



**WELLS
CATHEDRAL**



DIOCESE OF
Bath & Wells

Living the story. Telling the story.

Cathedral Confirmation 2023 – some information for candidates

When do I need to be at the Cathedral?



We need to have a short rehearsal, so people are put at their ease and know where to sit and what to do. **This will take place at 12:00** in the Cathedral. You enter the Cathedral by the new entry porch (the one with the sliding glass doors)

The rehearsal should last around 30 minutes and immediately afterwards there will be a short meeting with the Bishops in the Lady Chapel. You will have time for a lunch break and to meet up with family and friends before the service. Wells has plenty of cafés including the Cathedral's own Café and the nearby Bishop's Table at the Bishop's Palace.

Please aim to be in your seat again at 1:45pm so we can start promptly at 2:00pm.

Will the Bishop know who I am?

With approximately 50 candidates, the Bishop's can't know who everyone is. So that you can be confirmed by name, *please prepare and bring with you a postcard/envelope, on which you have written your Christian name in clear big letters, so it is easy to read.* You'll bring this up with you when you come forward for the laying on of hands, so that the Bishop can instantly call you by name.

Jonathan

Gray

What about young children?

Please do bring children with you to the Cathedral if you wish, and (for the very young ones) something to keep them occupied if necessary. There will be a 'break-out' room available if you need to take a very young person out for a while. The Cathedral has very good toilet facilities in the Cloisters.

What about my vicar, sponsors and family?

Clergy or Readers bringing candidates will be robed for the service and seated up in the sanctuary area. There is plenty of room in the Cathedral and we will not be reserving seats for anyone else, other than candidates. So, your sponsors, family and friends can sit anywhere.

Sponsors and parish priests will be asked to stand in their places when you make your promises during the service, so you will have a Biblical 'cloud of witnesses' standing with you.

What happens during the service?

The whole service takes place in the Cathedral's Nave

After the Bishop's sermon, you will be invited to stand for 'the decision' and your sponsors will also stand wherever they are in the Cathedral.

We have candidates who will also be baptised.

The congregation will be sprinkled with water as a reminder of their own baptism. For the actual prayer and laying on of hands, you will be asked to come forward four at a time.

At the end of the service, you will be given a lighted candle and the Bishop's will lead all the candidates out onto the West Front of the Cathedral to meet their supporters and then disperse. (If it rains, we have a 'Plan B'...)

We will not be including a celebration of Communion, so you will be able to make your first Communion after Confirmation back in your own Church.

Where can I park?

Saturday is Market Day in Wells, so parking is not easy. You probably want to avoid short-stay car parks.

The best long-stay car park is at Waitrose in Whiting Way (Postcode BA5 2PJ) – the upper deck is long-stay parking.

An alternative is at the junction of Tucker St and West St (Postcode: BA5 2EA).

You may want to car-share. There are very good bus services to Wells from many towns in Somerset.

There are a few Blue Badge spaces on St Andrews Street, next to the Cathedral, though they can be very busy on a Saturday. If you have passengers with restricted mobility, it is a good drop-off point, though you will then need to go and park.

What should I wear?

There is no dress code for a Confirmation. Please wear what you feel comfortable in – maybe just what you would wear to church on Sunday, though if you want to ‘dress up’ a little, we’d all be very pleased!

Where should I sit?

Spaces will be reserved for all candidates (including wheelchair users) and clearly marked for each Deanery’s candidates. So when you arrive for the 12:00 rehearsal, just look out for seats labelled ‘Portishead’, ‘Shepton Mallet’ ‘Taunton’ and so on. If you are not sure, check with your parish priest or on the day.

If you have not been to the Cathedral before, you may want to have a look at the website www.wellscathedral.org.uk to get an idea of what it is like.

