



CANTERBURY
cathedral

What's On

Advent & Christmas 2024

Discover traditional services and carols, brand new services and events, child-friendly activities, beautiful trees and decorations, and the return of the historic Cathedral Christmas Market.

**Kids Go
FREE***

until 31 December 2025

*Visitor entry. T&Cs apply



Visitor opening times and the availability of events and activities may change at short notice due to funerals, weddings, services or exceptional circumstances.

Please check our website prior to your visit for opening times, closures and restrictions.

The Cathedral takes the safety and security of all our worshippers and visitors very seriously. If you are coming to the Cathedral, please be aware that as a condition of entry we reserve the right to search any bags or luggage on arrival.

Please take extra care when walking around our historic building, as the stone floors may be unpredictably uneven in places and entry to some parts of the Cathedral is via stone steps or access ramps of varying gradients. Lighting levels may vary.

For more information, please contact:

Cathedral House, The Precincts, Canterbury, CT1 2EH

+44 (0) 1227 762862

enquiries@canterbury-cathedral.org

www.canterbury-cathedral.org

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and X:

@CburyCathedral



Welcome from Dean David

Our theme this year is - JOURNEYING TO CHRISTMAS

This Christmastide, we will be highlighting and remembering all the journeys in the birth of Jesus, but also all the journeys we all take at this time, not least moving from one year to the next.

The Christmas Star led people to Jesus, the Prince of Peace. We are invited to journey to him, to find eternal peace too.

At the Cathedral we are aware of how the combination of faith, history, architecture, community and the arts shape our life journeys and help us to recover and heal.

All are welcome to join us for our traditional services and carols, brand new services and events, child-friendly activities, beautiful trees and decorations, and the return of the historic Cathedral Christmas Market.

Please come on the journey with us this Advent and Christmas, as together we are transformed.

David Monteith, Dean of Canterbury



How to use this guide

Services and events are listed in date order, with colour-coded symbols to show which type of event each is:

- WS** Worship & Spirituality
- MP** Music & Performance
- AE** Art & Exhibitions
- TT** Talks & Tours
- MD** Make & Do
- CF** Child Friendly



This guide offers a brief summary of our Christmastide worship, events, child-friendly activities, and new visitor experiences at Canterbury Cathedral. Please go to our website for more information and ways to book, if required.



www.canterbury-cathedral.org/christmas

Subscribe to our newsletter and stay up to date with all the latest events, news and offers.

Please note, the contents of this guide are correct at the time of publication, but may be subject to change. New events and services may also be added.

To avoid disappointment, when planning your visit we advise you to check our website for up-to-date details, seasonal service changes and any closures in place.

Our Regular Services



All are welcome, and there is never a charge to attend a service of worship or to come into the Cathedral to pray.

Our Chaplains lead prayers on the hour and are available outside of regular service times if you wish to speak with them. Confessions are also available throughout the day.

Monday to Saturday

- 07:30** **Monday-Friday:** Morning Prayer
- 08:00** Holy Communion
- 09:15** **Saturdays:** Morning Prayer
- 12:00** **Fridays:** The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) and Counsel
- 13:00**
- 12:30** **Mondays, during choir term time:** Taizé Prayer
- Wednesdays:** Holy Communion
- 17:30** **Mon-Wed & Fri-Sat:** Choral Evensong †
- Thursdays:** Said Evening Prayer

Sunday

- 08:00** Holy Communion (using the Book of Common Prayer)
- 09:15** Morning Prayer
- 10:30** Children's Church in the Community Studio
- 11:00** Sung Eucharist †
- 17:30** Choral Evensong †

Sunday Worship for Children

Children and young people are a valued part of our worshipping community and there are a variety of ways for them to get involved and for families to find support.

At our 11:00 Sung Eucharist on Sundays, there are parent-led crèche facilities for babies and toddlers and we invite 5–11** year olds to join us for Children's Church from 10:30, where through story, songs, craft and games we worship together before joining the church family for communion.

Children's Church is free, but with a suggested donation of £1 per family to contribute to running costs.

For full details and to keep updated with news of developing provision for young people, please see our website.

**Under 5s are welcome, but must be supervised by a parent/carer.

† **Live streamed on our YouTube Channel.**

Regular Talks & Tours

FREE* Mini Talks

DAILY Between 10:00-16:00, various intervals

15-minute bite-sized talks about the Cathedral's history, delivered by our knowledgeable team. Subject to availability on the day. Ask at our Visitor Centre.

**Included free with a valid Cathedral Admission Ticket, Cathedral Pass or Friends' Card. Children aged 17 and under go free (T&Cs apply).*



£5 Guided Tours

£5 per person, plus Cathedral admission charge.

Book at our Visitor Centre on the day of your visit, or email visits@canterbury-cathedral.org to reserve your space.

'The Inside Story'

Mon-Sat 10:30, 12:00 & 14:00; Sun 13:00

Discover the story of Canterbury Cathedral through its soaring architecture, beautiful medieval stained glass and the history that helped to make and shape it.



'The St Thomas Becket Story'

Wednesdays, 11:15-12:30

(with some exceptions - please check our website.)

Uncover the full story of St Thomas Becket in the Cathedral, where echoes of his life and legacy resound.



Stained Glass Windows

Fridays, 11:15-12:15

(some exceptions - please check our website.)

An introduction to the history and range of stained glass found at the Cathedral, from medieval to modern.

Between 6-20 December, this will be a Christmas-themed 'Festive Stained Glass Windows Tour' (see page 16).



WS Worship & Spirituality

TT Talks & Tours

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AE Art & Exhibitions

CF Child Friendly

Crown and Coronation

Explore Canterbury and the Cathedral's fascinating royal links with our FREE limited duration exhibition.

Discover our range of Crown and Coronation products instore or online



FREE AND FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY



Celebrations and Ceremonies: City, Cathedral and Crown

Until March 2025 in the Viewing Gallery, in the Cathedral Visitor Centre

Discover objects that bring to life stories from the history of Canterbury and the Cathedral, and their royal connections.

The exhibition includes striking and rarely-seen items dating from the medieval period onwards. Admire their fine craftsmanship and find out how they were used in celebrations and ceremonies.

Artwork created by local children and inspired by the objects on display will also be showcased in the Gallery.



You do not need a Cathedral Admission Ticket, Cathedral Pass or Friends' card to view this exhibition.

FREE* EXHIBITION
FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY



Cross-Currents: Life as Journey at Canterbury Cathedral

Until 15 February 2025

Artist: Frances Carlile

Curated by: Jacqueline Creswell

Canterbury Cathedral has for centuries been the focus of pilgrimages and journeys started in hope and faith.

Cross-Currents is an installation of hundreds of beautiful, delicate hand-crafted boats embarked on their own journey through the vast architecture of Canterbury Cathedral, each fragile boat symbolizing the transient passage of the life of an individual.

These beautiful and fragile hand-crafted boats serve as a powerful metaphor for the impermanence of life and human vulnerability.

Participating in the creative process is very much a part of this exhibition; visitors and the community will have an opportunity to participate in the *Cross-Currents* voyage through the practice of creating a boat themselves to accompany the fleet.

****This exhibition is included free with a valid Cathedral Admission Ticket, Cathedral Pass or Friends Card. Children aged 17 and under go free (T&Cs apply).***

In an ecclesiastical setting, *Cross-Currents* prompts contemplation on the shared experiences of seeking sanctuary, embarking on spiritual quests, and navigating the unpredictable waters of life.

These painstakingly-crafted magical creations remind us of the fragility of life itself. The ephemeral nature of the boats displayed, created from materials collected from the forest floor and along our coastline, reminds us of the impermanence of our earthly existence. Like boats adrift on the sea, we navigate the unpredictable currents of life, seeking stability and purpose amidst the waves.

The exhibition prompts us to reflect on our own journey through life and the choices we make along the way, inviting us to consider the human cost of displacement and the importance of offering assistance or sanctuary to those we meet on their journey. As we all take a path toward deeper connection with the divine, we are reminded of our shared humanity and the interconnectedness of all beings.



Find out more at
www.canterbury-cathedral.org/cross-currents





Did you know?

It takes more than 6 miles of twinkling festive lights, and over 118,000 LEDs, to decorate Canterbury's medieval streets and buildings at Christmas!

Canterbury Cathedral Christmas Market

15 November - 24 December 2024

with FREE Precincts Access

Visitors to the beautiful city of Canterbury this winter will be in for a rare festive treat as a historic 600-year-old Christmas market returns to the grounds of Canterbury Cathedral.

First held in the Cathedral Precincts in 1383 following a royal grant by King Richard II, the Cathedral's seasonal markets were hugely popular and ran for hundreds of years.

Reviving this centuries-old tradition for 2024, the modern Christmas market will feature a range of picturesque German-style wooden huts within the Cathedral Precincts, as well as delicious food and drink outlets, a vintage-style carousel ride, and live music performances – including Saturday Shoppers' Carol Services.

Did you know?

Canterbury Cathedral's festive market ran from 1383 until 1813 when, following concerns of 'indecent and tumultuous conduct', it closed for the final time.

There will be free entry to the Precincts during the market – sightseers will only need to pay to go inside the Cathedral and Cloister during visiting hours – and a variety of fun low and no cost community activities.

A collaboration between the Cathedral, Canterbury BID and Rockhopper Events, this is an extension to Canterbury's existing much-loved traditional festive market which spans the city centre.

As always, it is free to attend a service or to come into the Cathedral to pray, with donations welcome.

Canterbury's expanded Christmas Market will open on 15th November 2024 with the Christmas Light Parade and run until 24th December 2024.



Image: Visualisation, created by R3NDER

Find out more at canterbury-cathedral.org/christmas

Advent and Christmas at Canterbury Cathedral

Journeying to Christmas

All are welcome to join us for our traditional services and carols, brand new services and events, child-friendly activities, beautiful trees and decorations, and the return of the historic Cathedral Christmas Market.

Special services and events

Traditional and brand new services for this year, a variety of carol services, tours, talks and more.

† **Live streamed on our YouTube Channel.**

Life-size crib *(See page 13)*

Our beautiful life-size nativity scene will be in place in the Nave throughout the Advent and Christmas Season, with free after-school access. Join us for our Tea Time Carols on Tuesdays, 16:00-16:30 (26 November-17 December), for storytelling and songs at the Crib. *(See page 14)*

Christmas trees and decorations

Our illuminated Christmas trees will return across the Cathedral and Precincts; and inspired by this year's theme of journeys, the Three Kings will make an appearance; hundreds of stars will fill the Cathedral; and look out for the giant star suspended in the Quire!

Child-friendly services, events and activities

Enjoy child-friendly services, carols, activities and more - including free star decoration making *(see page 14)* and even more activities at our Cathedral Christmas Market.

NEW Cathedral Christmas Market

Enjoy free entry to the Precincts for the duration of the Market, discover a variety of food and drink outlets, unique retail stalls, a vintage-style carousel ride, live music performances - including Saturday Shoppers' Carol Services - and low and no-cost activities. *(See pages 10-11)*

WS Worship & Spirituality

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All our seasonal services are free to attend, with retiring collections to help cover our costs.

Donations given at our two traditional Carol Services, and all our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services will - after deduction of costs - be shared equally between the Cathedral and this year's chosen partner charity, The Social Justice Network. www.thesocialjusticenetwork.org

Advent Sunday Evening Services

Join us for our special Sunday evening services, that help us to prepare for Christmas.

A quiet service of **Said Evening Prayer** will also take place each Sunday in December, at 16:00 in the Crypt.

Advent Carol Service †

1 December, 17:30-18:30 *(see page 15)*

St Nicholas Family Service †

8 December, 17:30-18:15 *(see page 17)*

Festival of Carols with Living Nativity †

15 December, 17:30-18:30 *(see page 18)*

Candlelit Reflection with Organ Meditation †

Sun 22 December, 17:30-18:30 *(see page 18)*

FREE AFTER-SCHOOL ACCESS

Life-size Crib

Our beautiful life-size nativity scene will be in place in the Nave throughout the Advent and Christmas Season, with free access to view Monday - Fridays, 15:00-17:00, between 25 November - 20 December.



FREE* Gregory and Peti's Christmas Star Trail



25 November - 31 December, during visiting hours

Explore the Cathedral to find all 8 stars, and return your completed trail to the Cathedral Shop to claim your prize!

***Included free with a valid Cathedral Admission Ticket, Cathedral Pass or Friends' Card. Children aged 17 and under go free (T&Cs apply).**

NEW Tea Time Carols



Tuesdays (26 November-17 December), 16:00-16:30

Join our Cathedral clergy each week for storytelling and songs at the Crib, as we mark our journey to Christmas.

Aimed at young children and parents/carers, but all welcome.

Journeys of Healing through Advent: Poetry and Scripture



Thursdays over 4 weeks (28 November-19 December) 20:00-21:00, via Zoom

Dr Tim Naish, our Canon Librarian, will lead a reflection each evening on a poem and passage of scripture, with an opportunity for questioning and group discussion.

Booking essential - Book to be sent a Zoom link.

Free event, but donations are gratefully received

Find out more & book at canterbury-cathedral.org/events

'Journeying to Christmas' Reflections



Fridays (29 November-20 December), 12:30-13.00

Join Dean David for seasonal reflections in the Nave; including music, poetry and prayer.

FREE Star Decoration Making



Sat 30 November, 11:00-15:00 in the Viewing Gallery

Bring your little ones to a heart-warming Christmas drop-in session where they can craft their own star decorations for the Cathedral's 'Children's Christmas Tree' in the Nave.

Drop-in activity; no need to book. Suitable for ages 4+.

You do not need a Cathedral Admission Ticket, Cathedral Pass or Friends' Card to take part.

NEW Shoppers' Carol Service



Saturdays (30 November-21 December), 12:30-13:00 on the Christmas Market Event Stage

Listen to beautiful music and add your own voice as we sing well-known carols together – just the thing to put you in the festive mood.

Join musicians, the Cathedral choristers and our staff for these joyous half-hour services, as you enjoy the Christmas Market (See pages 10-11).

Advent Carol Service †



Sun 1 December, 17:30-18:30

This beautiful service at the start of the Advent season brings together music, readings, and the lighting of candles.

Taizé Lunchtime Prayer



Mondays, 12:30-13:00 in the Crypt (until 16 December)

The worship of Taizé is based on simple repetitive chants, the reading of scripture and silence. All are welcome to come and experience this way of praying, as we connect with God and one another through sound and silence.

This event is free, but donations are kindly accepted.

Mothers' Union Advent Service



Wed 4 December, 11:00-12:00 in the Crypt

All are welcome.

The Discovery of Richard III



Thurs 5 December, 11:00-12:00 - Clagett Auditorium

Dean David will tell the story of the discovery of the remains of King Richard III in a Leicester car park and his reburial, with dignity and honour, in Leicester Cathedral.

Tickets: £10 Friends of Canterbury Cathedral, £15 non-members. Includes tea and coffee.

Find out more & book at canterbury-cathedral.org/events

WS Worship & Spirituality

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Gentle Tours

Thursday 5 & 19 December, 14:15-16:00

Join us for our short step-free tours, in a smaller group, delivered at a gentle pace.

£5 per person, plus Cathedral admission charge.

Book at our Visitor Centre on the day of your visit, or email visits@canterbury-cathedral.org to reserve your space



Worship & Spirituality



Talks & Tours



Make & Do



Music & Performance



Art & Exhibitions



Child Friendly

SPECIAL SEASONAL TOUR

'Christmas at the Cathedral' Tour

Thursdays 5, 12 & 19 December, 11:15-12:30

Learn how Christmas was celebrated by the Benedictine monks here in the Middle Ages, with pittances and a compulsory bath; how the origins of a popular Christmas carol can be traced in a stained glass window in the Crypt; and even how the Puritans banned Christmas in 1647, resulting in Canterbury's infamous Plum Pudding Riots!

£5 per person, plus Cathedral admission charge.

Book at our Visitor Centre on the day of your visit, or email visits@canterbury-cathedral.org to reserve your space.



SPECIAL SEASONAL TOUR

Festive Stained Glass Windows Tour

Fridays 6, 13 & 20 December, 11:15-12:15

An introduction to the history and range of stained glass found at the Cathedral, from medieval to modern, with a focus on our windows depicting the Nativity Story.

£5 per person, plus Cathedral admission charge.

Book at our Visitor Centre on the day of your visit, or email visits@canterbury-cathedral.org to reserve your space



Stained Glass Studio Tour

Fri 6 December, 11:00-12:30

Visit the studio, meet one of our conservators and learn more about their work specialising in the conservation, restoration and protection of our historic stained glass.

£25 per person. Cathedral admission not included.

Pre-booking required; not suitable for under 18s.



St Nicholas Family Service †

Sun 8 December, 17:30-18:15

Join us and over 200 local school children - involved with our Schools Music Outreach Programme - as we celebrate the story of St Nicholas.

This joyful, short service is aimed at children, but is suitable for all ages to enjoy!



Friendly Singing for Wellbeing

Mon 9 December, 14:00-15:00

St Paul's Church Hall, Canterbury, CT1 1NH

Turn up for a cuppa and a biscuit followed by sociable singing to put a smile on your face.

Free to attend, but donations welcomed.

No need to book.



FREE* Christmas Crafting

Saturdays (7, 14 & 21 December),

11:00-15:00 - various locations inside the Cathedral

Drop-in for this special festive crafting activity, inspired by our 'Journeying to Christmas' theme. From shimmering stars that light up the wise men's path, to making angels to decorate your tree, our crafts are sure to delight all ages!

***Included free with a valid Cathedral Admission Ticket, Cathedral Pass or Friends' Card. Children aged 17 and under go free (T&Cs apply).**





Festival of Carols with Living Nativity †

Sun 15 December, 17:30-18:30

With a range of seasonal music and readings, this service includes a living nativity scene made up of adults and children from our Cathedral congregation.



Demelza 'Celebration of Christmas' MP CF

Mon 16 December, 19:30-21:00 in the Nave

Their 20th annual carol service in Canterbury, held to raise money for local charity Demelza House Children's Hospice.

Book online at demelza.org.uk/events

Friends' Carol Service †

Wed 18 December, 19:00 in the Nave

Hear the Cathedral bells ring out to greet you as you arrive at our Friendly traditional Service.

If you require additional arrangements to attend the service, please email events@canterbury-cathedral.org



Canterbury Choral Society Family Carols

Thurs 19 December, 19:00-20:30 in the Nave

Book online at canterburychoral.co.uk



Evening Prayer

with Congregational Carols

Fri 20 December, 17:30-18:15 in the Crypt



Candlelit Reflection

with Organ Meditation †

Sun 22 December, 17:30-18:30

A reflective service with scripture and poetry on the last Sunday before Christmas, led by Dean David, with *La Nativité du Seigneur* (The Birth of the Saviour) by Olivier Messiaen, played on organ by Jamie Rogers, Assistant Director of Music.



Cathedral Carol Services †

Mon 23 December, 17:30-19:00

Tues 24 December, 17:30-19:00

A major highlight of the Cathedral's year, our Carol Services feature music by our world-famous Cathedral Choir, and readings to tell the story of the birth of Christ.

This is a popular service; queues likely. Doors open at 16:30.

Both Carol Services are un-ticketed.

If you require additional arrangements to attend please email events@canterbury-cathedral.org



Family Crib Service

Tues 24 December, 10:00-10:45

A short, joyful service for children and families tells the story of the birth of Jesus, with music from the Cathedral Choral Scholars and the singing of traditional Christmas Carols.



Midnight Mass † Tues 24 December, 23:00-00:10

This traditional night-time communion service ends at midnight, marking the dawn of Christmas Day and celebrating the joy of when the Angels appeared to the Shepherds.



Christmas Day Wednesday 25 December

09:15 Said Morning Prayer

11:00 Christmas Eucharist with the Archbishop of Canterbury †

15:00 Evensong with Carols †



Memorial Service for the Martyrdom of St Thomas † Sun 29 December, 17:30-18:30

854 years after his death, we recall the story of Archbishop Thomas Becket, reflecting on martyrdom then and now. Preacher: Fr. Robert McCulloch, Rome



Solemn Evensong of the Epiphany † Sun 5 January 2025, 17:30-18:15

Sung Eucharist for Epiphany †

Mon 6 January 2025, 17:30-18:15

Epiphany Carol Service †

Sun 12 January 2025, 17:30-18:30



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Canterbury Cathedral Lodge



Why not stay overnight and wake up to views of the Cathedral from your bedroom window?

Canterbury Cathedral Lodge is our unique hotel and conference venue, situated within the Cathedral Precincts, with stunning views of the Cathedral, and comfortable accommodation.

It is also a superb venue for meetings, conferences and events, as well as parties and wedding receptions.

To book your stay or event, call 01227 865350 or email stay@canterburycathedrallodge.org / events@canterburycathedral.org

Give the Gift of Space and Time

Gift an overnight stay at Canterbury Cathedral Lodge, with full Kentish breakfast and Cathedral entry included.

Contact us for details

www.canterburycathedrallodge.org

Sunday Lunches at Cathedral Lodge

15 & 22 December - between 12:30-15:30

Enjoy a delicious three-course traditional Sunday lunch, served in the Refectory Restaurant.

£30 per person. Pre-orders and prepayment required.

SELLING FAST - BOOK NOW

The Festive Season

Pre-payment or a deposit will be taken at the time of booking Festive Lunches, Festive Dinners and Shared Festive Party Nights; this is non-refundable. See Christmas T&Cs on our website.

FOR INDIVIDUALS AND SMALL GROUPS

Shared Festive Party Nights

Sun 15 & Tues 17 December, 18:30-23:00

This includes a three-course festive meal and disco.

£39 per person

Festive Dinners **GROUP BOOKINGS ONLY**

Late November & December (enquire for availability)

Enjoy a festive three-course meal served in the Refectory Restaurant (or Clagett Auditorium for groups of 50+).

£35 per person (Minimum. 30 people)

To book, call 01227 865350 or email events@canterburycathedrallodge.org



Scan the QR code to find out more about these and other special events, or visit our website:

www.canterburycathedrallodge.org/events



Cathedral Shop

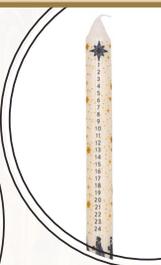
Shop Christmas at the Cathedral

Discover our beautiful collection of Christmas cards, our Official 2025 Canterbury Cathedral Calendar, Advent candles, Christmas decorations and more!

**All profits go towards the upkeep of
Canterbury Cathedral**

Don't know what to give?

Treat someone special to a
Cathedral Shop gift voucher.



www.canterbury-cathedral.org/shop



Join The Friends

The Friends are the Cathedral's fan club!

They are a community who work together to help support this magnificent place.

Friends also benefit from free entry to the Cathedral and its Precincts, access to exclusive trips and events, e-newsletters, a 10% discount in the Cathedral Shop and Cathedral Lodge (some exclusions apply), an annual Friends' Day, Friends' Carol Service, and a special welcome event in the summer.

Get 15 months for
the price of 12 if you
join today and quote

WO8



Give the Gift of Friendship

Membership starts at just £35 and includes a welcome pack
with a Friends' card and badge.

The Friends can even dispatch the gift on your behalf!

www.canterbury-cathedral.org/friends



Market image: Canterbury BID/Matt Wilson

Canterbury Cathedral Christmas Market

15 November - 24 December 2024

Enjoy a historic Christmas as the
600-year-old market returns to the
grounds of Canterbury Cathedral

With delicious food and drink outlets, a vintage-style
carousel ride, live music performances – including
Saturday Shoppers' Carol Services - a variety of fun low-
and no-cost activities, and free entry to The Precincts,
there's lots for all to enjoy. *(Find out more on pages 10-11)*



Image: Visualisation, created by R3NDER

www.canterbury-cathedral.org/christmas