



GUILDFORD  
CATHEDRAL

# **Advent Carol Service** **PROCESSION**

Sunday 30 November 2025  
6pm



# ADVENT

Advent is the season when the Church prepares for the coming of Christ as Saviour and as Judge. It is a time of rejoicing as we await the birth of the Christ-child at Bethlehem, but also a time for penitence and hope as we reflect on the ultimate issues of death and judgement, heaven and hell. And so, the themes of darkness and light, and the reading of passages from the Old Testament pointing to the fulfilment of God's purposes in Jesus, speak to us of the Church's hope in the coming of Christ – the Light of the World – to banish both sin and darkness.

The Advent antiphons – the 'Great O's' as they are known – are integral to the structure of this service. They were originally sung as short verses before and after the Magnificat in the days leading up to Christmas – as they are still sung in Guildford Cathedral at Choral Evensong. The readings and music have been chosen to reflect the themes they announce, and to enable us to look forward with joyful expectation to the proclamation of God's kingdom, the cosmic transforming character of Christmas and the Incarnation.

## COLLECTION AND DONATIONS

### COLLECTION

Your support makes a real difference to the ministry and mission of Guildford Cathedral. There will be a collection taken in this service during the congregational hymn *O come, O come Emmanuel*. Cash donations can be made in this way, using the Gift Aid envelopes provided if you are a taxpayer, or a contactless donation by using the contactless collection plates or box on your way out, or our QR code above. If you use the contactless plates or box and you are a taxpayer, please complete a green gift aid envelope and write 'contactless donation' on the front; please put the envelope in the plate or the cash box at the west end. On behalf of all at Guildford Cathedral, thank you.



# MUSICIANS

The service is sung by the Cathedral Choir, directed by the Organist and Master of the Choristers, Katherine Dienes-Williams. The organ is played during the service by Asher Oliver, Sub Organist, and before the service by Jozef Gaszka, Organ Scholar. The guitar is played by Oliver Turner, bass lay clerk.

## ORGAN MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme BWV 645  
*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

O Radix Jesse *Cecilia McDowall (b. 1951)*

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 659  
*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

O Clavis David *Cecilia McDowall (b. 1951)*

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 660  
*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

O Rex Gentium *Cecilia McDowall (b. 1951)*

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 661  
*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

Overture to "St Paul" *Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)*

## PARTICIPATION IN THE SERVICE

We sing the hymns and say together the words in **bold type**. Although posture is suggested please do whatever is most comfortable for you.

Photography and audio or video recording of this service is not permitted.

## **WELCOME**

The Very Reverend Bob Cooper, Dean of Guildford

## **THE INTRODUCTION**

*As the choir and clergy process to the west end of the Cathedral, the organist plays*

Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen (Op. 122) *Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)*

*Please stand and turn west to face the choir and clergy.*

## **THE ADVENT RESPONSORY**

I look from afar:

and lo, I see the power of God coming  
and a cloud covering the whole earth.

Go ye out to meet him and say:

tell us, art thou he that should come to reign  
over thy people Israel?

High and low, rich and poor, one with another.

go ye out to meet him and say:

hear, O thou shepherd of Israel,

thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.

Tell us, art thou he that should come?

Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come  
to reign over thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost.

*Words: Responsory at Matins, first Sunday of Advent*

*Music: adapted from a Magnificat by Giovanni Luigi da Palestrina (c. 1525-1594)*

# THE BIDDING

*Dean*

In the name of God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and made a place for us in the kingdom of his beloved Son, we welcome you: grace to you and peace.

As we meet to celebrate anew the coming of God's kingdom, we hear revealed the mystery of God's loving purpose for us – how that when we were far off, he met us in his Son and brought us home; how he humbled himself to take our human nature, that we might share his divine glory.

Let us then so celebrate this coming with our carols and hymns of praise, that our lives may be charged with his life; that we may bear witness to his glory and so bring light to those who sit in darkness. So first we pray for those among whom the Christ was born: the poor and helpless, the aged and young children; the cold, the hungry and the homeless; the victims of poverty, injustice and oppression, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved; those in despair or in the shadow of death.

Then, as we hear again the message of peace on earth and goodwill among all his people, we pray for the leaders of the nations, that all may be inspired to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom and peace the world over.

And that we may bear true witness to this hope in a divided world, we pray for the peace and unity of Christ's Body, the Church universal, that the whole earth may live to praise his name.

Finally, as we rejoice with the saints in heaven and on earth, we remember all who have gone before us with the sign of faith, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we offer up our prayers for the coming of his kingdom, in the words he himself has taught us, saying:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
 hallowed be thy name;  
 thy kingdom come;  
 thy will be done;  
 on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread.  
 And forgive us our trespasses,  
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
 And lead us not into temptation;  
 but deliver us from evil.  
 For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
 for ever and ever.  
 Amen.**

May the Lord when he comes find us watching and waiting,  
 now and at all times.

**Amen.**

## **HYMN**

*During the hymn the procession proceeds to the cross aisle. Candles at the west of the nave are lit. Please turn back to face east as the procession passes.*



Trebles

Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,  
 and manifest thy virgin-birth:  
 Let ev'ry age adoring fall;  
 such birth befits the God of all.

Choir      Begotten of no human will,  
But of the Spirit, thou art still  
The Word of God, in flesh arrayed,  
the promised fruit to man displayed.

**All**        From God the Father he proceeds,  
to God the Father back he speeds,  
His course he runs to death and hell,  
Returning on God's throne to dwell.

O equal to thy Father, thou!  
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now;  
The weakness of our mortal state  
With deathless might invigorate.

Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,  
And darkness breathe a newer light,  
Where endless faith shall shine serene,  
And twilight never intervene.

O Jesu, virgin-born, to thee  
eternal praise and glory be,  
whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Spirit, evermore. Amen.

*Words: St Ambrose (c. 340-397), translated by John Mason Neale (1818-1866)  
and others*

*Music: CP 49 Puer nobis nascitur, melody adapted by Michael Praetorius  
(1571-1621) arranged by David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

# O SAPIENTIA

O Wisdom, which camest out of the mouth of the Most High, and reachest from one end to another, mightily and sweetly ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

*Words: O Sapientia, Great Antiphon, 17 December*

*Music: plainsong*

*Sit*

## FIRST READING

Proverbs 3.13-18

Read by Ann Bourne

A reading from Proverbs.

Happy are those who find wisdom  
and those who get understanding,  
for her income is better than silver  
and her revenue better than gold.

She is more precious than jewels,  
and nothing you desire can compare with her.  
Long life is in her right hand;  
in her left hand are riches and honour.  
Her ways are ways of pleasantness,  
and all her paths are peace.  
She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her;  
those who hold her fast are called happy.

For the word of the Lord,  
**thanks be to God.**



## CAROL

Remember, O thou man,  
O thou man, O thou man,  
Remember, O thou man,  
Thy time is spent:  
Remember, O thou man,  
How thou art dead and gone,  
And I did what I can:  
Therefore repent!

Remember God's goodnesse,  
O thou man, O thou man,  
Remember God's goodnesse,  
And his promise made!  
Remember God's goodnesse;  
How he sent his Sonne, doubtlesse,  
Our sinnes for to redresse:  
Be not afraid!

The angels all did sing,  
O thou man, O thou man,  
The angels all did sing  
Upon the shepherds' hill;  
The angels all did singe  
Praises to our heavenly King,  
And peace to man living  
With a good will.

To Bethlem did they goe,  
O thou man, O thou man,  
To Bethlem did they goe  
The shepherds three;  
To Bethlem did they goe  
To see whether it were so or no,  
Whether Christ were borne or no  
To set man free.

In Bethlem he was borne,  
 O thou man, O thou man,  
 In Bethlem he was borne,  
 For mankind's sake;  
 In Bethlem he was borne,  
 For us that were forlorne,  
 And therefore tooke no scorne  
 Our flesh to take.

Give thanks to God alway,  
 O thou man, O thou man,  
 Give thanks to God alway,  
 With heart most joyfully.  
 Give thanks to God alway  
 For this our happy day;  
 Let all men sing and say:  
 Holy! Holy!

*Words: Melismata 1611*

*Music: Thomas Ravenscroft (c.1588-1635)*

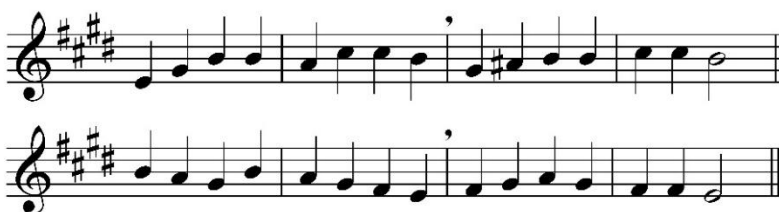
*Stand*

## **HYMN**

*During the hymn the procession proceeds to the crossing.*

*Candles at the east of the nave are lit.*

*Please turn back to face east as the procession passes.*



Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding;  
 'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;  
 'cast away the dreams of darkness,  
 O ye children of the day.'

Wakened by the solemn warning,  
let the earth-bound soul arise;  
Christ, her Sun, all ill dispelling,  
shines upon the morning skies.

Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,  
comes with pardon down from heaven;  
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
one and all to be forgiven;

That when next he comes with glory,  
and the world is wrapped in fear,  
with his mercy he may shield us,  
and with words of love draw near.

Honour, glory, might, and blessing  
to the Father and the Son,  
with the everlasting Spirit,  
while eternal ages run.

*Words: Latin, tr. Edward Caswall (1814-1878)*

*Music: CP 26 Merton, William Henry Monk (1823-1889)*

## O ADONAI

O Adonai and Leader of the house of Israel, who appearedst in the  
bush to Moses in a flame of fire, and gavest him the Law in Sinai:  
Come and deliver us with an outstretched arm.

*Words: O Adonai, Great Antiphon, 18 December*

*Music: plainsong*

## SECOND READING

Isaiah 11.1-5

Read by Henry, Head Boy Chorister

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see  
or decide by what his ears hear,

but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor  
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the  
breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be a belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

For the word of the Lord,  
**thanks be to God.**

## CAROL

There is no rose of such virtue  
As is the rose that bare Jesu;  
*Alleluia.*

For in this rose containèd was  
Heaven and earth in little space;  
*Res miranda. Alleluia.*

By that rose we may well see  
That He is God in persons three,  
*Pari forma. Alleluia.*

The angels sung the shepherds to,  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo: Gaudeamus. Alleluia.*

*Words: English traditional, circa 1420 (from a 15th century MS in  
Trinity College, Cambridge)*

*Music: Bonnie Miksch (b. 1970)*

## O RADIX JESSE

O Root of Jesse, which standest for an ensign of the people, at  
whom kings shall shut their mouths, to whom the Gentiles shall  
seek: Come and deliver us, and tarry not.

*Words: O Radix Jesse, Great Antiphon, 19 December*

*Music: plainsong*

### THIRD READING

Luke 1.67, 68, 76-79

Read by Toby Freeman-Day, RGS Prep School,  
the Cathedral's Choir School

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

John's father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke  
this prophecy: 'Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them.  
And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us,  
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of  
death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.'

For the word of the Lord,  
**thanks be to God.**

## **CAROL**

O Clavis David,	<i>O Key of David</i>
et sceptrum domus Israel;	<i>and sceptre of the House of Israel,</i>
qui aperis et nemo claudit,	<i>you open and no one can shut;</i>
claudis et nemo aperit:	<i>you shut and no one can open:</i>
Veni et educ vinctum	<i>Come and lead the prisoners</i>
de domo carceris	<i>from the prison house,</i>
sedentes in tenebris	<i>those who dwell in darkness</i>
et umbra mortis.	<i>and the shadow of death.</i>

*Words: Advent Antiphon*

*Music: Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)*

## **O CLAVIS DAVID**

O Key of David, and Sceptre of the house of Israel; that openest,  
and no man shutteth, and shuttest and no man openeth: Come and  
bring the prisoner out of the prison-house, and him that sitteth in  
darkness and the shadow of death.

*Words: O Clavis David, Great Antiphon, 20 December*

*Music: plainsong*

## FOURTH READING

Luke 1.4.16-21

Read by Donald Thompson

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke

When Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,

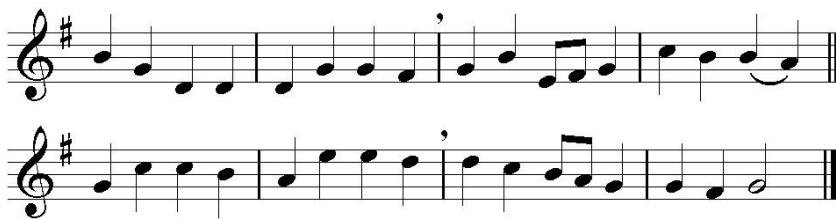
to set free those who are oppressed,

to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

For the word of the Lord,

**thanks be to God.**



Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver;  
born a child, and yet a king;  
born to reign in us for ever;  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thy own eternal Spirit,  
rule in all our hearts alone:  
by thy all-sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

*Music: CP 24 Cross of Jesus, John Stainer (1840-1901)*

*Descant: Katherine Dienes-Williams (b. 1970)*



# O ORIENS

O Day-Spring, Brightness of Light Everlasting, and Sun of Righteousness: Come and enlighten him that sitteth in darkness and the shadow of death.

*Words: O Oriens, Great Antiphon, 21 December*

*Music: plainsong*

*Sit*

## **FIFTH READING**

I Thessalonians 5.1-8

Read by Freya, Head Girl Chorister

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

For the word of the Lord,  
**thanks be to God.**

## CAROL

*Rorate coeli desuper,  
Heavens, distil your balmy showers;  
For now is risen the bright daystar,  
From the rose Mary, flower of flowers!  
The clear Son, whom no cloud devours,  
Surmounting Phoebus in the East,  
Is come down from his heavenly towers:  
Et nobis Puer natus est.*

Celestial fowls in the air,  
Sing with your notes upon high,  
In firths and in forests fair  
Be mirthful now with all your might;  
For passed is your dull night,  
Aurora has the clouds pierced,  
The Son is risen with gladsome light,  
*Pro nobis Puer natus est!*  
*Puer natus est pro nobis.*

*Words: William Dunbar (1460-1520)*

*Music: David McGregor (b.1995)*

*Stand*

## HYMN

*During the hymn the procession proceeds to the quire.*



Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long:  
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne,  
and ev'ry voice a song.

He comes, the prisoners to release  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.

He comes, the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
thy welcome shall proclaim;  
and heav'n's eternal arches ring  
with thy belovèd name.

*Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)*

*Music: CP 27, Bristol, Thomas Ravenscroft (c.1590-c.1633), Psalmes (1621)*

## O REX GENTIUM

O King of the Nations, and their desire; the Corner-stone who  
makest both one: Come and save mankind, whom thou formedst  
of clay.

*Words: O Rex Gentium, Great Antiphon, 22 December*

*Music: plainsong*

## **SIXTH READING**

Matthew 21.42-46

Read by Carl McGray

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

this was the Lord's doing,

and it is amazing in our eyes'?

"Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

For the word of the Lord,

**thanks be to God.**

## **CAROL**

*Nova! Nova!*

Gabriel of high degree,

He came down from the Trinity

From Nazareth to Galilee,

He met a maiden in a place;

He kneeled down before her face;

He said: "Hail, Mary, full of grace!"

When the maiden saw all this,  
She was sore abashed, ywis,  
Lest that she had done amiss.

Then said the angel: "Dread not you,  
You shall conceive in all virtue  
A child whose name shall be Jesu."

Then said the maid: "Verily,  
I am your servant truly,  
*Ecce ancilla Domini.*"  
*Nova! Nova!*

*Words: Traditional 15<sup>th</sup> century*

*Music: Iain Farrington (b.1977)*

## O EMMANUEL

O Emmanuel, our King and Law-giver, the Desire of all nations, and  
their salvation: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

*Words: O Emmanuel, Great Antiphon, 23 December*

*Music: plainsong*

### SEVENTH READING

Matthew 1. 18-23

Read by Canon Chris Hollingshurst

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a

dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:  
 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
 and they shall name him Emmanuel',  
 which means, 'God is with us.'

For the word of the Lord,  
**thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## **HYMN**

*During the hymn a collection will be taken and the procession proceeds to the sanctuary.*



**All**

O come, O come, Emmanuel!  
 And ransom captive Israel,  
 that mourns in lonely exile here,  
 until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
 shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Lower  
 voices

O come, thou Rod of Jesse,  
 free thine own from Satan's tyranny:  
 from depths of hell thy people save,  
 and give them vict'ry o'er the grave:

Upper voices      O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here:  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night;  
and death's dark shadows put to flight:

Lower voices      O come, thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery:

**All**                O come, O come, thou Lord of Might,  
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
In ancient times didst give the law  
In cloud and majesty and awe:

*Words: Latin Advent Antiphons tr. Thomas Alexander Lacey (1853–1931)*  
*Music: CFC2 melody from 15<sup>th</sup> century French Franciscan Processional,*  
*adapted and arranged by David Willcocks (1919-2015).*

*Sit*                **CAROL**

Who stands at my door in the storm and rain  
On the threshold of being?  
One who waits till you call him in  
From the empty night.

Are you a stranger, out in the storm,  
Or has my enemy found me out  
On the edge of being?  
I am no stranger who stands at the door  
Nor enemy come in the secret night,  
I am your child, in darkness and fear  
On the verge of being.

Go back, my child, to the rain and storm,  
For in this house there is sorrow and pain  
In the lonely night.

I will not go back for sorrow or pain,  
For my true love weeps within  
And waits for my coming.

Go back, my babe, to the vacant night  
For in this house dwell sin and hate  
On the verge of being.

I will not go back for hate or sin,  
I will not go back for sorrow or pain,  
For my true love mourns within  
On the threshold of night.

*Words: Kathleen Raine (1908-2003)*

*Music: Tarik O'Regan (b. 1978)*

*Stand*

## CLOSING PRAYERS AND BLESSING

Let us call on God's loving mercy.

We wait for your loving kindness, O God,  
**in the midst of your temple.**

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed  
**and all flesh shall see it together.**

Show us your mercy, O Lord,  
**and grant us your salvation.**

*Silence is kept.*

Almighty God,  
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness  
and to put on the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;  
that on the last day,  
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty



to judge the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,  
scatter the darkness from before your path,  
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

### HYMN



Lo, he comes with clouds descending,  
once for favoured sinners slain;  
thousand thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluia!  
God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him  
robed in dreadful majesty;  
those who set at naught and sold him,  
pierced and nailed him to the Tree,  
deeply wailing,  
shall the true Messiah see.



Those dear tokens of his passion  
still his dazzling body bears,  
cause of endless exultation  
to his ransomed worshippers:  
with what rapture  
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,  
high on thine eternal throne;  
Saviour, take the power and glory,  
claim the kingdom for thine own:  
O come quickly!  
Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and John Cennick (1718-1755)*  
*Music: CP 31, Helmsley, melody noted by Thomas Olivers (1725-1799),*  
*included in John Wesley's Select Hymns with Tunes Annexed (1765).*  
*Descant: David Hill (b. 1957)*

## **ORGAN VOLUNTARY**

Fantasia and Fugue in G minor BWV 542  
*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

*Please remain standing while the procession departs.*

*If you would like to donate electronically, there are plates and stations at the west end for this purpose. Thank you.*

# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

## SERVICES TODAY

### THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**7.30am** Morning Prayer *in the Lady Chapel*

**8am** Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) *in the Lady Chapel*

**9.45am** Cathedral Eucharist

**6pm** Advent Carol Service (doors open 5.30 pm)

## SERVICES THIS WEEK

**Morning Prayer** *in the Lady Chapel*

**8am** Tuesday

**8.30am** Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

**9am** Saturday

**Holy Communion** *in the Lady Chapel*

**8.30am** Tuesday

**9.00am** Monday, Wednesday, Friday

**9.30am** Saturday

**12.30pm** Thursday

**Choral Evensong** *in the quire*

**5.30pm** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

**Evening Prayer** *in the Lady Chapel*

**4pm** Saturday

**5.30pm** Wednesday

## SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER

**7.30am** Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel

**8am** Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) in the Lady Chapel

**9.45am** Cathedral Eucharist

**6pm** Choral Evensong

## **CATHEDRAL SERVICES CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS!**

### **SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER**

**6pm** Christmas Carol Service (I) *doors open at 5.30pm*

### **WEDNESDAY 24 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS EVE**

**4pm** Journey to Bethlehem *the Christmas Story for all ages*

**11pm** Midnight Mass

### **THURSDAY 25 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY**

**8am** Holy Communion *in the Lady Chapel*

**10am** Festival Eucharist

**4pm** Christmas Carol Service (II) *a repeat of Sunday 21 December, doors open at 3.30pm*

## **COLLECTION DURING SERVICES – ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS**

We would like to give you ample opportunity to give financially to the Cathedral over the Advent and Christmas period if you would like to. As well as the existing electronic stations in the Cathedral, which you will find at the west end, we will be reinstating a collection during the following services when collecting bags will be passed through the congregation during a hymn: Advent Carol Service with Procession – Sunday 30 November, 6pm  
Christmas Lessons and Carol Service - Sunday 21 December, 6pm  
Midnight Mass – Wednesday 24 December, 11pm  
Christmas Day Eucharist – Thursday 25 December, 10am  
Christmas Lessons and Carol Service – Thursday 25 December, 4pm  
Thank you for your generous donations!

## **ADVENT THEOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS**

The Cathedral clergy will be leading four Advent Theological Reflections with discussion after the 9.45am Sunday Eucharists during Advent, to which you are all welcome. We will be meeting in the Lady Chapel, as follows, for about 45 minutes. No need to book – just turn up!

Today at 11.15am – An introduction to Advent

Sunday 7 December at c.11.30am (after Matt's farewell) – The Prophets

Sunday 14 December at 11.15am – John the Baptist

Sunday 21 December at 11.15am – Mary, the Mother of Jesus

## **‘ADVENT AND ART’ – A MINI SERIES**

The Reverend Canon Dr. Steve Summers will be giving a reflective mini-series of two talks about Advent and Art in the Lady Chapel, on Sunday 14 December after Evensong (c.7.15pm) and Wednesday 17 December at 7pm. You are invited to come and see something inspirational as you make your spiritual journey through Advent.

## **REFRESHMENTS AFTER THE MORNING SERVICE**

Please note the following changes regarding refreshments after the Sunday Eucharist:

- Sunday 14 and 21 December - there will be no refreshments in the Cathedral, but Seasons will remain open.
- Sunday 28 December and 4 January - there will be no refreshments after the Eucharist, and Seasons will be closed.

## **CANON CHRIS HOLLINGSBURST**

It was announced last Sunday that Chris has accepted a call to become Team Rector to the Isle of Ely Villages Benefice in the Diocese of Ely, a recently created Team Ministry to the west of Ely. He and Kathy are very grateful for the kind comments, messages and promises of prayer received this week. Chris’ licensing date in Ely, and a corresponding last Sunday in Guildford, are yet to be confirmed.

## **THE TIME OF SUNDAY EVENSONG**

The Dean would like to consult all stakeholders about the time of our regular Sunday evening service of Evensong. Please pick up a leaflet from the stewards on your way out or head to the Cathedral website, where you can offer your thoughts about the suggestion of holding Evensong earlier at 3.30pm. Many thanks. Consultation end date today, 30 November 2025.

## **FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL – TOMBOLA AND SILENT AUCTION AT THE CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS FAIR**

A very big THANK YOU to all who donated tombola gifts for the Friends’ Tombola Stall at the Christmas Fair. We had a fantastic number and variety of gifts given by lots of generous people. We also had many donations from local

businesses. Following busy two days at the Cathedral Christmas Fair we are pleased to say that the Friends took £1946. The Silent Auction had four items, and we have winning bids totalling around £750. All winners have been contacted. If the bids are all received, the total raised for the Tombola and Silent Auction combined will be around £2,700. Amazing! Thank you to everyone who helped.

## **FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR MATT O'GRADY**

Many of you will already know that, after 11 years at the Cathedral, Matt O'Grady will be retiring at the end of December this year.

To show our appreciation for the tremendous contribution he has made during his time with us, we will be holding a reception after the Eucharist on Sunday, 7 December.

A card to express our thanks is available to sign. The Stewards will have it each Sunday until 30 November, so please do take a moment to add your message. If you would also like to contribute towards a leaving gift, donations can be made by bank transfer using the following details:

- Account Name: Guildford Cathedral
- Account Number: 58063021
- Sort Code: 60-09-50
- Reference: *Matt leaving*

(cut-off date for donations is 12pm on Monday 1 December)

We hope as many of you as possible will join us on 7 December to wish Matt every happiness in his retirement. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Hatherall at [deanspa@guildford-cathedral.org](mailto:deanspa@guildford-cathedral.org)

## **INVITATION TO JOIN THE CHAPTER OF GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL, AND /OR THE FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE OF GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL**

Guildford Cathedral is seeking new trustees to join its **Chapter**, and is also seeking new members of its **Finance, Audit and Risk Committee**, who report to the Chapter.

We warmly invite indications of interest to **Chapter** from individuals who can bring at least one of the following:

- strong finance skills
- proven knowledge of charity law and governance
- strategic and operational development in a complex organisation setting
- facilities management
- property development

As a trustee, you'll help shape the Cathedral's future, providing strategic guidance and financial insight to support its mission, community life, and ongoing development. If you're passionate about using your professional expertise for the public good and contributing to a place of heritage, worship, and outreach, we'd be delighted to hear from you. Chapter meetings are held on the first Tuesday morning of every month, except August, in the Chapter House.

For the **Finance and Risk Committee**, we are looking for individuals with a strong background and qualifications in those appropriate skills- namely, **risk assessment, financial planning, compliance, or audit**. Meetings are held four times a year on Thursdays in the Chapter House.

### **Find out more about these roles here:**

<https://www.guildford-cathedral.org/about/current-vacancies/trustee> | on the Vacancies page of the website or email [communications@guildford-cathedral.org](mailto:communications@guildford-cathedral.org) Expressions of interest must be received by 5 January 2026. Thank you.

## **SAFEGUARDING AT GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL**

The Cathedral is committed to Safeguarding as an integral part of its ministry and mission, promoting a safer culture and the welfare of every child, young person and adult. As such, the Cathedral has robust policies, procedures and guidelines in place, to ensure good practice throughout the community. Chapter has overall responsibility for Safeguarding, and the Safeguarding Leadership Group reports to Chapter every month on the progress of our Safeguarding journey and any issues arising. The members of the Safeguarding Leadership Group are listed below and can be contacted at any time on any Safeguarding concern you may have about yourself or another member of the Cathedral Community.

Mary Morris (Cathedral Safeguarding Officer)  
07949 685683 marymorris31@outlook.com  
Matt O'Grady (Cathedral Safeguarding Lead)  
07757 850952 dops@guildford-cathedral.org  
Reverend Canon Chris Hollingshurst  
(Chapter Safeguarding Representative)  
07534 970127 chris.hollingshurst@guildford-cathedral.org  
Katherine Dienes-Williams (Organist and Master of the Choristers)  
07716 757984 katherine@guildford-cathedral.org

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