Services & Music List

Canterbury Cathedral
December 2025

WELCOME

Welcome

Canterbury Cathedral is the seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of Canterbury, the Mother Church of the Anglican Communion, and a place of pilgrimage welcoming visitors from across the world.

For over fourteen hundred years God has been worshipped here. With its roots in the Benedictine tradition, the ongoing daily pattern of morning and evening prayer and Eucharist continues the prayers and praises of countless generations in this Cathedral.

Alongside this we host a large number of special services, some regular, some occasional. These mark the feasts of the Church's year and significant events in the life of our local community, or offer opportunities for exploring faith and spirituality in creative and diverse ways.

Whether you are a regular worshipper with us, someone who has come to the Cathedral for a special event, or a visitor making a once in a lifetime journey to Canterbury, you are most welcome and an equal part of this community whose story reaches back to Augustine's mission to England in 597.

We invite everyone who attends our services to contribute to the ongoing costs of maintaining this beautiful Cathedral and investing in our ongoing ministry. It costs us approximately £30,000 a day to care for the building and people of this place and to continue to invest in the high quality of music that is offered here. There are regular collections at the end of our services, you can make use of the digital payment points or scan the QR code below. Whatever you can give it is gratefully received. Thank you.



WORSHIP

Regular worship

At the heart of Cathedral life is the regular rhythm of daily prayer. The day begins each morning with the quiet, said services of Morning Prayer and the 8.00am Eucharist, and ends with the service of Choral Evensong or Said Evening Prayer. In term time Children's Church meets on Sunday mornings. The Cathedral's principal act of worship every week is the 11.00am Sunday Choral Eucharist.

Live streaming

Choral Eucharists on Sunday, Choral Evensongs, and other special services are routinely live-streamed and available on our website and via YouTube. If you attend these services you may be seen on camera, and by attending these services you give your permission to appear in this way. If you have any queries or concerns about this please contact the Precentor in advance (precentor@canterbury-cathedral.org). To watch these services online visit www.canterbury-cathedral.org

Silent Prayer Thursdays as part of Evening Prayer

(Previously 'The Julian Prayer Meetings')

An opportunity to be still in the midst of the business of life and rest in the holiness and peace of this sacred place. If you are drawn to silent prayer, please join us weekly on Thursdays* in the Crypt for an extended time of silent prayer as part of a said service of Evening Prayer ending at 6.15 pm. Whether you stay for ten minutes or half an hour, this space is for people of all denominations, faiths or none who wish to have some quiet, reflective time, resting in the present moment.

Taizé Prayer 12.30pm on Mondays** in the Western Crypt

Drawing on the pattern of worship from the Taizé Community, these lunch time services are an invitation to encounter God and one another in the sharing of simple songs, listening to scripture, and spending time in silence. Dates are 1st, 8th and 15th December.

*most Thursdays with occasional variations, check the Pew Sheet for details **during choir term time

Archbishops of Canterbury Commemorations

Archbishops of Canterbury commemorated in December

- 1st Archibald Campbell Tait, 93rd Archbishop, 1882
 Buried at St Mary, Addington, Memorial in the North-East Transept
- 5th Cosmo Gordon Lang, 97th Archbishop, 1945 Ashes buried in St Stephen's Chapel
- 8th John Pecham, 49th Archbishop, 1292 Buried in The Martyrdom
- 14th Thomas Tenison, 81st Archbishop, 1715 Buried at St Mary-at-Lambeth
- 22nd Frederick Temple, 95th Archbishop, 1902

 Buried in the Cloister Garth, Memorial in the Corona
- 29th St Thomas Becket, 40th Archbishop, 1170

 Originally buried in the Eastern Crypt, Translated to the Trinity Chapel in 1220, Tomb destroyed in 1538

MUSIC

Join the choir

If you know a boy in school year 2 or 3, or a girl in school year 6 or 7, who enjoys singing, please email music@canterbury-cathedral.org to learn more about becoming a chorister here.

Enquiries are warmly welcomed at any time, and it is possible to meet children and their parents for a conversation, and for informal pre-auditions.

More information about the Cathedral's musicians can be found at https://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/worship/music/

David Newsholme Director of Music

Visiting Choirs

Lees Court Music is a Canterbury based chamber choir which sings as a visiting choir at English cathedrals, at weddings and events, and in concerts in small country churches in Kent in support of local fundraising.

Canterbury Chamber Choir, founded in 1995, puts on regular concerts of sacred and secular choral and dramatic musical works. Their concerts, with conductor Peter Futcher, aim to entertain and educate as well as to help local charities raise much needed funds.

The **RSCM America National Choir** was formed in 2014 and its goal was to attract experienced singers from across North America who would be ambassadors for RSCMA and come together once a year to perform sacred choral music to the highest standard possible in some of the world's most revered worship spaces. The national choir's first outing was a week-long residency at Westminster Abbey and it has subsequently led worship at the National Cathedral in Washington DC, St. Thomas Fifth Avenue, New York and at other UK Cathedrals. The choir is led by Robert Nicholls, Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church in Evansville, Indiana.

1 Monday Andrew the Apostle

7.30am Morning Prayer Our Lady Martyrdom
8.00am Holy Communion St Andrew, North Quire Aisle
12.30pm Taizé Prayer Western Crypt

5.30pm Evensong Quire

sung by girl choristers and Lay Clerks (Decani I verse)

Stanford, Beati quorum via Sarah MacDonald, Responses

Psalms 6-8

Dobrinka Tabakova, Truro canticles

Purcell, They that go down to the sea in ships

Hymn 34 Earth was waiting, spent and restless (Picardy)

2 Tuesday

7.30am Morning Prayer Our Lady Martyrdom
8.00am Holy Communion St Anselm, South Quire Aisle
5.30pm Evensong Quire

sung by boy choristers and Lay Clerks Cecilia McDowall, Responses

Psalms 12-14

Ayleward, Short service Ord, Adam lay y'bounden

Hymn 37 Hark what a sound, and too divine for hearing

(Highwood)

3 Wednesday

7.30am Morning Prayer Our Lady Martyrdom
8.00am Holy Communion St Mary Magdalene, Crypt
12.30pm Holy Communion Our Lady Undercroft, Crypt
5.30pm Evensong Quire

sung by girl choristers plainchant, Responses

Psalm 18.1-19 Dyson in c

trad., arr. Adrian Lucas, Come, thou redeemer of the earth Hymn 51 The Lord will come and not be slow (St Stephen)

4	Thursday		
	7.30am	Morning Prayer	Our Lady Martyrdom
	8.00am	Holy Communion	Our Lady Undercroft, Crypt
	5.30pm	Evening Prayer with Silence	Western Crypt
5	Friday		
	7.30am	Morning Prayer	Our Lady Undercroft, Crypt
	8.00am	Holy Communion	Our Lady Undercroft, Crypt
	12.30pm	Journeying to Christmas Reflections Nav	
	5.30pm	Evensong	Quire
		sung by Lay Clerks (Cantoris I verse)	
		Harris, Responses	
		Psalms 28; 29	
		Mundy, Service in four parts	
		Byrd, O Lord my God	
		Hymn 57 Ye servants of the Lord (Na	renza)
6	Saturday	Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c.326	
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St Nicholas, Crypt
	9.15am	Morning Prayer	Jesus Chapel, Crypt
	4.00pm	Said Evening Prayer	Western Crypt

7 Sunday The Second Sunday of Advent **Holy Communion** (BCP) 8.00am Our Lady Undercroft, Crypt **Morning Prayer** 9.15am Jesus Chapel, Crypt 11.00am **Eucharist** Quire sung by boy choristers and Lay Clerks Haydn, Missa 'Rorate coeli desuper' Psalm 72.1-7 Preacher: The Reverend Cathrine Ngangira, Priest in Charge of Boughton-under-Blean with Dunkirk, Graveney with Goodnestone and Hernhill Goldschmidt, A tender shoot Hymns 46 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry (Winchester New); 38 Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding (Merton); 39 Hills of the North, rejoice (Little Cornard) 5.30pm St Nicholas Family Service Nave 8 Monday The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary 7.30am **Morning Prayer** Our Lady Martyrdom 8.00am **Holy Communion** Our Lady Martyrdom Taizé Prayer 12.30pm Western Crypt 5.30pm **Evensong** Quire

sung by girl choristers and Lay Clerks Sarah MacDonald, Responses

Psalms 41-43

June Nixon, First service

James MacMillan, O radiant dawn

Hymn 38 Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding (Merton)

9 Tuesday

7.30am Morning Prayer Our Lady Martyrdom
 8.00am Holy Communion St John the Evangelist, South-East Transept
 5.30pm Evensong Quire

sung by boy choristers and Lay Clerks

Ayleward, Responses

Psalms 47-49

Byrd, Short service

Ledger, Advent calendar

Hymn 36 Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes (Bristol)

10 Wednesday Ember Day

7.30am Morning Prayer Our Lady Martyrdom
8.00am Holy Communion Saints & Martyrs of Our Own Time, Corona
12.30pm Holy Communion Our Lady Undercroft, Crypt
5.30pm Evensong Quire

sung by girl choristers plainchant, Responses

Psalm 53

Rose, Magdalen College service Warlock, Adam lay y'bounden

Hymn 55 When the King shall come again (St John Damascene)

11 Thursday

7.30am Morning Prayer Our Lady Martyrdom
8.00am Holy Communion Holy Innocents, Crypt
5.30pm Evening Prayer with Silence Western Crypt

12 Friday Ember Day 7.30am **Morning Prayer** Our Lady Martyrdom **Holy Communion** 8.00am St Gregory, South-East Transept **Journeying to Christmas Reflections** 12.30pm 5.30pm **Evensong** Quire sung by Lay Clerks (Decani II verse) Andrew Millington, Responses Psalm 66 Cleobury, Short service trad., arr. Andrew Parnell, Come, thou redeemer of the earth Hymn 30 Come, thou long-expected Jesus (Cross of Jesus) 13 Saturday Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse, 304 Ember Day **Holy Communion** 8.00am St Augustine, Nave **Morning Prayer** Jesus Chapel, Crypt 9.15am 5.30pm **Evensong** Quire sung by boy choristers and Lay Clerks Smith, Responses Psalms 69; 70 Ireland in F

Matthew Martin, Never weather-beaten sail

Hymn 39 Hills of the North, rejoice (Little Cornard)

14 Sunday The Third Sunday of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.15am Morning Prayer

11.00am Eucharist

Our Lady Undercroft, Crypt Jesus Chapel, Crypt Quire

sung by boy choristers and Lay Clerks

Byrd, Mass for five voices

Psalm 146.4-10

Preacher: The Very Reverend Dr Mandy Ford, Dean of Bristol

Byrd, Ave verum corpus

Hymns 36 Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes (Bristol); 45 O come, O come, Emmanuel (Veni Emmanuel); 50 The

advent of our King (St Thomas)

5.30pm Festival of Carols with Nativity

Nave

sung by girl choristers and Lay Clerks

trad., arr. Roger Hemingway, People look east

Leontovich, Carol of the bells

Tavener, The Lamb

Hymns 66 Hark! the herald angels sing (Mendelssohn); 75 Long ago, prophets knew (Personent hodie); 84 Silent night! Holy night! (Stille nacht); 89i While shepherds watched their flocks by night (Winchester old); 105 We three kings of Orient are (Three kings of Orient); 79 O little town of Bethlehem (Forest Green); 60 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed (Cradle song); 78 (omit v. 7) O come, all ye faithful (Adeste fideles)

15 Monday

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
12.30pm Taizé Prayer

Jesus Chapel, Crypt Western Crypt Quire

Our Lady Martyrdom

5.30pm Evensong

sung by Lay Clerks
Andrew Millington, Responses

Psalm 78.1-17, 66-73

June Nixon, Second service

Elgar, Seek him that maketh the seven stars

Hymn 43 (t. 683) Now from the heavens descending (Ewing)

7.00pm Friends' Carol Service

Nave

John Rutter, Tomorrow shall be my dancing day

Bob Chilcott, The time of snow

John Rutter, Angels' carol

Hymns 81 (omit vv. 3, 4) Once in royal David's city (Irby); 70 It came upon the midnight clear (Noel); 79 O little town of Bethlehem (Forest Green); 89i While shepherds watched their flocks by night (Winchester old); 83 See, amid the winter's snow (Humility (Oxford)); 66 Hark! the herald angels sing (Mendelssohn)

16 Tuesday

7.30am Morning Prayer Our Lady Martyrdom
8.00am Holy Communion St Gabriel, Crypt
5.30pm Evensong Quire

sung by Lay Clerks

Andrew Millington, Responses

Psalm 83

Caustun, Magnificat tonus peregrinus

anon., Nunc dimittis tertii toni Gibbons, This is the record of John

Hymn 46 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry (Winchester New)

17 Wednesday O Sapientia

7.30am Morning Prayer Our Lady Martyrdom
8.00am Holy Communion St Stephen, North-East Transept
12.30pm Holy Communion Our Lady Undercroft, Crypt
5.30pm Evensong Quire

sung by girl choristers plainchant, Responses

Psalm 89.1-12

Antiphon: O Sapientia

plainchant, Magnificat and Nunc dimittis

Stanford, A song of peace

Hymn 50 The advent of our King (St Thomas)

18 Thursday

7.30am Morning Prayer Our Lady Martyrdom
 8.00am Holy Communion St Anselm, South Quire Aisle
 5.30pm Evening Prayer with Silence Western Crypt

19 Friday

7.30am Morning Prayer Our Lady Martyrdom
 8.00am Holy Communion St Martin, North-East Transept
 12.30pm Journeying to Christmas Reflections Nave
 5.30pm Evensong Quire

sung by Lay Clerks (Cantoris II verse)

plainchant, Responses

Psalms 98; 99

Antiphon: O Radix Jesse

plainchant, Magnificat and Nunc dimittis

Sheppard, Rejoice in the Lord

Hymn 52 (omit v. 3) The people that in darkness sat (Dundee)

20 Saturday

8.00amHoly CommunionSt Gabriel, Crypt9.15amMorning PrayerJesus Chapel, Crypt5.30pmEvensongQuire

sung by Lay Clerks

plainchant, Responses

Psalm 104.1-23

Antiphon: O Clavis David

plainchant, Magnificat and Nunc dimittis anon. (Worcester Fragments), Beata viscera

Hymn 37 Hark what a sound, and too divine for hearing

(Highwood)

21 Sunday

8.00am

Holy Communion (BCP)

9.15am

Morning Prayer

11.00am

Eucharist

sung by Lay Clerks

de Monte, Missa 'Ad te levavi oculos meos'

Psalm 80.1-8

Preacher: Dr Renie Chow Choy, Lecturer in Church History, Westcott House, Cambridge; Public Historian, Westminster Abbey; Visiting Research Fellow, University of Chester; Research Associate, Centre for the Study of Christianity and Culture, University of York

Biebl, Ave Maria

Hymns 75 Long ago, prophets knew (Personent hodie); 54 Wake, O wake! With tidings thrilling (Wachet auf); 57 Ye servants of the Lord (Narenza)

5.30pm Candlelit reflection with organ meditation

Quire

played by Jamie Rogers, Assistant Director of Music Messiaen, La nativité du Seigneur

- 1. La vierge et l'enfant
- 2. Les bergers
- 3. Desseins éternels
- 4. Le verbe
- 5. Les enfants de Dieu
- 6. Les anges
- 7. Jésus accepte la souffrance
- 8. Les mages
- 9. Dieu parmi nous

22 Monday

7.30am Morning Prayer Our Lady Martyrdom
8.00am Holy Communion Saints & Martyrs of Our Own Time, Corona
5.30pm Evening Prayer with Congregational
Carols Eastern Crypt

23 Tuesday

7.30amMorning PrayerOur Lady Martyrdom8.00amHoly CommunionSt Mary Magdalene, Crypt

4.00pm Said Evening Prayer5.30pm Carol Service no. 1

Western Crypt Nave and Quire

sung by boy choristers, girl choristers and Lay Clerks

Rodney Bennett, Puer nobis

trad., arr. Woodward, Up! Good christen folk

John Rutter, There is a flower

Bob Chilcott, The Shepherd's Carol

Paul Mealor, A humble light

Darke, In the bleak midwinter

Morten Lauridsen, O magnum mysterium

trad., arr. Vaughan Williams, Sussex carol

Hymns 81 Once in royal David's city (Irby); NEH25 God rest

you merry, gentlemen (God rest you merry); 80 Of the

Father's heart begotten (Divinum mysterium); 79 O little town of Bethlehem (Forest Green); 66 Hark! the herald angels sing

(Mendelssohn); 70 It came upon the midnight clear (Noel); Unto us is born a son (Puer nobis nascitur); 78 (omit v. 7) O

come, all ye faithful (Adeste fideles)

24 Wednesday Christmas Eve

7.30am	Morning Prayer	Our Lady Martyrdom
8.00am	Holy Communion	Our Lady Undercroft, Crypt
10.00am	Family Crib Service	Nave
12.30pm	Holy Communion	Our Lady Undercroft, Crypt
4.00m	Said Evening Draver	Wastonn Current

4.00pm Said Evening Prayer Western Crypt
5.30pm Carol Service no. 2

As Carol Service no. 1

11.00pm Midnight Mass

sung by Lay Clerks

Victoria, Missa 'O magnum mysterium'

Preacher: The Dean

Victoria, O magnum mysterium

Hymns 89i While shepherds watched their flocks by night (Winchester Old); 84 Silent night! Holy night! (Stille Nacht); 70 It came upon the midnight clear (Noel); 78 (omit vv. 4, 5)

O come, all ye faithful (Adeste Fideles)

25 Thursday CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.15am Morning Prayer

High Altar Western Crypt

Nave

11.00am Christmas Eucharist

sung by boy choristers, girl choristers and Lay Clerks

Rheinberger, Mass in E-flat

Preacher: The Bishop of Dover trad., arr. Pearsall, In dulci jubilo

Hymns: 78 (omit vv. 4, 5) O come, all ye faithful (Adeste

Fideles); 71 Jesus Christ the Lord is born (Puer nobis nascitur); 79 O little town of Bethlehem (Forest Green); 66 Hark! the

herald angels sing (Mendelssohn)

3.00pm Evensong with Carols

Quire

sung by Lay Clerks

Handl, Ante luciferum genitus

Harris, Responses

Psalm 8

Sheppard, First service

Tomkins, Almighty God, who hast given

Hymns 64 God rest you merry, gentlemen (God rest you

merry); 87 Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour

(Fragrance); 86 The first Nowell the angel did say (The first Nowell); 72 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! (Antioch)

Friday
 8.00am
 9.15am
 5.30pm
 Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr
 By Communion
 St Stephen, North-East Transept
 Jesus Chapel, Crypt
 Quire

Psalm 86

Hymns Good King Wenceslas; 89i While shepherds watched their flocks by night (Winchester Old); 85 The Angel Gabriel from heaven came (Gabriel's Message); 59 Angels from the realms of glory (Iris)

27 Saturday John, Apostle and Evangelist

8.00am Holy Communion St John the Evangelist, South-East Transept
 9.15am Morning Prayer Jesus Chapel, Crypt
 5.30pm Evensong Quire

sung by Lees Court Music

J.S.Bach, Alles, was Odem hat, lobe den Herrn Smith, Responses

Psalm 97

Stanford in A

J.S.Bach, Singet dem Herrn ein neues Lied, BWV 225 Hymn 609 Christ is the world's light, he and none other (Christe Sanctorum)

28 Sunday The Holy Innocents

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

Our Lady Undercroft, Crypt

9.15am Morning Prayer

Jesus Chapel, Crypt

11.00am Eucharist

Quire

sung by Lees Court Music

Haydn, Missa brevis Sancti Joannis de Deo

Psalm 124

Preacher: The Reverend A P Dodd, Canon Treasurer

Basque Carol, arr. Willcocks, The Infant King

Hymns 77 Lully, lulla (Coventry carol); 436 Christians, lift your hearts and voices (Webbe's St Thomas); 71 Jesus Christ

the Lord is born (Puer nobis nascitur)

5.30pm Evensong

Quire

sung by Lees Court Music

Philip Stopford, Lully, lulla

Smith, Responses

Psalm 128

Joanna Forbes L'Estrange, King's College service

Bob Chilcott, The Shepherd's Carol

Hymn 76i Love came down at Christmas (Love came down)

29	Monday 8.00am 9.15am 12.30pm	Thomas Becket, Archbish Martyr, 1170 Holy Communion Morning Prayer Eucharist	hop of Canterbury, Altar of the Swordspoint, Martyrdom Jesus Chapel, Crypt Altar of the Swordspoint, Martyrdom	
	5.30pm	Memorial Service for the	, ,	
		Memorial Service for the Martyrdom of St Thomas Nave		
		sung by Canterbury Chamber Choir		
		Byrd, Ave verum		
		Psalm 2		
		Tallis, Magnificat in the Dorian mode		
		Tallis, Nunc dimittis in the Dorian mode		
		Fauré, Libera me, Domine		
		Preacher: The Bishop of Richborough		
		John Rutter, Lux aeterna		
		Hymns NEH208 In our day of thanksgiving one psalm let us		
		offer (St Catherine's Court); 486 Christ is the King! O friends		
		rejoice (Vulpius)		
20	T1			
30	Tuesday		C. N. 1. 1 C.	
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St Nicholas, Crypt	
	9.15am	Morning Prayer	Jesus Chapel, Crypt	
	5.30pm	Evensong	Quire	
		Sung by the RSCM America National Choir		
		Margaret Burk, Responses Psalm 148		
		I Duffit I TO		

Kathryn Rose in e

Burt, Some children see Him lily white

Hymn 86 The first Nowell the angel did say (The first Nowell)

31 Wednesday

8.00am Holy Communion Our Lady Martyrdom
 9.15am Morning Prayer Jesus Chapel, Crypt
 12.30pm Holy Communion Our Lady Undercroft, Crypt
 5.30pm Evensong Quire

Sung by the RSCM America National Choir

Margaret Burk, Responses

Psalm 150 Wheeler in C

Brenda Portman, Love came down at Christmas

Hymn 80 Of the Father's heart begotten (Divinum Mysterium)