

GLOUCESTER
CATHEDRAL



Tidings of
**COMFORT
& JOY**

FROM YOUR
CATHEDRAL



CHRISTMAS 2025

A message from the Dean of Gloucester



'I bring you tidings of great joy,' said the angels to the shepherds. This proclamation brought news of comfort, hope, love and peace into the world, a message that still speaks powerfully to us today. In a time when our world can feel so divided, the need for peace has grown incredibly urgent.

This Advent and Christmas, we warmly invite you to Gloucester Cathedral to discover the power of the anticipation of advent, the joy of Christmas Day and the joy and peace that Christ's birth brings.

Join us for our services, activities and celebrations, bring family and friends, and be part of a community gathering to experience the power of the timeless Christmas message: *good news for all people.*'

The Very Reverend Andrew Zihni

DEAN OF GLOUCESTER

REMEMBER *Christ our Saviour* WAS BORN ON CHRISTMAS DAY



All are warmly invited to our services this Advent and Christmas. Our main services this season are listed below.

Advent Carol Service

Sunday 30 November, 6pm

A beautiful candlelit service marking the beginning of the new Christian year, with a procession from West to East of the Cathedral, moving from darkness into light towards the altar.

Family Carol Service

Tuesday 23 December, 2.30pm &
Wednesday 24 December, 2.30pm

These family-friendly services are a joyful way for people of all ages to get into the festive spirit.

Cathedral Carol Service

Sunday 21 December, 6pm
Monday 22 December, 6pm
Tuesday 23 December, 6pm

Expect traditional readings and carols, with music from our magnificent Cathedral choirs at these special services.

An additional service has been added in response to popular demand. As space is limited, seating will be first-come, first-served. Please arrive early.

Midnight Mass

Wednesday 24 December, 11.15pm

Mark the start of Christmas Day at this special evening service.

Christmas Day Eucharist

Thursday 25 December, 10.15am

All are welcome to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ at this joyful Eucharist.

Cathedral Eucharist for the Celebration of the Epiphany

Sunday 4 January, 10.15am

Celebrate the visit of the Three Kings to the baby Jesus and welcome the new year with this special revelation of Christ to the world.

Candlemas Carol Service

Sunday 1 February, 6pm

Mirroring our Advent Service, we move from East to West proclaiming Christ's birth to the world.

No booking is required for our services, but seating will be allocated on a **first come, first served basis**, so we recommend arriving in good time. For further details and our full pattern of worship, please visit our website:

www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk



★ SING CHOIRS OF *Angels*

Enjoy beautiful music from the Cathedral's musicians and choirs
in our spectacular surroundings this festive season!

★ Teenage Voices Project

Thursday 27 November, 6pm

The Teenage Voices Project is the flagship project for the Cathedral's Singing Academy and features music from local secondary schools. All are welcome to attend this special concert which celebrates the power of music for all.

The concert is free, with a retiring collection in aid of Cathedral music.

★ Carols on the Hour

Saturday 6 December,
11am-3.30pm

Enjoy bite-sized bursts of festive music from the choirs of Gloucester Cathedral – perfect for a pause during your Christmas shopping.

No booking is required, drop in and enjoy!

★ Britten's Ceremony of Carols

Sunday 7 December, 4.15pm

Sunday 11 January, 4.15pm

Stay on after Choral Evensong at 3pm to experience the beauty of Britten's Ceremony of Carols, sung by our choristers.

A retiring collection will be taken in aid of friends in our Link Diocese of Western Tanganyika in Tanzania for their own work with music and young people.

★ Messiaen's La Nativite du Seigneur

Sunday 14 December, 6.30pm

Enjoy listening to Assistant Director of Music Jonathan Hope's annual performance of this organ work, which captures the wonder of the Christmas story.



Photos: Clive Barzillia



SING IN *Exaltation*



We're delighted to welcome groups and partners from across the community to the Cathedral this Christmas.

✦ Lantern Parade Service

Saturday 15 November, 4pm

Free admission, no booking required

✦ Meningitis Now Christmas Concert

Wednesday 26 November, 7.30pm

Tickets are £12

✦ Gloucester City Mission's Christmas Carol Concert

Friday 28 November, 7pm

Free admission, no booking required

✦ Gloucester Choral Society presents Handel's Messiah

Saturday 29 November, 7pm

*Tickets from £10,
Students/under 25s £5*

✦ Big Space Cancer Appeal Concert

Wednesday 3 December, 7.30pm

Free admission, registration required

✦ Friends of Gloucester Cathedral Christmas Celebration

Thursday 4 December, 5.30pm

Tickets are £12 for FOCG members and £14 for non-members

✦ Saint Cecilia Singers Christmas Concert

Friday 12 December, 8pm

Tickets are £20 and include a glass of mulled wine

✦ Ecclesiastical's Christmas Carol Celebration

Tuesday 16 December, 7.30pm

Free admission, details online

✦ Carols for All with Gloucester Choral Society

Friday 26 December, 3pm

Free admission, no booking required



For further details please visit our website:
www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk

POST CARD

DISCOVER COMFORT *and* JOY *in our* DECORATIONS

Admire the majestic trees in the Nave and Quire, explore the festive Cloister, and make memories with loved ones along the way.

From Friday 5 December visitors can enjoy the splendour of the Cathedral at Christmas during regular opening hours.

Entry is by voluntary donation.



Our Esteemed Guests

Gloucestershire

United Kingdom



You are warmly invited to the
**CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS
EXPERIENCE *at* NIGHT**

**Friday 5, Saturday 6, Saturday 13, Monday 15,
Wednesday 17, Friday 19 and Saturday 20 December
5.45pm-8.45pm (last entry 7.45pm)**

Everything looks and feels more magical after dark in the Cathedral at this time of year... Wander among the twinkling lights and decorations while music fills the air.

Enjoy live performances from Cathedral musicians and friends, treat yourself to a glass of mulled wine or hot chocolate from The Monk's Kitchen and pick up last minute presents at the Gift Shop.

**Tickets are £8.50 Adults, £5 Children (5-16 years)
Please book online.**

Make your Christmas extra special with an
UNWRAPPED TICKET

Step inside our hidden Medieval Library or enjoy breathtaking views of the city at night from the top of the Tower.

**Unwrapped Tower Tickets - £20 Adult, £10 Children
Unwrapped Library Tickets - £15 Adult, £8 Children**

On selected dates only. Please see the website for details and to book. Both Library and Tower Tours involve climbing spiral steps, so regrettably are not suitable for those with mobility difficulties.

For further details please visit our website:
www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk



★ GOOD *Tidings* WE BRING ★

Enjoy family festive fun at Gloucester Cathedral this Advent and Christmas



The GOOD TIDINGS FAMILY *Trail*

From 5 December – 4 January
Take part during Cathedral opening hours

As you explore the Cathedral, help the angels share the joyful Christmas Message and bring good tidings to all. *Pick up your free trail map from the Welcome Desk during opening hours.*

Meet ST NICHOLAS *at* GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL

Saturday 13 December and 20 December, 10am-4pm

Back by popular demand! Step into the story of Father Christmas and meet St Nicholas himself. Enjoy festive crafts for the whole family, and every child will take home a specially chosen book to unwrap. *No booking required, free entry. Queues likely. Donations welcome.*



GLOUCESTER MORRIS MEN *and* MUMMERS DANCE

On Cathedral Green, Friday 26 December, 12noon

Great for all the family, this fun-filled Boxing Day tradition remains a favourite event of the season and will continue this year on Cathedral Green. *Wrap up warm and come along! Free entry.*



TO YOU *and* YOUR KIN

At the heart of Gloucester for generations, the Cathedral invites you to enter into the spirit of Advent and Christmas with your community

WREATH MAKING *at* GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL

Saturday 15, Saturday 22 and Tuesday 25 November,
11.30am & 4pm. £25 for adults.

Join our tutor in the beautiful timber framed Parliament Room and create your own Christmas wreath! Using a blend of fresh foliage and seasonal supplies, you'll craft a stunning wreath to take home.

Keep warm with a hot drink and festive treat, included in the ticket price, and get into the Christmas spirit!

Please note this workshop takes place in the Parliament Room at Gloucester Cathedral, located up a flight of stairs. This workshop is for over 18s only. Limited Availability. Please book online.



CHRISTMAS FOODBANK *Collection*

Available for your donations during opening hours from
29 November – 18 December

We're proud to support Gloucester Foodbank again this year, helping members of our community in need this festive season. Your donations will bring comfort and care to families and individuals facing difficult times.

Tinned food and toiletries required, visit the Cathedral website for the full list. Thank you for your support!



For further details please visit our website:
www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk

A Gift That Lasts for Generations

This Christmas, give a gift that sings!

As part of the Cathedral's *In Tune* Music and Organ Campaign, sponsor a pipe this Christmas on behalf of a loved one in our new organ, arriving in 2026.

Help preserve our rich musical heritage for generations to come. The new organ will enrich worship, inspire young musicians through our Organ Academy, and uplift our community.

The Sparkle and Joy of the **ORGAN PIPES**

The pipes available for sponsorship are part of the Super Octave and Tierce stops, which add a touch of brightness to the voice of the organ - like sparkling Christmas lights or the joyful chime of bells - making it the perfect Christmas gift for music lovers.

Every sponsor receives:

*A personalised
sponsorship pack
including a Certificate
of Sponsorship*

*Priority booking for
the Organ Festival
(13–14 June 2026)*

*Regular updates on
the organ and In
Tune campaign*

Choose your Pipe:

2' Super Octave Pipe - £50

1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ' Tierce Pipe - £25

Available from the **Cathedral Gift Shop** or by **contacting us via email:**
development@gloucestercathedral.org.uk

***Give a Christmas gift that will resonate for generations—sponsor a pipe
today and help bring Gloucester Cathedral's new organ to life.***



The CATHEDRAL GIFT SHOP

Complete your Christmas shopping at the Cathedral Gift Shop. We offer a fantastic selection of unique and locally-sourced souvenirs and gifts for all.



The Monk's Kitchen

Warm up this festive season with a drink, treat or delicious lunch at The Monk's Kitchen.

The Nativi-tea is back!

Enjoy the return of the Nativi-tea – a festive twist on afternoon tea, complete with a homemade mince pie, white chocolate, cranberry fudge and mulled wine (or your choice of hot drink).

**Available Monday 1 – Tuesday 23
December**

£18.50 per person

Booking recommended

Please call 01452 689755



GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL



Follow us on social media for all the latest this festive season

Stay updated this Christmas and enjoy: Advent reflections, beautiful festive images and highlights – plus all the latest on our events and activities!

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL

A PLACE *for* EVERYONE



Tripadvisor
Travellers'
Choice Awards



12 College Green
Gloucester
GL1 2LX

01452 528095
www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk



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