffees served from 9.30am for a 10.00am start and finish at 2pm. Please bring your own packed lunch.

There is no charge for the day, but please book a place via the cathedral office.

Book now:

**[cathedraladmin@riponcathedral.org.uk](mailto:cathedraladmin@riponcathedral.org.uk)**



## Cathedral Prayer Diary

Prayer lies at the heart of Christian discipleship and our relationship with God. There are many ways to pray, and we are encouraged to pray as we can, not as we can't.

Prayer and worship take place daily in the cathedral, with at least three services every day. Many people pause to pray and leave prayer requests, and in our services we pray for the Church and the world, often using the Ripon Cathedral Prayer Diary.

The Prayer Diary is also a valuable resource for personal prayer, wherever we are. Each month it guides us to pray for the life of the cathedral, diocese, Church, city, nation and world. Praying together each day helps strengthen the cathedral as a community of prayer.

We encourage everyone to obtain a copy of the Prayer Diary, either from the cathedral or online at [www.riponcathedral.org.uk/worship/](http://www.riponcathedral.org.uk/worship/), and to use it regularly.

# DRAW NEAR

LIFE-GIVING  
HABITS FOR LENT

## Life-Giving Habits for Children, Families & All Ages

Lent is a season of journeying closer to God, together. This year at Ripon Cathedral, we're delighted to join the Church of England's Draw Near campaign, inviting families and individuals to discover simple, life-giving habits that help us grow in love, faith and compassion.

Whether you're with little ones or exploring faith as a household, Draw Near encourages us to take small steps each day - to pause, reflect, pray and connect.

### What does Draw Near mean?

Draw Near is a way of living Lent as a journey not just a moment. It's about building habits that:

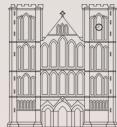
- Help us notice God in everyday life
- Strengthen relationships with one another
- Encourage kindness, gratitude and curiosity
- Create space for prayer, silence and wonder

The Church of England is inviting families and children to explore the life-giving habit of generosity this Lent with 40acts.

**Scan the code to get involved**



# Holy Week & Easter at Ripon Cathedral



RIPON  
CATHEDRAL

**Sunday March 29 - Sunday April 5**

The Very Revd Jerry Lepine conducts us through Holy Week

**Palm Sunday** March 29

10.10am: Procession from Market Square

10.30am: Sung Eucharist at the cathedral

5.30pm Olivet to Calvary: Come and Sing!

**Monday - Wednesday** March 30 - April 1

7.30pm Said/Sung Compline

**Maundy Thursday** April 2

7.30pm Sung Eucharist followed by the Watch to midnight

**Good Friday** April 3

10.30am Journey to Jerusalem

12noon Preaching on the Cross

1.30pm Good Friday Liturgy

**Easter Eve** April 4

7.30pm Easter Eve Vigil

**Easter Day** April 5

Times of morning services, including Festal Eucharist to be confirmed

3.30pm Festal Evensong