

**WELCOME TO ST  
CUTHBERTS CHURCH**

**JULY 3<sup>RD</sup> 2025**



# Programme

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17.30 We invite you to do the walking tour of the church. There is a plan of the church in the middle of the booklet and stewards at key points of interest, who will be able to tell you more details about the key points. *We suggest you stop in the south transept as there are hors d'oeuvres and drinks available here!*

18.05 Welcome address from Reverend James Harvey

18:10-18:35 Please feel free to participate if you are interested in any of the following:

### North Transept:

Historical Tales of St Cuthbert's by Elizabeth Holmes.

Elizabeth, a retired teacher, is Chair of Darlington Historical Society and has researched three fascinating stories about the past of the church.

Each story is approximately 5 minutes in length

### South Transept:

We are organising tours up to the Gallery via the belfry tower steps.

- we can take ten people at a time.
- wonderful views from the top of the church.
- not recommended if you don't like heights!

### South Aisle Main Screen:

A presentation, written for the Friends of St Cuthberts Church last month: showing how the church has changed over the centuries, and explaining why more change is needed.

### South Transept

The promotional video gifted to us by SkyMatrix, that highlights the beauty of St Cuthbert's Church building.

## Sophia Strings Performance

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*Sophia, who arrived in Darlington as a refugee, is currently completing her singing scholarship at the Royal Academy of Music in London, but has returned to sing for us tonight.*

### Ave Maria - Caccini

Ave Maria is a beautiful and timeless piece of music that has been performed and admired by people around the world for centuries. Composed by the Italian musician Giulio Caccini in the late 16th century.

### "O Mio Babbino Caro"- Puccini

A soprano aria from the opera Gianni Schicchi by Giacomo Puccini. *O mio babbino caro* translates as 'Oh my dear papa', and it is sung by Lauretta, who begs her father Gianni Schicchi to help her marry the love of her life,

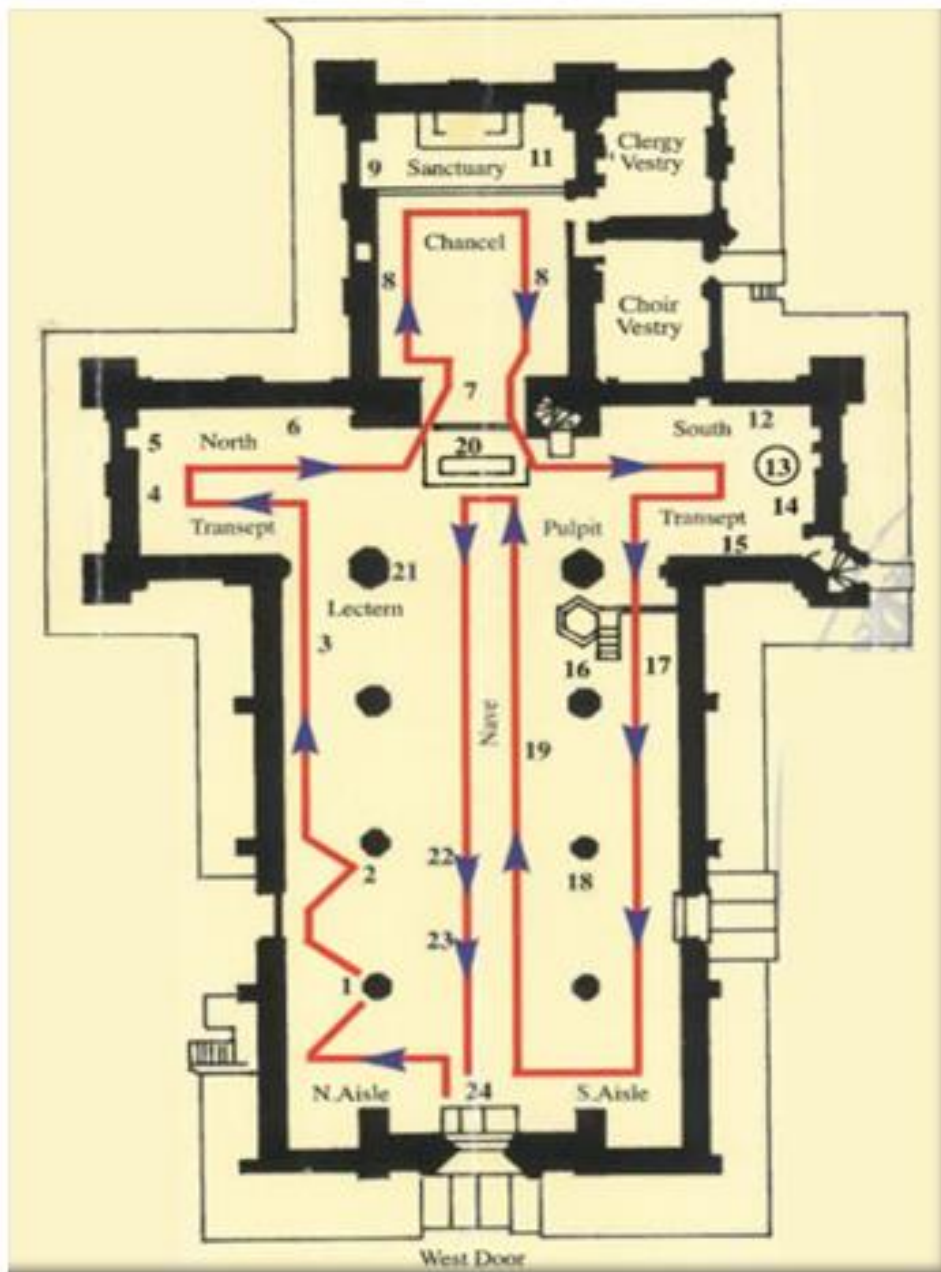
### Exsultate, Jubilate- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

This is one of the most popular soprano showpieces, written when Mozart was just sixteen. Originally written for a male singer (yes a man), today this stunning work is a favourite of female sopranos the world over, especially its final-movement Alleluia in which Mozart sets to music just that one word.

### A Deer's Cry - Arvo Pärt

Composed in 2007 on commission from the Louth Contemporary Music Society. Pärt built his piece on a passage from a 5th century text allegedly written by Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland.

Start Your Walking Tour by Entering Through the West Door, Turn Left and Begin Your Tour in the North Aisle



1. Pillar with holes previously used for a chained bible in Henry VIII's time. Our display case has copies of the Breeches Bible and the King James Version
2. Saxon Mass Dial in red sandstone\* Most unusually, worked on both sides.
3. From here, view the leaning pillars and flattened arch on the south side.
4. Royal Signals Memorial with Parish Library within.
5. Danish hog back tombstone c 952\* proving there were Vikings in Darlington
6. World War 1 Memorial.
7. Pulpitum Arch C15<sup>th</sup> (the stone screen that divides the choir from the nave).
8. Outstanding 15th century stalls and misericords. One shows a winged lion with the face of a man, while another depicts a naked running man. Perhaps the most intriguing misericord shows a crowned lion on a boat, with an arm raising a sword from the water. Also note the graffiti.
9. Easter Sepulchre c 1450. A vigil would be kept here from Good Friday to very early on Easter Morning, symbolising Jesus' death and resurrection.
10. Mosaic Reredos made by John Dobbin 1875 with an Arabic inscription.
11. Sedilia. (Sedilia are seats, typically made of stone, found on the south side of the chancel in a

church, often near the altar).

12. World War II memorial.
13. Font 1375, canopy from 1662, Stand from 1975. Fonts had to be locked as people would steal the Holy Water. The canopy would be lifted by a pulley.
14. Female effigy 13<sup>th</sup> century, her face destroyed during the Reformation.
15. Incumbents board.
16. Pulpit by Sir George Gilbert Scott.
17. Organ console.
18. Saxon Cross\*
19. Early English nave. Look up to see the medieval wooden roof.
20. Nave altar from 1975.
21. Lectern 1894.
22. From here view the window high in the west gable depicting St Cuthbert holding the head of King Oswald.

1. \*Found during the Victorian restoration which dug up the floor. In one day alone, 300 human skulls were removed.

# The next steps for St Cuthbert's: Opening Our Doors

For hundreds of years St. Cuthbert's has been Darlington's "Lady of the North" — a beautiful building that serves the life of the whole town. But a lack of facilities, poor access and a challenging interior layout are seriously limiting the amount of activity that can take place here, such that new forms of worship are difficult to develop, creative arts events are difficult to stage, hospitality is difficult to provide, and our heritage is largely hidden or locked away. As a much-loved church which serves the whole town, St. Cuthbert's needs to be transformed for the future.

## Vision for the future

Thanks to an initial investment from the national Church of England, we are now embarking on a £2.5 million project to transform the interior of St. Cuthbert's. We want to ensure that our space is not only aesthetically pleasing but also accessible and equipped to offer a wide range of activities and events. We see a future where there is uplifting worship and exploration of the Christian faith, inspiring music and theatre, welcoming hospitality, high-quality spaces for conferences and meetings, engaging heritage experiences, and community outreach and service. Our intention is to introduce much improved access, a welcome area at the entrance to the building, key hospitality facilities, a new floor across the nave and transepts, flexible seating, and high-quality audiovisual and lighting installations.

## Improve and Transform

Our Main Goals:

- Maintain and develop St. Cuthbert's as a place of worship, mission and ministry.
- Improve the visitor welcome by expanding the use of the building for church and community.
- Build on the church's role as a concert and arts venue.
- Maintain, promote and interpret the church's heritage in an engaging way, enabling the church's heritage assets to help bring in income.
- Enable the church to offer excellent corporate hospitality.
- Respond to the church's civic role and its place in the town.

## How we will achieve this

- Make the church accessible to all.
- Add key amenities: WCs, meeting room, display stands and information areas
- Upgrade the church's infrastructure — heating, lighting and audiovisual — so the building is fit for contemporary use.
- Install a cafe area, enabling us to provide hospitality and reach out to the town centre.
- Replace the pews with more comfortable, flexible seating to accommodate different styles of worship, concerts, performances, conferences, civic functions and exhibitions.
- Relocate the font to the West end.
- Restore and overhaul the organ.

[Find out more about our Opening Doors project on the St Cuthberts Website](#)

There are ways we are inviting people to make a contribution. We will be starting an appeal for people to sponsor a stone paving slab through our 'Pave the Nave' campaign, and are also inviting people to mark an occasion or honour a loved one by dedicating a paving stone in the aisle. We will also be looking for corporate donations.



## Social Media from Invitees



Cyndi Hughes is with Janet Bowles and Lola McEvoy.

3 July at 22:08 · 🧑🏻‍🦱



Enjoyed a special evening reception tonight at St. Cuthbert's Church, celebrating the heritage of that incredibly beautiful building in the heart of [#Darlington](#). Music from Sophia Strings, refreshments provided by Caroline and Dean from [Darlington Cheese & Wine Shop](#) all in the gracious presence of Lord and Lady Barnard of [Raby](#) with a special shout out to [Kerry](#) for her organisational prowess and to delightful 103-year-old Nance who brightens any and every event she attends. Looking forward to the proposed big changes. ❤️





Matthew Snedker for Darlington

Yesterday at 12:02 · 🌐



Sublime music from Sophia Strings at [St Cuthbert's Church](#), last night.

I was attending an event to discover more about the ambitious and exciting plans to make the beautiful church more accessible, flexible and relevant.

Open the Doors would protect, enhance and sustain this wonderful place of worship for generations to come.

Special access to the tower to have a different view of the church.





Lola McEvoy - MP for Darlington

Yesterday at 16:40 · 🌐

Great to meet the incredibly talented [Sophia Strings](#) last night! 🎻🌟 They're brilliant musicians who perform all across the North East. Catch them tonight at [St Cuthbert's Church, Darlington's Summer Concert!](#) 🎵



Peter Gibson - Delivering for Darlington

3 July at 19:16 · 🌐



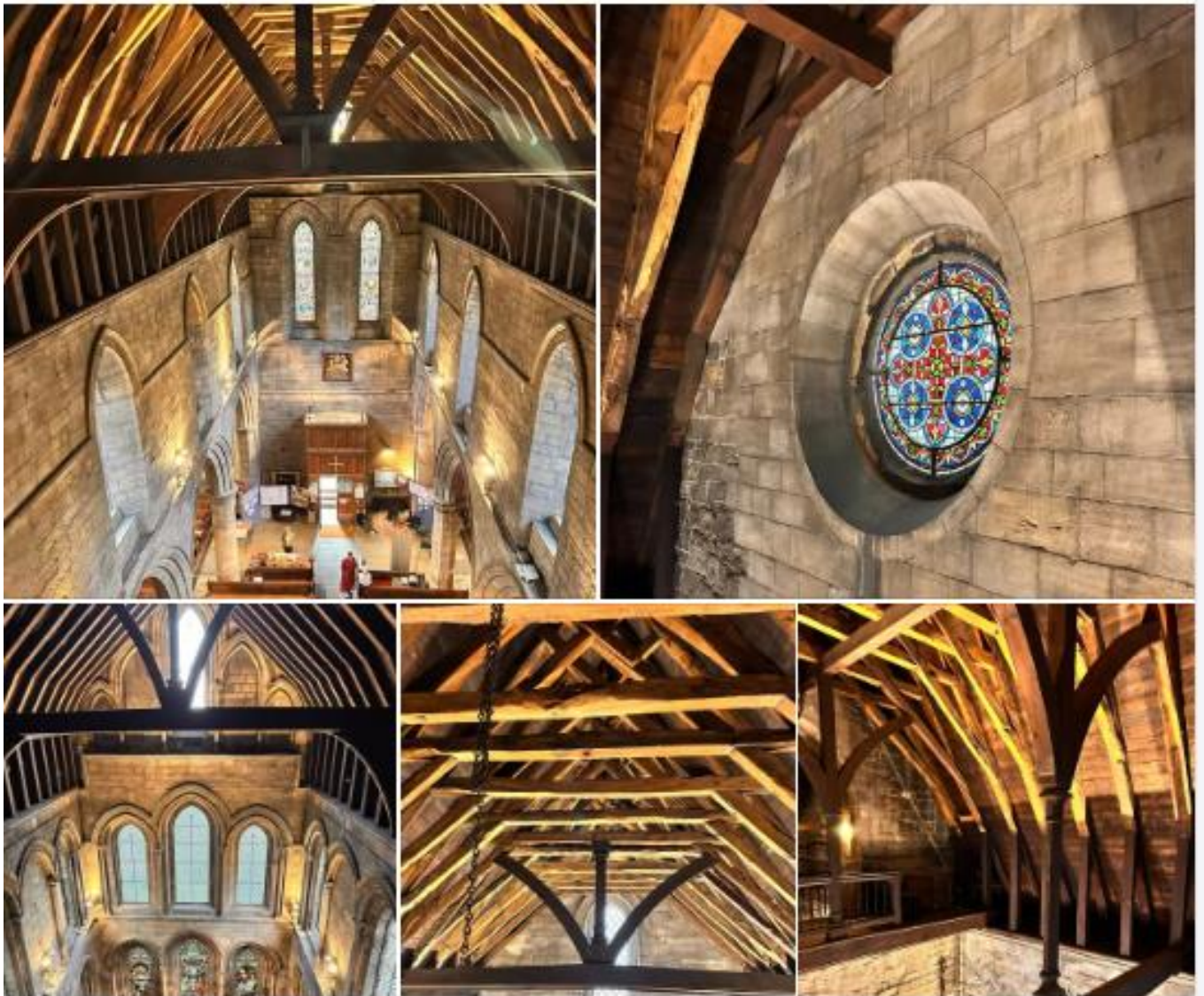
A wonderful evening at [St Cuthbert's Church, Darlington](#) seeing their amazing plans to open the doors to the church physically, and spiritually.

This iconic building, at the heart of our town, can be so much more and they are on the cusp of really spectacular improvements making this special place fit for today and the future.

If you want to know more I would encourage everyone to go and take a look at the plans.

My behind the scenes tour was planned for March 2020 but we're curtailed at the time, so good to get up in the Gallery this evening, and wonderful to catch up with so many kind familiar faces.

The project would be much further ahead were it not for recent VAT changes. If I was still in Parliament I would be banging the drum for Darlington at every chance I got.



**WELCOME TO ST  
CUTHBERT'S  
JULY 3<sup>RD</sup> 2025**



**Mayor of Darlington**

Yesterday at 08:13 · 🌐

We attended a walking tour of St Cuthbert's Church last evening followed by a presentation showing how the church has changed over the centuries and explaining why more change is needed in this modern age. Visitors are welcome Tuesday to Saturday 11am to 1pm until the end of September if they want to look around or there are guided tours by arrangement. A fascinating couple of hours.