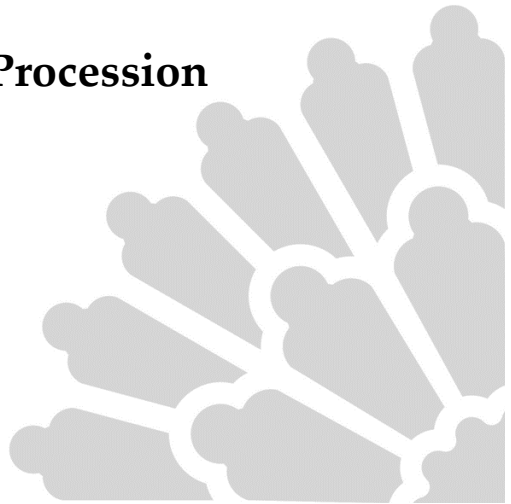




DURHAM
CATHEDRAL

Solemn Evensong and Procession
on the eve of
St Aidan's Day

Sunday 30 August 2026
3.30 p.m.



Welcome to Durham Cathedral

*Inspired by our saints, Cuthbert and Bede,
the mission of Durham Cathedral
is to offer everyone the opportunity
to encounter God and know God's love in Jesus Christ.*

*Flowers are an important part of our adorning of the Cathedral Church
for divine service on many occasions during the year.*

*We are very grateful to Hargreaves Services plc
for their support of our provision of flowers at Durham Cathedral
www.hsgplc.co.uk*

*This order of service is printed on 100% recycled paper
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This service is sung by Cantica Viva

Voluntary

Please stand at the entry of the choir and ministers

Hymn

**O God, thy loving care for man
Devised for us salvation's plan,
And sent thy Son to be the way
To bring us to eternal day.**

**The Shepherd bled to save the sheep,
And gave his own strict watch to keep,
That souls bought at so great a cost
Might never from the fold be lost.**

**All praise be thine, O Lord of heaven,
For those to whom the charge is given
To tend and feed the souls of men,
Until thy Son shall come again.**

**So, for that pastor of the sheep
Whose entrance into bliss we keep,
Thanksgiving unto thee be made,
While honour due to him is paid.**

**O God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One,
Blest Trinity, our strength and stay,
Guard thou thy flock by night and day. Amen.**

Editors of the New English Hymnal

BOW BRICKHILL, Sydney Nicholson

Preces

Richard Ayleward

Cantor O Lord, open thou our lips.
Choir And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.
O 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.

Welcome and Introduction

The Very Reverend Dr Philip Plyming

Please sit

Psalm 147

sung by the choir

Praise the Lord,
for it is a good thing to sing praises unto our God :
yea, a joyful and pleasant thing it is to be thankful.
The Lord doth build up Jerusalem :
and gather together the out-casts of Israel.
He healeth those that are broken in heart :
and giveth medicine to heal their sickness.
He telleth the number of the stars :
and calleth them all by their names.
Great is our Lord, and great is his power :
yea, and his wisdom is infinite.
The Lord setteth up the meek :
and bringeth the ungodly down to the ground.
O sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving :
sing praises upon the harp unto our God;

Who covereth the heaven with clouds,
and prepareth rain for the earth :
and maketh the grass to grow upon the mountains,
and herb for the use of men;
Who giveth fodder unto the cattle :
and feedeth the young ravens that call upon him.
He hath no pleasure in the strength of an horse :
neither delighteth he in any man's legs.
But the Lord's delight is in them that fear him :
and put their trust in his mercy.
Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem :
praise thy God, O Sion.
For he hath made fast the bars of thy gates :
and hath blessed thy children within thee.
He maketh peace in thy borders :
and filleth thee with the flour of wheat.
He sendeth forth his commandment upon earth :
and his word runneth very swiftly.
He giveth snow like wool :
and scattereth the hoar-frost like ashes.
He casteth forth his ice like morsels :
who is able to abide his frost?
He sendeth out his word, and melteth them :
he bloweth with his wind, and the waters flow.
He sheweth his word unto Jacob :
his statutes and ordinances unto Israel.
He hath not dealt so with any nation :
neither have the heathen knowledge of his laws.

Please stand

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 Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backwards.
I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.
The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?
All of them will wear out like a garment;
the moth will eat them up.

After a short silence, all stand with the choir

Magnificat

Herbert Howells: Gloucester Service

during which incense is offered at the High Altar as a symbol of our prayers rising before the Lord: you may wish to turn to face the altar and offer your own prayers at this sacred moment

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 showed 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.

Please sit

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, “Peace to this house!” And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, “The kingdom of God has come near to you.” But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, “Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.”’

After a short silence, all stand with the choir

Nunc dimittis

Herbert Howells: Gloucester Service

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.

Please face east

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 Lesser Litany, Responses and Collects

Richard Ayleward

Cantor The Lord be with you.

Choir And with thy spirit.

Please kneel

Cantor Let us pray.

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

Our Father,
which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that 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 Collect for St Aidan

O everlasting God,
who didst send thy gentle bishop Aidan
to proclaim the Gospel in this land:
grant that we may live after his teaching
in simplicity, humility, and love for the poor;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who liveth and reigneth with thee,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Collect for peace

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.
Amen.

The Collect for aid against all perils

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.
Amen.

Procession to the Chapel of Nine Altars

The officiant invites the congregation to follow the choir and ministers in procession to the Chapel of Nine Altars

Hymn **Let saints on earth in concert sing
With those whose work is done;
For all the servants of our King
In heaven and earth are one.**

**One family, we dwell in him,
One Church, above, beneath;
Though now divided by the stream,
The narrow stream of death.**

**One army of the living God,
To his command we bow:
Part of the host have crossed the flood,
And part are crossing now.**

**E'en now to their eternal home
There pass some spirits blest;
While others to the margin come,
Waiting their call to rest.**

**Jesus, be thou our constant guide;
Then, when the word is given,
Bid Jordan's narrow stream divide,
And bring us safe to heaven.**

Charles Wesley

*DUNDEE, Melody from the Scottish Psalter
as set in Ravenscroft's Psalmes*

Acclamation

Minister Let us praise the Lord for his power and love,
revealed in the life of Aidan and all his saints.

All Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised:
there is no end of his greatness.

All One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.

All All your works praise you, Lord,
and your faithful servants bless you.

All They make known the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power.

All Let us rejoice and praise them with thankful hearts
and glorify our God in whom they put their trust.

All My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord:
let everything bless his holy name for ever and ever.

verses from Psalm 145

Reading *St Bede's Ecclesiastical History of the English People (adapted)*

Oswald appointed Aidan Bishop of Lindisfarne and the two worked tirelessly together for the spread of Christianity in Oswald's realm. During their partnership, Aidan used the King's resources to found several churches and monasteries, as well as establishing a school where he could train Northumbrian boys to read and write as a prelude to teaching them the tenets of the Christian Faith. All of this was in addition to travelling the countryside, usually on foot, to preach the Gospel to everyone he met.

Aidan outlived King Oswald, but was seized with a sudden illness after denouncing the assassins of Oswald's successor, Oswin, in the Royal Court of Bamburgh. He died on 31 August 651, at prayer in the parish church at Bamburgh. Aidan was buried at Lindisfarne, but some of his remains were transferred to Iona shortly thereafter. Bede concludes his retelling of Aidan's life by: 'commending such things as are praiseworthy in his actions and preserving the memory thereof ... namely, his love of peace and charity; his chastity and humility; his mind superior to anger and avarice, and despising pride and vainglory; his industry in keeping and teaching the heavenly commandments; his diligence in readiness and watching; his authority becoming a priest in reproving the haughty and powerful, and, at the same time, his tenderness in comforting the afflicted and relieving and defending the poor.'

During the anthem which follows, incense is offered at St Aidan's Altar

Anthem

sung by the choir

Faire is the heaven, where happy souls have place in full enjoyment of felicity, whence they do still behold the glorious face of the divine eternal Majesty: yet far more faire be those bright Cherubins, which all with golden wings are overdight, and those eternal burning Seraphins, which from their faces dart out fiery light; yet fairer than they both, and much more bright be th' Angels and Archangels, which attend on God's own Person, without rest or end. These then in faire each other far excelling, as to the Highest they approach more near. Yet is that Highest far beyond all telling, fairer than all the rest which there appear, though all their beauties joined together were; How then can mortal tongue hope to express the image of such endless perfectness?

Edmund Spenser

William Harris

Prayers and the Grace

The Very Reverend Dr Philip Plyming

Minister Let us pray.

Silence is kept

As we give thanks for the life and witness of St Aidan,
let us pray for the Church's ministry
of teaching, healing, and caring for the poor:

Almighty God,
by whose grace we celebrate again
the feast day of your servant Aidan:
grant that, as he preached the gospel
in the power of the Spirit,
and drew our ancestors to the love of your Son,
so all ministers of your word and sacraments
may be alive with his zeal and holiness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All

Amen.

Let us pray for ourselves,
that we might be inspired by the example of St Aidan
to offer ourselves in the service of Christ:

Almighty God,
who hast called thy Church to witness
that thou wast in Christ reconciling the world to thyself:
help us so to proclaim the good news of thy love
that all who hear it may be drawn unto thee;
through him who was lifted up on the cross,
and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All

Amen.

And now, in a moment of silence,
let us present our own private prayers
before the throne of God's heavenly grace:

Silence is kept

O Thou who art the high and holy one
that inhabitest eternity,
yet dwellest with the humble in heart:
Be pleased to accept the worship
which we have now offered in thy house,
and prepare us for the service of thy heavenly kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

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.**

The officiant offers words of farewell

The Blessing

God give you grace
to follow Saint Aidan and all his saints
in faith and hope and love;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost,
be amongst you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Voluntary

We are very grateful to Cantica Viva for singing at this service.

Worshippers are very welcome to light a candle at the St Aidan Altar

For all enquiries concerning the provision of pastoral care for members of the cathedral community, please contact The Reverend Dr Daniel Parkinson: daniel.parkinson@durhamcathedral.co.uk

Community Newsletter

Many of you will have received the August edition of the Cathedral's community newsletter. It is issued once a month and includes pastoral words from different members of the cathedral clergy and news about things that might interest the cathedral community—especially about worship, music, talks, and other events that build up our worship and fellowship. It goes to regular worshippers who have joined the community roll as well as other constituencies closely associated with the Cathedral. Alternatively, you can sign up to the newsletter by scanning the QR code below. If you are a regular worshipper here and you would like to be on the community roll, you are welcome to join it by sending an email to community@durhamcathedral.co.uk, for the application form.



Autumn Bible study update

Thank you to all who have been in touch about the Bible study, *Encountering God in Mark's Gospel*. The Wednesday evening group is now full, but there is still space on the Thursday morning. This group will meet from 10.00-11.30 a.m., also at 15 The College, for six weeks starting on Thursday 17 September. It will involve looking at individual Bible passages in thoughtful and reflective ways, led by Jane Maycock, Canon Missioner. No specialist knowledge or prior experience is required, and all members of the Cathedral worshipping community are welcome. To register and/or find out more please email: jane.maycock@durhamcathedral.co.uk

Operation Lucy

This is the code name for the Cathedral's project to install new sound and lighting systems in due course. You will be glad to know that this project has been drafted into three phases: Phase One (to be completed by the early autumn) to fix non-functioning wireless microphone transmitters and to acquire new lapel microphones and to acquire new video cameras for the live-streaming of our services. Phase Two (to be completed by early 2027) to move ahead with a new sound system albeit in a temporary installation subject to longer-term permissions to embed the new infrastructure into the Cathedral's fabric in due course. Phase Three (to be completed by early 2028) to install a new lighting system and to consolidate Phases Two and Three. We hope this will be good news. Please continue to bear with us as we move ahead with this three-phase approach.

Friday 4 September: The Translation of the Relics of St Cuthbert

Before the Cathedral was fully complete but when the Quire had been completed, the Relics of St Cuthbert were rehoused in the part of the Cathedral where we now venerate them. Morning Prayer at 8.30 a.m. and the Eucharist at 12.30 p.m. are said in the Feretory this day. At 5.30 p.m., Evensong includes a procession to the Shrine.

Organ Recitals 2026

Our organ recitals follow last year's revised and successful format. Once a month, there will be an hour long recital starting at 7.00 p.m. We're keen to encourage people who don't normally come to our organ recitals to join us, alongside those familiar with these special recitals, and enjoy the magnificent sound of one of the country's greatest cathedral organs played by some of Britain's greatest organists.

Wednesday 22 April: Katherine Dienes-Williams, Guildford Cathedral

Wednesday 27 May: Joseph Beech, Durham Cathedral

Wednesday 24 June: Robert Quinney, New College, Oxford

Wednesday 22 July: Imogen Morgan, St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh

Wednesday 26 August: Benjamin Mills, Durham Cathedral

Wednesday 23 September: Daniel Cook, Durham Cathedral

Tickets are available at durhamcathedral.co.uk, from the Visitor Desk, or on the door.

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If you already support the Cathedral, thank you!

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advancing our mission as a place of prayer, pilgrimage and proclamation, conserving heritage, and providing welcome.

- Scan the QR code on the right
- Visit www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20041776
- Use the tap and give machines near the exits
- Drop cash into the collecting boxes or baskets
- Contact development@durhamcathedral.co.uk

Thank you!



Services and other events this week:
(L) = live-streamed (NL) = not live-streamed

Monday 31 August	<i>St Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne</i>
8.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer (Feretary) (L)
12.30 p.m.	Holy Communion (Aidan Altar) (NL)
5.30 p.m.	Evening Prayer (Quire) (L)
8.45 p.m.	Compline (Online-only) (L)
Tuesday 1 September	8.30 a.m. Morning Prayer (Feretary) (L)
	12.30 p.m. Holy Communion (Gregory Chapel) (NL)
	5.30 p.m. Evening Prayer (Quire) (L)
Wednesday 2 September	8.30 a.m. Morning Prayer (Feretary) (L)
	12.30 p.m. Holy Communion (Gregory Chapel) (NL)
	5.30 p.m. Evening Prayer (Quire) (L)
Thursday 3 September	8.30 a.m. Morning Prayer (Feretary) (L)
	12.30 p.m. Holy Communion (Gregory Chapel) (NL)
	5.30 p.m. Evening Prayer (Quire) (L)

The Cathedral Choir returns from its summer recess

Friday 4 September	<i>Translation of the Relics of St Cuthbert</i>
8.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer and Litany (Feretary) (L)
12.30 p.m.	Holy Communion (Feretary) (NL)
5.30 p.m.	Evensong and Procession (Quire) (L)
Saturday 5 September	8.30 a.m. Morning Prayer (Feretary) (L)
	10.30 a.m. The St Cuthbert Pilgrimage
	12.30 p.m. Holy Communion (Gregory Chapel) (NL)
	5.30 p.m. Evensong (Nave) (NL)
Sunday 6 September	<i>The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity</i>
8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP) (High Altar) (NL)
10.00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist (CW1) (Nave) (L)
11.30 a.m.	Matins (Quire) (NL)
3.30 p.m.	Evensong (Quire) (NL)

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