



CANTERBURY
cathedral

What's On

Advent & Christmas 2023

*Your guide to services, events,
family-friendly activities and new visitor
experiences at Canterbury Cathedral*



**'Song
of the
Angels'**

See page 4



**Kids Go
FREE***

until 31 March 2024

**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 closures and restrictions.

Young Explorers



FREE* Gregory Gargoyle's Angel Trail

Fri 1 December – Early January

Look for clues in the stained-glass windows, statues, stone, and wall paintings to find some of our many angels across the Cathedral and learn about their history and importance.

Return your completed trail to the Cathedral Shop and claim your prize!

FREE* Christmas Decoration Making

*Sat 2 Dec and Sat 16 Dec,
10:00 - 15:00*

Hand craft your own unique angel decoration, perfect for hanging on your Christmas tree.



FREE* Christmas Activities

*Wed 20 - Fri 22
December,
10:00-15:00*

Try your hand at our festive activities workshop and make flying angels, colour-in angels stained-glass windows, and much more!

For more events like this, keep an eye on our website and subscribe to our newsletter.

*Included with visitor entry.

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.

For more information, please contact:
Cathedral House, The Precincts,
Canterbury, CT1 2EH
+44 (0) 1227 762862

enquiries@canterbury-cathedral.org
www.canterbury-cathedral.org
Facebook, Twitter & Instagram: @CburyCathedral



Advent and Christmas

‘The Song of the Angels’

All are welcome to celebrate the Christmas season with us at Canterbury Cathedral.

We delve into the story of the song of the Angels to the shepherds, bringing you a series of special services, events and decorations to celebrate their message of peace and goodwill to all.

*“While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground;
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around,
and glory shone around.”*

Nahum Tate, poet, hymnist and lyricist

*“And suddenly there was with the angel a
multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and
saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth
peace, good will toward men.”*

Luke Chapter 2 Verse 13-14

What’s On?

Special services and events

Traditional services, carol services, talks and more.
See [page 6](#).

Cathedral nativity and decorations

Come in and see our nativity scene in the Cathedral Nave, and this year we also have special decorations inspired by The Song of the Angels.

Christmas Trees

Once again the Cathedral will be full of beautiful illuminated Christmas trees.

Wonder Wall

A wall of joy, love, loss and hope – a wall to lean on when you need some strength.

Remember someone who is not with you this Christmas. Write their name on a tag and we will attach it to a feather to hang on our Wonder Wall.

Festive Tours

Enjoy our stained glass window tour, with a focus on the beautiful windows depicting the Nativity story.
See [page 14](#).

Activities for Young Explorers

Free craft events and special Angel trail. See [page 3](#).

‘The Song of the Angels’ - talks by our clergy

A five-part series of talks exploring angels and how their message of “Peace and Goodwill to all” still resonates today. See [page 9](#).

Please see our website for details of all our services, events, and any closures.

Advent and Christmas Services

All are welcome to join our services.

All services of worship are free to attend.
Tickets must be purchased for some events.

Find out more at canterbury-cathedral.org

Advent Carol Service*

Sun 3 December, 17:30-18:30

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

St Nicholas Family Service*

Sun 10 December, 17:30-18:15

A short service for children and families to celebrate the story of St Nicholas.

Festival of Carols*

Sun 17 December, 17:30-18:30

Join us at a new seasonal service featuring popular songs, carols and readings that capture the peace and joy of Christmas.

Canterbury Choral Society Family Carols

Mon 18 December, 19:00-20:30

Sing a selection of the finest carols with Canterbury Choral Society and the Festival Brass Ensemble.

Book online at canterburychoral.co.uk

Demelza House Carols

Tues 19 December, 19:30-21:00

A popular festive service with readings and carols to support Demelza, the local children's hospice care charity.

Book online at demelza.org.uk/events

The Friends' Carol Service

Wed 20 December, 19:00-20:00

Everyone is welcome to attend our Friendly traditional service in the Nave. Hear the Cathedral bells ring out to greet you as you arrive!

Family Crib Service

Sat 23 December, 10:00-10:45

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

Cathedral Carol Service*

Sat 23 December, 17:30-19:00

Sun 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.

Both Cathedral Carol Services are un-ticketed, with doors opening at 16.30 for each service.

Midnight Mass

Sun 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.

*There is no Evensong or Said Prayer this day.

Christmas Day Eucharist

Mon 25 December, 11:00-12:30

A celebration of the birth of Christ led by the Most Reverend Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, with the clergy and choir of Canterbury Cathedral.

Our standard 08:00 Holy Communion and 09:15 Said Matins will also take place on Christmas Day.

Christmas Day Evening Prayer with Carols

Mon 25 December, 15:00-16:00

With a beautiful arrangement of carols and readings, hear once again the story of Christmas and experience the peace and goodwill which the angels announced.

Feast of St Stephen

Tues 26 December, 12:30 Eucharist

Feast of St John

Wed 27 December, 12:30 Eucharist

Feast of the Holy Innocents

Thurs 28 December, 12:30 Eucharist

Memorial Service for the Martyrdom of St Thomas

Fri 29 December, 17:30-18:30

853 years after his death, we recall the story of Archbishop Thomas Becket, reflecting on martyrdom then and now.

This service is led by the Right Reverend Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Chelmsford.

Epiphany Carol Service

Sun 7 January 2024, 17:30-18:30

A beautiful carol service to celebrate the Feast of Epiphany.

'The Song of The Angels'

- Talks by our clergy

Community Studio, Canterbury Cathedral

This series of five talks takes you into the heavenly realm of angels to explore what they are and how their message of "Peace and Goodwill to all" still resonates as powerfully today as it did when given to shepherds on a hill side centuries ago.

This is a free event, but booking is essential.

Book on our website.

Recordings of these talks will be available on the Cathedral YouTube channel after the event.

Man, Messenger, Word, Angel, Lord...: Divine Visitors in the Hebrew Scriptures

with Canon Tim

Thurs 23 November, 18:30-19:30

Wings of Desire: Angels in Popular Culture

with Canon Andrew

Thurs 30 November, 18:30-19:30

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones: Exploring the Nine Heavenly Realms of Angels

with Canon Emma

Thurs 7 December, 18:30-19:30

Go on, be an Angel: Angels and Pastoral Care

with Dean David

Thurs 14 December, 18:30-19:30

Fear Not: The Song of the Angels

with Archdeacon Will

Thurs 21 December, 18:30-19:30

Advent Calendar of Angels

A series of videos which will include short reflections on angels in stone, glass and music. These will be released on the Cathedral YouTube channel, every Monday to Saturday in Advent.

Julian Prayer Meetings

If you are drawn to silent prayer, join our Julian Prayer Meetings (named after Julian of Norwich). The meetings are for people of all denominations, faiths or none who wish to join in silent prayer.

Thurs 30 November 2023, 18:30-19:00

Thurs 11 January 2024, 18:30-19:00

Thurs 1 February 2024, 18:30-19:00

Thurs 7 March 2024, 18:30-19:00

Thurs 4 April 2024, 18:30-19:00

Thurs 2 May 2024, 18:30-19:00

Thurs 13 June 2024, 18:30-19:00

Thurs 4 July 2024, 18:30-19:00

For more information, please email Canon Emma at emma.pennington@canterbury-cathedral.org



Source: Julian of Norwich Image used courtesy of Norwich Cathedral. Photographer Mike Dixon.

Music

Our world-class musicians regularly perform song and organ recitals, and choral and orchestral concerts in the Cathedral.

Handel's *Messiah* by Candlelight **Sat 2 December, 19:30**

The girl choristers and Lay Clerks of Canterbury Cathedral will be joined by period instrument ensemble, The Harmonious Society of Tickle-Fiddle Gentlemen, and a stellar line up of critically-acclaimed soloists, for a candlelit performance of Handel's *Messiah*.

Directed by David Newsholme, in the beautiful surroundings of Canterbury Cathedral Quire, this concert will be an intimate presentation of some of Handel's most enduring music.

Price - £20 per ticket, plus £2 booking fee



Book at canterburyfestival.co.uk

FREE Informal Organ Recitals

Featuring the Cathedral's resident organists and guests, this series of recitals are free of charge and un-ticketed, with a retiring collection. All start at 18:15 in the Cathedral Quire.

Thomas Allery, Director of Music at Temple Church

Fri 12 January

Thomas Allery is the regular continuo player of award-winning chamber ensemble, Ensemble Hesperis, performing at numerous leading UK festivals.

Thomas is also the organist of St Mary-le-Bow Church, Cheapside, and organ tutor at City of London School and Radley College, and teaches basso continuo at the Royal College of Music.

James Gough, Assistant Organist at Southwark Cathedral

Fri 2 February

James has recently performed recitals at Lucerne Festival in Switzerland, and the Dulwich Festival of Music, as well as recitals in Germany.

James is also Organ Teacher at the Royal College of Music Junior Department, and Westminster School.

Programmes for all recitals can be found online.

Information about future events and informal recitals can be found on our website and in our monthly Music Lists:
canterbury-cathedral.org/music/

Guided Tours

**£5 per person, plus admission charge.*

Book at our Visitor Centre or reserve your place via email: visits@canterbury-cathedral.org

'The Inside Story' Tour*

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

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

American Tour*

Thanksgiving: 23 November, 11:15-12:30

Discover the strong bond that Canterbury Cathedral has with the United States. Hear stories of the people who have shaped the history of the United States and learn how glass and stone from Canterbury Cathedral adorns their churches.

Stained Glass Studio Tour

Fri 1 December, 11:00-12:30

Our Cathedral Studios workshop is dedicated to the preservation and conservation of stained glass heritage. Join a visit to the studio to learn more about their amazing work specialising in the conservation, restoration and protection of stained glass from the 12th Century to the 20th Century.
£25 per person. Book online.

This tour is not suitable for under 18s.

**£5 per person, plus admission charge.
Book at our Visitor Centre or reserve your place
via email: visits@canterbury-cathedral.org*

Festive Stained Glass Windows Tour*

*Tuesdays and Saturdays,
11:15-12:15*

*4 November - 23
December*

Join us on a festive guided tour, offering 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.



Library Tour

Wed 6 Dec, 14:00-15:00

A 45-minute guided tour in our Library building, to learn more about the Library and its fascinating collections, and to explore some of the unique items close-up.
*£8 per person. Cathedral admission not included.
Pre-booking required, not suitable for under-12s.
Book online.*

Keep an eye on our website and subscribe to our newsletter for new guided tours.

*For more information about any of our tours,
please email visits@canterbury-cathedral.org*



The FRIENDS of
CANTERBURY
cathedral

Give the gift of Friendship

The Friends are the Cathedral's fan club. They organise trips, tours, talks, and other events for all ages.

As a Friend, you also receive a 10% discount at the Cathedral Shop and Canterbury Cathedral Lodge (some exclusions apply).

Why not join as Family Friends so the whole family can enjoy the Cathedral for generations to come?

Get 15 months for
the price of 12 if you
join today and quote
WO3



www.canterbury-cathedral.org/friends

FRIENDly Events

The Friends are a part of the Cathedral community who work together to preserve this magnificent place, by contributing financially to many vital projects.

As a Friend, you also benefit from exclusive trips and events. But, the events included here are also open to non-members.

TALK: Prior Wibert's Wonderous Waterworks

Mon 4 December, 11:30

Friend Dick Bolton will speak about the goings on in the Priory circa 1160, which led to the development of a water system that rivalled anything in the rest of Europe and, at the time, served to make our Cathedral gardens an earthly vision of Paradise. £10 per person (£8 Friends of Canterbury Cathedral), includes tea and coffee on arrival.

Friendly Singing for Wellbeing

Mon 11 December, 14:00-15:00

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

Turn up for a cuppa and a biscuit followed by some sociable singing to put a smile on your face, led by Jamie Rogers, Assistant Director of Music, and our Choral Scholars.

Free to attend, but donations welcomed.

Find out about more FRIENDly events and book online at canterbury-cathedral.org/friends

For more information, contact The Friends' Office:
01227 865292 / friends@canterbury-cathedral.org

Events supported by The Friends of Canterbury Cathedral (Charity No 256575).



Stay at Canterbury Cathedral Lodge

Enjoy the wonderful, unique experience of staying in the beautiful grounds of Canterbury Cathedral. Relax in an oasis of calm in the centre of the city



Canterbury Cathedral Lodge
The Precincts, Canterbury,
Kent, CT1 2EH
Tel: 01227 865350
Email: stay@canterburycathedrallodge.org
www.canterburycathedrallodge.org



ACCOMMODATION • EVENTS • MEETINGS
TRAINING • PARTIES • WEDDING RECEPTIONS

The Cathedral Lodge

Sunday Lunches

3 December, between 13:00-16:00

17 December, between 13:00-16:00

This winter, enjoy a cosy à la carte Sunday Lunch in our Refectory Restaurant.

Winter 2024 B&B Offer!*

Looking for a relaxing retreat after the rush of Christmas? Why not stay with us and make the most of our Winter 2024 offer!

SPECIAL OFFER:

Cathedral View Double/Twin Room - £100/night

This includes:

- Continental/ full-english breakfast
- Free entry to the Cathedral throughout your stay (worth £17 per person)
- Free luggage storage if you arrive before your room is ready

Optional add-on: 3-Course Sunday lunch - £20 per person

Quote code **WINT24** at time of booking

*This offer is valid until 1/1/24 and applies to stays booked between 2/2/24 - 10/3/24.

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

Subscribe to our mailing list and keep an eye on our website for future events and offers: canterburycathedrallodge.org

Friends of Canterbury Cathedral receive a 10% discount on both dining and stays.

Events in 2024

Here are just some of the special events we have planned.



Thurs 8 February 2024 - Few tickets left

Fri 9 February 2024 - SOLD OUT

Expect some of the UK's best 90s DJs playing all your favourite tunes in the stunning, illuminated surroundings of Canterbury Cathedral.

This is strictly a 18+ event.

TALK: The Textile Collections of Canterbury Cathedral

Thurs 29 February 2024, 10:30

In this illustrated talk, Cressida Williams, Archives and Library Manager, and Ariane Langreder, Conservator, will introduce the many and varied textiles held in our Cathedral collection.

TALK: Off the Beaten Track in Early Christian Rome

Tues 19 March 2024, 10:30

Escape an English March and the Roman crowds, and journey through the development of Christianity in Rome in the first millennium AD, enjoying some real gems of Christian heritage on the way.

Gavin Bryars Ensemble: Jesus' Blood Never Failed Me Yet

Fri 5 April 2024, 19:30

In this celebration of Gavin Bryars' 80th birthday, experience his seminal minimalist orchestral work performed in the atmospheric surroundings of the Cathedral.

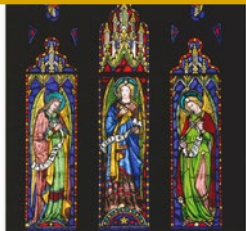
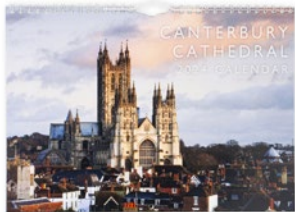
Find out more and book online at canterbury-cathedral.org



Treat yourself (and the Cathedral)

This Christmas, discover hundreds of unique products and special gifts in-store and online with our Cathedral Shop.

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



Discover angel decorations, stained-glass angel roundels, our Canterbury Cathedral Calendar, Christmas cards and more...

www.canterbury-cathedral.org/shop