



PETERBOROUGH  
CATHEDRAL

KATHARINE QUEEN



# Katharine of Aragon Festival

# 2020



KATHARINE  
OF ARAGON  
Festival  
23RD TO 26TH  
JANUARY 2020

In association with

**Vivacity**

A Tudor-themed festival in commemoration of Queen Katharine, the first wife of Henry VIII, who was buried at Peterborough Cathedral on 29th January 1536.

Hotel deal for Festival-goers at **Park Inn Peterborough**. Call **01733 353750**, quote code **173160**.

## THURSDAY 23RD JANUARY

**7.00pm**

### **Candlelight Tour**

Tour the Cathedral with a knowledgeable Tudor-costumed guide and meet 'Old Scarlett' as the candlelight flickers.



■ Tickets: £15 including a glass of wine or soft drink after the tour.

## FRIDAY 24TH JANUARY

**8.30am Mass**

### **10.30am Service of Commemoration**

A service attended by local schools, at which dignitaries lay wreaths on Katharine's tomb. All welcome.



Followed by Tudor-themed workshops for schools.

### **2.00pm Tudor Peterborough Walk**

Meet at Peterborough Museum

Explore Peterborough's historic city centre with a costumed guide and find out what the city was like during the time of Katharine of Aragon. The tour then enters Peterborough Cathedral where you will hear about the funeral of Queen Katharine. (60 mins)

■ Tickets: £6 (£4 under 16s) via [vivacity.org](http://vivacity.org) or on 01733 864663.



**5.30pm Vespers**

Worship in a form that would have been familiar in Tudor times, sung by the Cathedral Choir. All welcome.

### **7.30pm A Homage to Katharine of Aragon from Spain**

An evening of music, drama and dance from Katharine's native Spain.

Los Músicos de Urueña:

Using period instruments, the musicians will set the scene for the drama that follows.

Maria, Sangra:

The world premiere of a play by Spanish Canarian author, Neftalí Díaz. The script won the 2019 Katharine of Aragon prize for Spanish dramatists and has been translated into English by The Open University.

The play tells the story of the relationship between Katharine and Henry's daughter, Mary I, and her husband, Philip II of Spain. Mary prays to have a son and heir to the throne but miscarriages and a phantom pregnancy follow. At the same time the streets of England are stained with the blood of persecuted Protestants as she attempts to restore Roman Catholicism.

The House of Bernarda Alba by Federico García Lorca:

A stylised flamenco dance set in early 20th century Spain is the finale to the evening. The piece is adapted by Mayte Ballesteros Dance Company and tells the story of five sisters in their search for liberty in a small southern town.

■ Tickets: £20 including all three performances.



Supported by Ministerio de Cultura de España, Open University, Bedford University, AC/E Acción Cultural Española, Embajada de España.

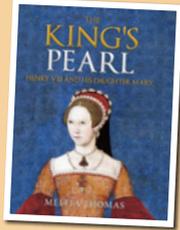
### 7.30pm The King's Pearl, the Queen's Pride: Katharine, Henry and Mary, The Family Years

At John Clare Theatre, Peterborough Central Library

A talk by Melita Thomas, co-founder and editor of the Tudor Times website ([tudortimes.co.uk](http://tudortimes.co.uk)).

Melita will look at how Princess Mary's education, academic, political, courtly and religious, was shaped by her parents and how that formed her character. Katharine and Henry both doted on their daughter, but envisaged her future quite differently – he wanted to mould a consort to spread English influence abroad, whilst Katharine was training a monarch. The talk will be followed by a book signing.

■ Tickets: £6 (£5 concs) including light refreshments via [vivacity.org](http://vivacity.org) or on 01733 864663.



## SATURDAY 25TH JANUARY

### 10.00am – 3.00pm At Home with the Tudors

At Peterborough Museum

Travel back in time to the 1500s, with a chance to meet Tudor characters such as the Barber Surgeon with his gruesome cures. Mind your manners with a Tudor lady, handle arms and armour with our soldiers and try some period food. Take part in family activities and crafts with a Tudor theme.



■ Tickets: £3 children, £4 adults, £12 families. Last entry 2.00pm.

### 10.00am, 11.00am and 1.00pm

#### Old Scarlett Tours

This family friendly tour of the Cathedral will be led by 'Old Scarlett the Tudor gravedigger', who lived to be 98 and buried both Katharine of Aragon and Mary, Queen of Scots. (40 mins)

■ Tickets: £3.50 per person, £12 family (2 adults, 2 children)

Children receive a free copy of 'Monks, Mischief & Marauders' activity book.



### 12.00 noon A Family Audience with Queen

#### Katharine

Come and meet Queen Katharine in all her Tudor splendour, played by Lesley Smith, Curator of Tutbury Castle. Lesley has a great rapport with children and will remain in character as she tells her story and answers your questions, showing off the replica costume she wears. (30 mins)

Knights' Chamber, Cathedral Visitor Centre

■ Tickets: £3.50 per person, £12 family (2 adults, 2 children).



### 11.30am and 2.30pm Digging Deeper Tudor Tour

A guided tour of the Cathedral interior with a specifically Tudor focus. (75 mins)

■ Tickets: £8

## 7.00pm for 7.30pm start An Audience with Katharine of Aragon

For the first time Lesley Smith, who is famed for her compelling costumed monologues, will take on the character of Katharine of Aragon.



The story begins when Katharine was born into one of the most powerful and warlike families in Europe, the youngest of five children born to Ferdinand II of Aragon and Isabella I of Castille. Many in her family died young and madness showed itself too.

Katharine arrived in England to marry Arthur, Prince of Wales, of the new Tudor dynasty. Within months of the marriage he was dead and she was effectively abandoned for six years with little money and poor care.

When the magnificent Henry VIII leapt to the throne in 1509, he married his brother's widow and Katharine became Queen.

Pregnancy after pregnancy failed and one boy died within weeks of his birth causing dismay throughout the land. One child of the union survived, a daughter, who would become Queen Mary I.

Henry's attention turned to Anne Boleyn in an attempt to get a male heir and Katharine, after more than 20 years of marriage, had to endure a divorce.

She lived in isolation, near poverty and ill health. She was fifty years old.



Gareth Williams, accompanying period musician

■ Tickets: £10 (Aged 18+ only).

## SUNDAY 26TH JANUARY

**2.00pm Tudor Peterborough Walk**  
Details as Friday 24th January

**10.00am – 3.00pm At Home with  
the Tudors**

Details as Saturday 25th January

## EXHIBITION

**Artwork by Queen Katharine Academy Students**  
Cathedral Visitor Centre

Students from the secondary school named after Queen Katharine show their artwork.

Open 10.00am to 4.00pm Friday and  
Saturday, 12.00 noon to 4.00pm Sunday.

## Get tickets

Ticket links for all events, unless otherwise stated above, are available via:

 [www.peterborough-cathedral.org.uk/katharine.aspx](http://www.peterborough-cathedral.org.uk/katharine.aspx)

 01733 355 315



All events are held at Peterborough Cathedral unless otherwise stated. Sundays carvery restaurant in the Cathedral Precincts is open for meals, takeaway rolls and afternoon teas during the Festival.

**KATHARINE  
OF ARAGON  
Festival**  
23RD TO 26TH  
JANUARY 2020