

AUTUMN 2025



Great hope in a world of change: War, Peace and Global Turmoil

Worship, Prayer and Christian Formation at Chelmsford Cathedral



Photo © Bob Pitchford

Christians are called always and in every circumstance to live hopefully; and our prayer for the season, written by Percy Dearmer, speaks of God setting before us the 'great hope that thy kingdom shall come on earth'.

Dearmer knew and lived through times of change and destruction, losing both his son and his wife to the First World War - his son to combat in the Dardanelles, and his wife to typhus when she, with Dearmer himself, were serving in an ambulance station in Serbia in 1915.



In our own day of global instability and unpredictable change, our calling stays the same: to live in great hope, and to pray, as Jesus taught us, 'thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven'. Our programme, built around the realities and threat of war and the Christian call to peace on earth, ponders how we may respond hopefully to the challenges and chaos of our own time.

How may we best care for the fragile earth, for the many dispossessed who wander it seeking safety, for those who are caught up in the war and unrest that dominate today's geopolitics and empire building? And how may we continue, in the face of so much uncertainty, to live lives of praise, prayer and joy?

All these themes are explored in different ways across the preaching, worship, learning, experiences and formation set out in this programme.

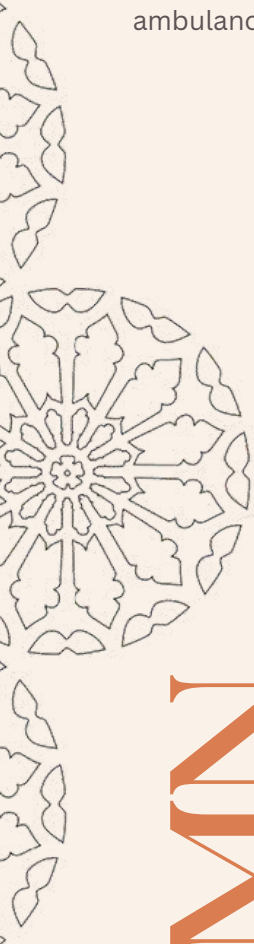
The Luke Jerram installation, Mars: War and Peace, forms the focus for our reflection on how we live hopefully in our dramatically changing and increasingly warlike world.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alfons'.

Prayer

O Lord, who hast set before us the great hope that thy kingdom shall come on earth, and hast taught us to pray for its coming: Give us grace to discern the signs of its dawning, and to work for the perfect day when thy will shall be done on earth as it is in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AUTUMN PROGRAMME



PSALM 46

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the
earth should change, though the
mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam, though
the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make
glad the city of God, the holy habitation
of the Most High.

God is in the midst of the city; it shall
not be moved; God will help it when
the morning dawns.

The nations are in an uproar,
the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

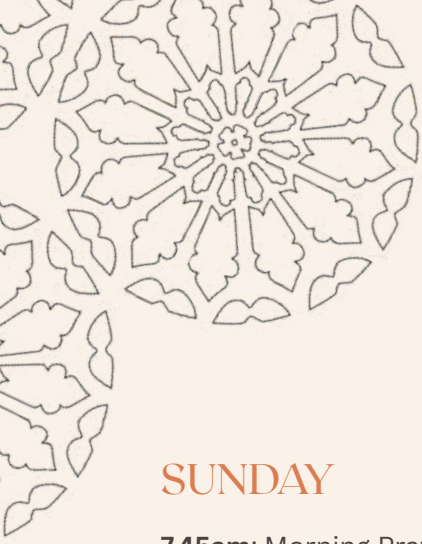
Come, behold the works of the Lord;
see what desolations he has brought
on the earth.

He makes wars cease to the end of
the earth; he breaks the bow and
shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.

‘Be still, and know that I am God;
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth.’

The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.





DAILY SERVICES

Worship is offered daily: all are welcome

SUNDAY

7.45am: Morning Prayer

8.00am: Holy Communion according to the Book of Common Prayer (1662) (said)

9.30am: Parish Eucharist with Junior Church

11.15am: Choral Eucharist

3.30pm: Choral Evensong

MONDAY - SATURDAY

7.45am: Morning Prayer
(a short, Common Worship service, with bible readings, song and prayer).

8.15am: Holy Communion (said)

5.15pm: Evensong or Evening Prayer
(Thursdays and Fridays, Choral Evensong; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Choral Evening Prayer; Mondays and Saturdays, said Evening Prayer).

On Thursdays at 10.30am there is a Eucharist followed by coffee and fellowship.

A full list of services can be found on the Cathedral website.
Incense is used at services marked with an asterisk *

MORNING PRAYER:

This reflective quiet service to start the day uses the Church of England readings and psalms for the Daily Office.

EUCCHARIST:

The Eucharist is at the heart of Christian worship. God invites us to his table through the gift of his Son Jesus, as a foretaste of the heavenly banquet which he has prepared for people of all nations and cultures.

CHORAL EVENSONG:

This meditative and reflective service sung by the Cathedral Choir lasts for around 45 minutes, giving space to pause for a moment as the day draws to a close.

EVENING PRAYER:

Evening Prayer is a simple, short spoken service which takes place at 5.15pm on days when there is no choir. It lasts for around 20 minutes.





Sunday Sermon Series: Great Hope in a World of Change

Our sermon series explores different aspects of justice, hope and care for our world, drawing on the wisdom of the Scriptures as it appears in the Lectionary for the season. Our preachers will explore God's especial honouring of the poor, the voiceless, the enslaved and the dispossessed, themes of greed and generosity, our care for the fragile earth, and the mystery of divine justice.

7 September: 9.30am & 11.15am

Sermon one:

**Turning the World Upside-Down:
Mary's Song as the Voice of the Voiceless.**

The Very Revd Dr Jessica Martin, Dean

Sunday 14 Sept: 11.00am, 2.00pm & 4.40pm

Ordinations to the Diaconate

Sunday 21 September: 9.30am & 11.15am

Sermon two:

**The Calling of Matthew: Redeeming Greed
by Desiring Mercy**

Canon Sebastian Harries, Cathedral Precentor

25 September: 5.15pm

Evensong with Welcome for new Headteachers

28 September Harvest/Michaelmas

Sermon three:

**Little Lower than the Angels: Humanity
and the Wounded Creation**

9.30am - Revd Olivia Maxfield Coote,
Cathedral Associate Priest

11.15am - Fr John Bloomer, St. John's Moulsham

3.30pm - The Right Reverend Roger Morris,
Bishop of Colchester



The Very Revd Dr Jessica Martin is Dean of Chelmsford Cathedral. Her academic background is in literature; she is a theologian and former Canon of Ely Cathedral.



Revd Canon Sebastian Harries is the Cathedral Precentor for Chelmsford. Prior to this he served in Southwark Diocese as chaplain at Saint Gabriel's College and assistant priest at St John the Divine.



Fr John is currently interim Priest-in-Charge at St John's, Moulsham. He is also a chaplain, scientist and businessperson in the agricultural technology industry.

5 October: 9.30am & 11.15am

Sermon four:

Faith in a World of Violence.

Canon. Joseph Fernandes, Vice Dean

6 October: 5.15pm

Season of Creation Service

7 October: 5.15pm

Service to celebrate Spirituality and Spiritual Companions

Tea and cake served beforehand at 4.00pm

7 October: 7.00pm

Keene Lecture: Jesus, Hitler, and How to Win a Culture War

Professor Alec Ryrie, Durham University

12 October: 9.30am & 11.15am

Sermon five:

God's Care for the Stranger

Dr Dan Pratt, Westminster College, Cambridge

19 October: 9.30am & 11.15am

Sermon six:

Wrestling with God: Discerning Divine Justice in an Unjust World.

The Ven Christopher Burke - Archdeacon of Barking

26 October

Celebrating St Cedd

9.30am - All Age Service

Canon. Joseph Fernandes, Vice Dean

11.15am - Choral Eucharist,
The Revd Patrick Sherring

21 October: 7.00pm

Diocesan Mars Evening: War! What is it good for?

Professor Francis Spufford, Trinity Hall Cambridge

28 October: 7.00pm

Keene Lecture: Very Reverend John Witcombe

KINGDOM SEASON

We honour those who have gone before us, and remember them with love and thanksgiving

2 November - 9.30am & 11.15am

The Feast of All Saints:

Sermon seven:

Surrounding our Steps as we Journey On: God's Light in Dark Times.

The Revd Jessica Martin - Dean

The Feast of All Souls - 3.30 pm

4 November - 7.00pm

Keene Lecture: Romans 13:1-7, the Divine Sword of the Empire, and the Opponent's Voice.

Dr Jared Neusch, St Mellitus and children's author



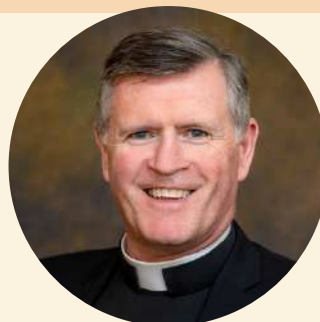
Jared Neusch is a Research Assistant and Project Manager at St. Mellitus College, London. He earned his PhD from King's College London and researches apocalyptic readings of Paul, hermeneutics, and Christian pacifism.



Francis Spufford is a writer known for his novels, including the Booker Prize-longlisted *Light Perpetual*. A professor at Goldsmiths College, he is also the author of *Unapologetic*, his forceful and sometimes impolite defence of Christian faith.



Canon Joseph Fernandes, is the Vice Dean of Chelmsford Cathedral. Joseph has served in various roles in the Diocese of London and is committed to inclusivity, racial justice, and diverse cultures.



The Ven Christopher Burke is the Archdeacon of Barking overseeing the parishes, clergy and spiritual life of the Barking Archdeaconry. He was ordained in 1993 and previously served as a Canon Residentiary of Sheffield Cathedral.



Dr. Dan Pratt is the Director of Pastoral Studies at Westminster College. He is a URC minister, Army Reserve Chaplain, and founder of The Together Free Foundation, which combats modern slavery.



HARVEST

We give thanks for the abundance of the earth, commit ourselves to work for its flourishing, and celebrate with gratitude the work and care of farmers.

28 September

**Little Lower than the Angels:
Humanity and the Wounded Creation**

9.30am - All Age Service with
the Revd Olivia Maxfield-Coote

11.15am - The Revd John Bloomer

County Harvest Festival Service

3.30pm - The Right Reverend Roger
Morris - Bishop of Colchester



Revd Olivia Maxfield-Coote is Associate Priest at Chelmsford Cathedral, formally Vicar of the Epping Team Ministry. She is a member of the Diocesan Environmental Group, the Chelmsford Deanery Eco Advocate and a Trustee for the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals.



Revd Roger Morris is the Bishop of Colchester and chair of the Diocesan Board of Education

He is also a patron of Colchester and Tendring Youth Enquiry Service (offering support and counselling to young people) and a Trustee of Essex Council for Voluntary Youth Services.



7 November - 5.15pm

Remembrance Evensong

The Very Revd Dr Jessica Martin, Dean

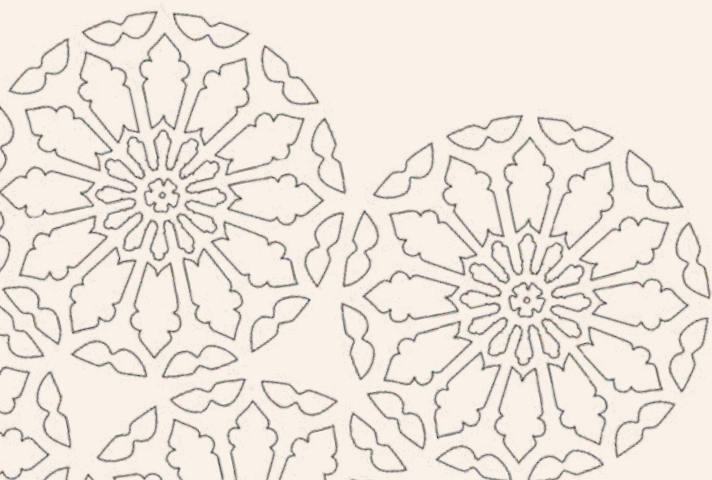
A reflective Evensong, under Mars, pondering its themes of war, peace, courage and reconciliation.

9 November - 9.30am & 11.15am

Remembrance Sunday

The Venerable David Lowman

Our Remembrance Day service is led by David Lowman, former Diocesan Director of Ordinands, and former Archdeacon of Southend and Chelmsford.



ALL AGE SERVICES

We have all age services at 9.30am on the following Sundays:

28 September

Harvest with Parade

Revd Olivia Maxfield-Coote,
Cathedral Associate Priest

26 October

The Feast of St Cedd

Canon Joseph Fernandes, Vice-Dean



Worship and Reflection on Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a foundational part of our kingdom calling. We will focus upon the theology and practice of safeguarding during this autumn season, to deepen our commitment to the vulnerable and the young.

Sunday 16 November

Safeguarding Sunday

Canon Joseph Fernandes, Vice-Dean
and Safeguarding Lead

23 November

Feast of Christ the King

9.30am - Teaching Eucharist and
All Age Service with admission to Holy Communion
The Revd Olivia Maxfield-Coote,
Cathedral Associate Priest

11.15am - Eucharist

Canon Sebastian Harries

3.30pm - Diocesan Confirmation Service

The Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani
Bishop of Chelmsford

Diocesan Safeguarding Service

Thursday 9 October 7.00pm

An opportunity for everyone across the diocese to gather and give thanks for those who are involved in the work of safeguarding.



BREAKFAST WITH THE BIBLE

Breakfast with the Bible is led by various members of the Cathedral congregation, Diocese, lay and ordained.

It includes time for discussion as well as some teaching input from the leaders. All are very welcome - you do not need to be an expert in the Bible. It is a space to read Scripture together and grow in faith.

The theme this term focuses on peace in scripture.

Breakfast with the Bible meets both in person, in the Courtyard Library, and on Zoom from 8.30am to 9.30am.

For more information please visit www.chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk/learn/breakfast-with-the-bible.

The Courtyard Library is located in the Cathedral Office at 53 New Street, Chelmsford CM1 1TY.



September

Sunday 14 September

John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you"

Revd Olivia Maxfield-Coote

Sunday 21 September

Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers"

Gervase Vernon

Sunday 28 September

Barnabas and peace "A good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith"

Revd Keith Anderson

October

Sunday 5 October

Matthew 10:34-36 "I have not come to bring peace, but a sword"

Very Revd Jessica Martin, Dean

Sunday 12 October

Isaiah 11:1-9 The Peaceful Kingdom

Nick Easton

Sunday 19 October

Psalms 144 - "Who teaches my hands for war"

Ven Sue Lucas - Archdeacon of Southend

November

Sunday 9 November

Psalms 34:14 "Seek peace and pursue it"

Sunday 16 November

The symbols of peace

Linda Brown

Sunday 23 November

Romans 10.15 - "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things."

Revd Canon Sebastian Harries

Sunday 30 November

1 Peter 3:11 "Turn from evil; do good; seek peace"

Prof Valerie Anderson

KEENE LECTURES



The Keene Lectures discuss contemporary theological issues and are delivered annually in Chelmsford Cathedral. They take their name from John Henry Keene, a prominent citizen of Chelmsford, in whose memory a fund was established to bring distinguished speakers to Chelmsford for this purpose.

7 October: 7.00pm

Jesus, Hitler, and How to win a Culture War

Hitler and the Nazis have long served as the West's moral reference point for evil, but this consensus is now unravelling. This lecture by Professor Alec Ryrie will trace how our values were built around the memory of World War II and why this framework is no longer sufficient for our current challenges.

Ryrie, a Professor of the History of Christianity at Durham University and a Fellow of the British Academy, will explore themes from his recent book, *The Age of Hitler and How We Will Survive It*. He will argue that the resolution to our present predicaments may be more hopeful than we realise.



28 October: 7.00pm

Is reconciliation possible in a divided world?

John is the Dean of Coventry, leading the Cathedral's ministry locally and internationally. The Cathedral is renowned for its reconciliation work, initiated after its destruction in 1940.

With a background in practical and atonement theology, John is passionate about using the arts and reconciliation to offer a contemporary witness to everyone, regardless of their beliefs.



KEENE LECTURES



4 November: 7.00pm

Romans 13:1-7, the Divine Sword of the Empire, & the Opponent's Voice

“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities It is the agent of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer.” Throughout history, Romans 13:1–7 has emerged as a paradigmatic *locus classicus* invoked by Christians in support of war. But does a reading that finds Paul to be instructing his Christian readers to defend their government’s military efforts capture his intent in this text?

In this lecture we’ll critically examine this *pericope*, canvas popular readings, and explore the potential for a new interpretive way forward.



11 November: 7.00pm

War and Peace - A Chaplain's Perspective

Ruth Hake has been a military chaplain for 22 years, serving all over the world from Afghanistan to the Falkland Islands. In this lecture she will discuss the history of military chaplaincy in the British Armed Forces, and the development of chaplaincy into the 21st Century.

Drawing on her own experiences she will address the challenges of ministry within this unique environment, and consider how chaplaincy will evolve over the next decade.



25 November: 7.00pm

Religion, a cause of war or a means of peace

A recent UK survey found that half the population believes religion causes more harm than good, often linking it to war, oppression, and political misuse. Many are now indifferent or critical of religious belief. Major General (Retired) Tim Cross CBE will explore whether religion fuels conflict or fosters peace—not from an academic perspective, but through his military experience. Commissioned in 1971, he served in Northern Ireland, Cyprus, Iraq, and the Balkans. In 1999, he led NATO’s humanitarian response in Kosovo, earning a CBE and the Wilkinson Sword of Peace for his efforts.



MARS: WAR & PEACE

WORSHIP, LEARNING, EVENTS



AUTHOR TALK: SARAH PERRY

Wednesday 22 October 7.00pm

Join the internationally bestselling author of novels such as *Enlightenment*, *Melmoth*, *The Essex Serpent*, and *After Me Comes the Flood*, as well as the non-fiction work *Essex Girls*. Her new book, *Death of an Ordinary Man*, offers an unforgettable account of this universal aspect of life. Don't miss the chance to ask questions and have your books signed at this special event.



SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

Tuesday 21, Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 October

Our schools' team will be welcoming 60+ local school children for each of the session times. The children will have the amazing opportunity to work under Mars on the *Mars: War & Peace* themed trail.



DIOCESAN MARS EVENING

Tuesday 21 October - 7.00pm

Professor Francis Spufford will speak on 'War! What is it good for?', exploring Christian theories of a 'just war'.



INTERSTELLAR – ROGER SAYER

Friday 31 October – 7.00pm

Chelmsford Cathedral is hosting a special event called "Interstellar under Mars" featuring a performance of the Oscar-nominated Interstellar suite by organist Roger Sayer, alongside other space-themed music like *A Space Odyssey* and Gustav Holst's *The Planets*.

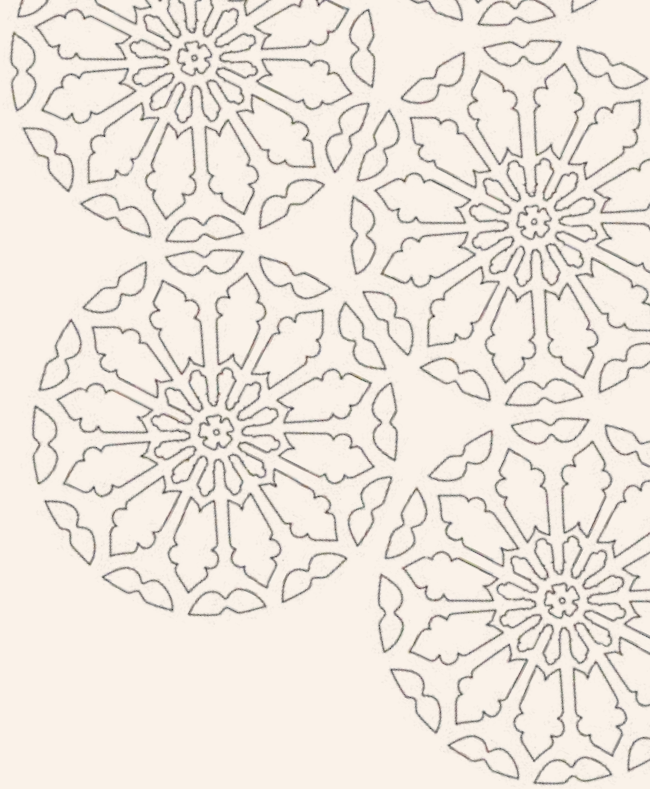


WELCOME SUPPER

Join us for dinner with others new to the
Cathedral and Chelmsford.
Bring a dessert to share!

**Tuesday 16 September
at 6.30pm**

for Cathedral newcomers



The image shows the interior of Chelmsford Cathedral, featuring a large, textured model of Mars suspended from the ceiling. The cathedral's architecture is illuminated with warm red and orange lights, highlighting the stone columns, arches, and the wooden ceiling. The floor is made of large stone tiles, and several chairs are visible on the sides. The overall atmosphere is dramatic and historical.

MARS

WAR & PEACE

PHOTO (C) STEVE HARTRIDGE

21 October - 12 November
www.chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk/mars



CHELMSFORD
CATHEDRAL

The Cathedral Office, 53 New Street, Chelmsford CM1 1TY
Telephone: 01245 294492
Email: hello@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk
chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 1207270