



Services and Music List

December 2025

WELCOME TO WELLS CATHEDRAL

I'm sure it won't surprise anyone to hear me wax lyrical about the services and music which you will find in this December's list. Of course, Christmas comes round again, and we all know that this brings with it the usual mix of special services, incredible music, and great joy for all who come; the joy is even more because, as well as the special services, the daily round of worship continues through the season of Advent and into Christmas. There are many opportunities to worship together, and to enjoy both our Cathedral Choir and our Chamber Choir, as well as a few other visiting choirs, all of whom bring life and joy to our worship as we look to the light and joy of the world. Please be with us this Christmas, please bring others, and please, have a very happy Christmas when it comes.

Communicant members of other churches in good standing are welcome to receive the Sacrament in this church, and if you are simply coming to enjoy the music and being here, you are equally welcome. This Cathedral is open to everyone.

The Reverend Canon Tim Stevens, *Canon Precentor*

JOINING WELLS CATHEDRAL CHOIR

The Cathedral's Director of Music, Timothy Parsons, is always pleased to hear from parents of prospective Choristers. Scholarships and additional bursaries for Wells Cathedral School, which all Choristers attend, are available. For more information, or about Choral Scholarships at the Cathedral, please telephone 01749 832204 or email musicoffice@wellscathedral.org.uk.

OTHER INFORMATION

Where indicated, 'Great Choir' denotes all Boy Choristers, Girl Choristers, and Vicars Choral.

At certain services throughout the year, incense is used to enhance the festal nature of the day. These services are marked with a dagger (†).

Selected translations of anthems which are not sung in English may be found towards the back of this booklet, following the final listed week.

No photography or recording of any kind may take place during services, concerts, or rehearsals without the express permission of the Chapter.

30 THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 8.30 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION
Book of Common Prayer
- 10.30 a.m. CATHEDRAL EUCHARIST † (Great Choir)
Philip Moore *Meditation on 'Veni Emmanuel'*
Hymns *Advent Prose*, 15, SP 13, CH4 475
Malcolm Archer *Advent Wreath Prayer*
Philip Moore *Messe solennelle*
Sermon The Reverend Dr Felix Mascarenhas, *Priest Vicar*
Communion Proper *Dominus dabit benignitatem*
Rebecca Groom te Velde *Conditor alme siderum*
Goldschmitt *A tender shoot*
Vierne *Prelude, from Organ Symphony No 1, Op. 14*
- 5.00 p.m. ADVENT PROCESSION WITH CAROLS † (Great Choir)
A service of readings, traditional congregational carols,
and music for Advent, including works by Kerensa Briggs,
Iain Farrington, Palestrina, Arvo Pärt, Judith Weir, and Wood
Please be seated by 4.45 p.m.

- I MONDAY *Cantor's verses*
- 8.00 a.m. MORNING LITURGY
- 8.50 a.m. WELLS CATHEDRAL SCHOOL SERVICE
- 3.00 p.m. ADVENT GROUP: 'Last Things' with The Reverend Rosey Lunn, *Priest Vicar*,
in the Education Room
- 5.15 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG (Vicars Choral)
Michael Walsh *Preces and Responses* Psalms 6–8
Howells *Evening Service in E*
Vann *There is a flower*
- 6.00 p.m. TASTE AND SEE: Cathedral Meditation Group in the Lady Chapel

- 2 TUESDAY
- 8.00 a.m. MORNING LITURGY
- 1.05 p.m. LUNCHTIME CONCERT: Warren Mailley-Smith, *piano*
- 5.15 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG (Vicars Choral)
Philip Moore *Preces and Responses* Psalms 12–14
Timothy Parsons *Fauxbourdon Service*
arr. Timothy Parsons *O come, Emmanuel*
- 7.30 p.m. CONCERT: Piccadilly Sinfonietta presents Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*

DECEMBER

3 WEDNESDAY

- 8.00 a.m. MORNING LITURGY
- 10.00 a.m. MIDWEEK EUCHARIST
Common Worship Order I, Traditional
- 5.15 p.m. EVENING PRAYER
- 7.30 p.m. CRISPIN SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE
-

4 THURSDAY

- 8.00 a.m. MORNING LITURGY
- 11.30 a.m. MOTHERS' UNION PRAYERS in St Stephen's Chapel
- 5.15 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG (Girl Choristers and Vicars Choral)
Byrd *Preces and Responses* Psalms 22, 23
David Bevan Jr *Wells Service*
arr. Sarah MacDonald *The angel Gabriel from heaven came*
- 7.15 p.m. MILLFIELD SENIOR SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE
-

5 FRIDAY

- 8.00 a.m. MORNING LITURGY
- 1.05 p.m. LUNCHTIME CONCERT: Primary School Music Outreach
- 2.30 p.m. MILLFIELD PREP SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE
- 5.15 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG (Junior Choristers)
Peter Nardone *Preces and Responses* Psalm 29
Malcom Archer *Berkshire Service*
Head *The Little Road to Bethlehem*
-

6 SATURDAY: Nicholas, bishop, c. 326

- 8.00 a.m. MORNING PRAYER
- 1.00 p.m. CONCERT: Wells Theatre Company presents *A Christmas Carol*
in the Undercroft
- 3.00 p.m. CONCERT: Wells Theatre Company presents *A Christmas Carol*
in the Undercroft
- 5.15 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG (Wells Cathedral Chamber Choir)
Godric of Yorkshire *Sainte Nicholaes, Godes druth*
Plainsong *Preces and Responses* Psalm 32
Harris *Evening Service in D* Hymn 230.ii
Anon. *Nicholai presulis*
Buxtehude *Toccata in F, BuxWV 157*
- 7.00 p.m. CONCERT: Wells Cathedral Oratorio Society presents Handel's *Messiah*

7 THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 8.30 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION
Book of Common Prayer
- 10.30 a.m. CATHEDRAL EUCHARIST (Girl Choristers and Vicars Choral)
Naji Hakim *Ecce agnus Dei, from Sinfonia in honore Sancti Ioannis Baptistæ*
Hymns *Advent Prose*, 12, *Laudate* 173, 10
Malcolm Archer *Advent Wreath Prayer*
Rheinberger *Mass for double choir in E flat, 'Cantus Missæ', Op. 109*
Sermon The Reverend Edward Day, *Cathedral Curate*
Communion Proper *Ierusalem, surge*
J.S. Bach *Allemande and Sarabande, from Partita in C minor, BWV 826*
Bruckner *Virga lesse*
Leighton *Fantasy on 'Helmsley', from Six Fantasies on Hymn Tunes, Op. 72*
- 3.00 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG (Vicars Choral)
R. Lloyd *Preces and Responses* Proper Psalms 11, 28
Piers Connor Kennedy *Worcester Service* Hymns 2, 247
Andrew Parnell *Come, thou Redeemer of the earth*
Address The Right Reverend Trevor Willmott,
Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Bath and Wells
J.S. Bach *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659*
- 6.30 p.m. WELLS CATHEDRAL SCHOOL ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

- 8 MONDAY: Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary *Decani verses*
- 8.00 a.m. MORNING LITURGY
- 3.30 p.m. ADVENT GROUP: 'Last Things' with The Reverend Rosey Lunn, *Priest Vicar*,
in the Education Room
- 5.15 p.m. FESTAL EVENSONG † (Vicars Choral, with Wells Cathedral Youth Choir)
David Bevan Jr *Plainsong Preces and Responses* Hymns 183, 185
Timothy Parsons *Psalms 131* [premiere performance]
G.F. Anerio *Magnificat octavi toni*
Plainsong *Nunc dimittis octavi toni*
R. Parsons *Ave Maria*
- 7.00 p.m. CONCERT: Somerset Schools Christmas Celebration

9 TUESDAY

- 8.00 a.m. MORNING LITURGY
- 5.15 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG (Senior Boy Choristers and Vicars Choral)
Tomkins *Preces and Responses* Psalms 47–49
Byrd *Fauxbourdon Service*
Tavener *Mother of God, here I stand*
- 7.00 p.m. WELLS CATHEDRAL PREP SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

DECEMBER

10 WEDNESDAY: Ember Day

- 8.00 a.m. MORNING LITURGY
- 10.00 a.m. MIDWEEK EUCHARIST
Common Worship Order I, Traditional
- 11.00 a.m. AGE UK SOMERSET CAROL SERVICE
- 2.30 p.m. WOMEN'S INSTITUTE CAROL SERVICE
- 5.15 p.m. EVENING PRAYER
-

11 THURSDAY

- 8.00 a.m. MORNING LITURGY
- 5.15 p.m. EVENING PRAYER in Vicars' Close Chapel
- 7.30 p.m. CONCERT: Timothy Parsons, *Director of Music*,
plays Messiaen's *La Nativité du Seigneur, neuf méditations pour orgue*,
in aid of the Wells Cathedral Organ Appeal
-

12 FRIDAY: Ember Day

- 8.00 a.m. MORNING LITURGY
- 10.15 a.m. WELLS CATHEDRAL SCHOOL SERVICE
- 5.15 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG (Choir of St John's Church, Glastonbury)
Sanders *Preces and Responses* Psalm 65
Philip Moore *Third Service* Hymn 138
James MacMillan *O radiant dawn*
-

13 SATURDAY: Lucy, martyr, 304

- 8.00 a.m. MORNING PRAYER
- 1.00 p.m. CONCERT: Wells Theatre Company presents *A Christmas Carol*
in the Undercroft
- 3.00 p.m. CONCERT: Wells Theatre Company presents *A Christmas Carol*
in the Undercroft
- 5.15 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG (Wells Cathedral Chamber Choir)
Plainsong *Preces and Responses* Psalm 69.1–12
Dyson *Evening Service in C minor* Hymn 339
Du Fay *Conditor alme siderum*
Stanford *Andante maestoso, from Six Short Preludes and Postludes, Op. 101*

14 THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 8.30 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION
Book of Common Prayer
- 10.30 a.m. CATHEDRAL EUCHARIST (Wells Cathedral Chamber Choir)
Price *Adoration*
Hymns *Advent Prose*, 5, CH4 283, CP 35
Malcolm Archer *Advent Wreath Prayer*
Haydn *Missa brevis Sancti Ioannis de Deo*, 'Kleine orgel-messe'
Sermon The Reverend Edward Day, *Cathedral Curate*
Mendelssohn *Adagio*, from *Sonata in F minor*, Op. 65, No 1
Eleanor Daley *Come, renew us*
J.S. Bach *Prelude in A minor*, BWV 543
- 3.00 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG (Wells Cathedral Chamber Choir)
Radcliffe *Preces and Responses* Proper Psalm 12
Howells *Gloucester Service* Hymns I.i, 253
Judith Weir *Drop down, ye heavens*
Address The Venerable Dr Chigor Chike,
Archdeacon of Lewisham and Greenwich
Vierne *Carillon de Westminster*, Op. 54, No 6
-

15 MONDAY

- 8.00 a.m. MORNING LITURGY
- 3.30 p.m. ADVENT GROUP: 'Last Things' with The Reverend Rosey Lunn, *Priest Vicar*,
in the Education Room
- 5.15 p.m. EVENING PRAYER
-

16 TUESDAY

- 8.00 a.m. MORNING LITURGY
- 5.15 p.m. EVENING PRAYER
- 7.30 p.m. CONCERT: *Opus Anglicanum*

DECEMBER

17	WEDNESDAY	<i>O Sapientia</i>
	8.00 a.m.	MORNING LITURGY
	10.00 a.m.	MIDWEEK EUCHARIST Common Worship Order I, Traditional
	5.15 p.m.	EVENING PRAYER
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18	THURSDAY	<i>O Adonai</i>
	8.00 a.m.	MORNING LITURGY
	5.15 p.m.	EVENING PRAYER
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19	FRIDAY	<i>O Radix lesse</i>
	8.00 a.m.	MORNING LITURGY
	5.15 p.m.	EVENING PRAYER
	7.00 p.m.	CONCERT: Carols by Candlelight with Wells Cathedral Choir
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20	SATURDAY	<i>O Clavis David</i>
	8.00 a.m.	MORNING PRAYER
	5.15 p.m.	EVENING PRAYER
	7.00 p.m.	CONCERT: Carols by Candlelight with Wells Cathedral Choir

21 THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

O Oriens

- 8.30 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION
Book of Common Prayer
- 10.30 a.m. CATHEDRAL EUCHARIST (Schola Cantorum and Vicars Choral)
Pachelbel *Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland*, P. 386
Hymns *Advent Prose*, CP 242, 3, 9
Malcolm Archer *Advent Wreath Prayer*
Byrd *Mass for four voices*
Sermon The Reverend Canon Dr Megan Daffern, *Canon Chancellor*
Communion Proper *Ecce virgo concipiet*
Cecilia McDowall *O Radix lesse, from O Antiphons*
Byrd *Rorate cæli*
J.S. Bach *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*, BWV 645
- 3.00 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG (Vicars Choral)
Philip Moore *Preces and Responses* Proper Psalm 113
Wood *Evening Service in E* Hymns 17, 16
Joanna Marsh *In winter's house*
Address The Very Reverend Toby Wright, *Dean of Wells*
Brenda Portman *Fanfare-Toccata on 'Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme'*
- 7.00 p.m. CONCERT: Carols by Candlelight with Wells Cathedral Choir

22 MONDAY

O Rex Gentium

- 8.00 a.m. MORNING LITURGY *Cantoris verses*
- 3.30 p.m. ADVENT GROUP: 'Last Things' with The Reverend Rosey Lunn, *Priest Vicar*,
in the Education Room
- 5.15 p.m. EVENING PRAYER

23 TUESDAY

O Emmanuel

- 8.00 a.m. MORNING LITURGY
- 6.00 p.m. CATHEDRAL CAROL SERVICE (Great Choir)
A service of readings, traditional congregational carols,
and music for Christmas, including works by
Sally Beamish, Howells, June Nixon, John Rutter, Tavener, Pearsall,
and the premiere of a new commission by Tamsin Jones
Please be seated by 5.45 p.m.

24 WEDNESDAY: **CHRISTMAS EVE**

- 8.00 a.m. MORNING LITURGY
- 10.00 a.m. MIDWEEK EUCHARIST
Common Worship Order I, Traditional
- 1.15 p.m. CRIB SERVICE (Wells Cathedral Song Squad and Wells Cathedral Youth Choir)
- 2.30 p.m. CRIB SERVICE (Wells Cathedral Song Squad and Wells Cathedral Youth Choir)
- 6.00 p.m. CATHEDRAL CAROL SERVICE *see 23 December for details*
- 11.00 p.m. FIRST EUCHARIST OF CHRISTMAS † (Schola Cantorum and Vicars Choral)
Messiaen *Desseins éternels*, from *La Nativité du Seigneur*
arr. Andrew Lumsden *Silent Night*
Hymns 29, CP 43, 25, 30, CP 69.ii, 26
Victoria *Missa 'O magnum mysterium'*
Sermon The Very Reverend Toby Wright, *Dean of Wells*
Communion Proper *In splendoribus sanctorum*
Messiaen *La vierge et l'enfant*, from *La Nativité du Seigneur*
John Rutter *Nativity Carol*
Messiaen *Dieu parmi nous*, from *La Nativité du Seigneur*
-

25 THURSDAY: **CHRISTMAS DAY**

- 8.30 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION
Book of Common Prayer
- 10.30 a.m. CATHEDRAL EUCHARIST † (Great Choir)
Pamela Decker *Antioch (Joy to the World)*
Hymns 24, Laudate 146, 42 (t. MP 496), CH4 322, 26
Malcolm Archer *Advent Wreath Prayer*
Vierne *Messe solennelle*, Op. 16
Sermon The Right Reverend Michael Beasley, *Bishop of Bath and Wells*
Communion Proper *Viderunt omnes fines terræ*
Ireland *The Holy Boy*
arr. Simon Preston *I saw three ships*
arr. Wood *Ding dong! merrily on high*
Widor *Toccata*, from *Symphony for Organ No 5*
- 3.00 p.m. EVENING PRAYER in Vicars' Close Chapel
-

26 FRIDAY: **Stephen, deacon, first martyr**

- 9.30 a.m. MORNING LITURGY
- 3.00 p.m. EVENING PRAYER

N.B. The times of the Daily Office from 26 December to 1 January (inclusive) differ from the normal pattern.

DECEMBER

27 SATURDAY: John, Apostle and Evangelist

9.30 a.m. MORNING LITURGY

3.00 p.m. FESTAL EVENSONG † (Wells Cathedral Chamber Choir)
Humphrey Clucas *Preces and Responses* Proper Psalm 97
Sumsion *Evening Service in G* Hymn 202
Walton *All this time*
Bull *Fantasia on ut, re, mi, fa, sol, la*

28 SUNDAY: THE HOLY INNOCENTS

8.30 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION
Book of Common Prayer

10.30 a.m. CATHEDRAL EUCHARIST † (Wells Cathedral Chamber Choir)
Held *Of the Father's love begotten*
Hymns 33, 39, CP 54, 21
Palestrina *Missa 'Æterna Christi munera'*
Sermon The Reverend Prebendary Narinder Tegally, Priest Vicar
Christa Rakich *Hommage à Bach: Variations on 'Puer Nobis Nascitur'*
Philip Stopford *Lully, Lulla, Lullay*
Daquin *Noël VI*

3.00 p.m. FESTAL EVENSONG † (Wells Cathedral Chamber Choir)
Humphrey Clucas *Preces and Responses* Proper Psalms 123, 128
Stanford *Evening Service in B flat* Hymns 203, 45
Richard Madden *Balulalow*
Address The Reverend Canon Dr Megan Daffern, Canon Chancellor
J.S. Bach *Adagio, from Trio Sonata No 1, BWV 525*

29 MONDAY: Thomas Becket, archbishop, martyr, 1170

9.30 a.m. MORNING LITURGY

3.00 p.m. EVENING PRAYER

30 TUESDAY

9.30 a.m. MORNING LITURGY

3.00 p.m. EVENING PRAYER

31 WEDNESDAY

- 9.30 a.m. MORNING PRAYER
- 10.00 a.m. MIDWEEK EUCHARIST
Common Worship Order I, Traditional
- 3.00 p.m. EVENING PRAYER
-

1 THURSDAY: **Naming and Circumcision of Jesus**

- 9.30 a.m. MORNING LITURGY
- 3.00 p.m. EVENING PRAYER
-

2 FRIDAY: Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus,
bishops, teachers of the faith, 379 and 389

- 8.00 a.m. MORNING LITURGY
- 5.15 p.m. EVENING PRAYER
-

3 SATURDAY

- 8.00 a.m. MORNING PRAYER
- 5.15 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG (Wells Cathedral Chamber Choir)
Radcliffe *Preces and Responses* Proper Psalms 2, 110
F. Jackson *Evening Service in G* Hymn 31
Howells *Here is the little door*
Bridge *Adagio in E*

4 THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

- 8.30 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION
Book of Common Prayer
- 10.30 a.m. CATHEDRAL EUCHARIST (Wells Cathedral Chamber Choir)
Duruflé *Meditation*
Hymns CP 44, CP 531, 258, CP 57
Grayston Ives *Missa brevis*
Alejandro D. Consolacion II *Ubi caritas*
Paulus *Hymn to the Eternal Flame*
Mathias *Processional*
- 3.00 p.m. FESTAL EVENSONG † (Wells Cathedral Chamber Choir)
Radcliffe *Preces and Responses* Proper Psalm 135.1–14
Brewer *Evening Service in D* Hymns 23, 37
Kathleen Allan *I syng of a mayden*
J.S. Bach *Prelude in G, BWV 541*

- 5 MONDAY *Decani verses*
- 8.00 a.m. MORNING LITURGY
- 5.15 p.m. EVENING PRAYER

- 6 TUESDAY
- 8.00 a.m. MORNING LITURGY
- 8.50 a.m. WELLS CATHEDRAL SCHOOL SERVICE
- 5.15 p.m. FESTAL EUCHARIST † (Schola Cantorum and Vicars Choral)
Demessieux *Lumière, from Sept Méditations sur le Saint Esprit*
Hymns 52, 48, 50 (t. 338)
Palestrina *Missa brevis*
Communion Proper *Vidimus stellam*
Frescobaldi *Toccata chromaticha per le levatione*
Palestrina *Tribus miraculis*
Kristina Arakelyan *Star Fantasy*

JANUARY

7 WEDNESDAY

- 8.00 a.m. MORNING LITURGY
- 10.00 a.m. MIDWEEK EUCHARIST
Common Worship Order I, Traditional
- 5.15 p.m. EVENING PRAYER
-

8 THURSDAY

- 8.00 a.m. MORNING LITURGY
- 5.15 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG (Girl Choristers and Vicars Choral)
Philip Moore *Preces and Responses* Psalms 41–43
Bevan *Magnificat and Nunc dimittis secundi toni*
Poulenc *Videntes stellam*
-

9 FRIDAY

- 8.00 a.m. MORNING LITURGY
- 5.15 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG (Girl Choristers and Vicars Choral)
Philip Moore *Preces and Responses* Psalms 47–49
Byrd *Short Service*
Jonathan Dove *The Three Kings*
-

10 SATURDAY: William Laud, archbishop, Bishop of Bath and Wells (1626–1628), 1645

- 8.00 a.m. MORNING PRAYER
- 5.15 p.m. FESTAL EVENSONG † (Boy Choristers and Vicars Choral)
Ayleward *Preces and Responses* Proper Psalm 36
Stanford *Evening Service in B flat* Hymn 54.ii, 58
Leighton *Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child*
Dubois *March des Rois Mages*

TRANSLATIONS OF ANTHEMS AND MOTETS

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER

Sainte Nicholaes, Godes druth,
tymbre us faiere scone hus.
At thi burth, at thi bare,
Sainte Nicholaes, bring us wel thare.

*Saint Nicholas, God's beloved,
graciously make beautiful dwelling places for us.
Through your birth, through your bier,
Saint Nicholas, bring us safely there.*

Text and Music: Godric of Yorkshire (d. 1170)

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER

Nicholai presulis
festum celebremus
concrepando modulis
letitie sonemus.
Versibus almisonis
diem decoremus
vocibus altisonis
intenti festinemus.

*Let us celebrate
the feast of Bishop Nicholas,
singing together
these happy melodies.
With sweet songs,
we'll ornament this day,
letting our voices soar
high and quick.*

In tanto natalitio
partum docet traditio
ut consonet in gaudio
fidelium devotio,
est ergo superstitio
vacare a tripudio.

*On such a natal feast,
our ancestors' tradition
teaches that the devotion of the faithful
should harmonise in joy,
so let fear
give way to dancing.*

Nunc igitur iustorum
suavis cantorum
per tymphanum et chorum
et omne musicorum
gentes instrumentorum
psallat Deo deorum.

*Now, therefore let the
sweet songs of the just,
with drums and chorus
and every kind
of musical instruments,
sing to the God of gods.*

Text and Music: Anon., translated by S. Hellauer and M. Smith of Anonymous 4

MONDAY 8 DECEMBER

Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum:
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui.
Amen.

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee:
Blessed art thou amongst women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.
Amen.*

*Text: from The Angelus
Music: Robert Parsons (1535–1572)*

SATURDAY 13 DECEMBER

Conditor alme siderum
æterna lux credentium
Christe redemptor omnium
exaudi preces supplicum.

Qui condolens interitu
mortis perire sæculum
salvasti mundum languidum
donans reis remedium.

Vergente mundi vespere
uti sponsus de thalamo
egressus honestissima
Virginis matris clausula.

Cuius forti potentiæ
genu curvantur omnia
cælestia, terrestria
fatentur nutu subdita.

Te, deprecamur hægie
venture iudex sæculi,
conserva nos in tempore
hostis a telo perfidi.

Laus, honor, virtus, gloria,
Deo Patri et Filio,
Sancto simul Paraclito,
in sæculorum sæcula. Amen.

*Creator of the stars of night,
Thy people's everlasting light,
Jesu, Redeemer, save us all,
and hear thy servants when they call.*

*Thou, grieving that the ancient curse
should doom to death a universe,
hast found the medicine, full of grace,
to save and heal a ruined race.*

*Thou camest, the Bridegroom of the bride,
as drew the world to evening tide,
proceeding from a virgin shrine,
the spotless Victim all divine.*

*At whose dread Name, majestic now,
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow;
and things celestial, thee shall own,
and things terrestrial, Lord alone.*

*O thou whose coming is with dread,
to judge and doom the quick and dead,
preserve us, while we dwell below,
from every insult of the foe.*

*To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
laud, honour, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally. Amen.*

*Text: Vespers hymn at Advent, c. 7th century,
translation by John Mason Neale (1818–1866)
Music: Guillaume Du Fay (1397–1474)*

Festive Events



From live orchestras and festive singalongs to pop-up theatre and family activities, there's a host of events and activities for all ages to explore at Wells Cathedral this Christmas.



Christmas *with*
Wells Cathedral

See the full schedule at
wellscathedral.org.uk/christmas

Handel's Messiah

Wells Cathedral

Saturday 6 December, 7.00pm

Timothy Parsons *conductor*

Wells Cathedral Oratorio Society
Music for AWhile

Soloists TBD

Tickets £15 - £45

Scan
for Tickets



Mediæval Carols

WELLS CATHEDRAL
16 DECEMBER 2025
7:30PM

TICKETS £20



Join Opus Anglicanum for a merry, candlelit
Mediaeval Christmas full of music and
readings celebrating the festive season. Hear
raucous Christmas songs, prayerful plainsong
and sumptuous polyphony from over 800 years
ago together with beautiful ancient texts
delivered by actor Alex Knox.



Christmas Sing-Along

at

Wells Cathedral

FREE

event for 4-11 yrs
and their families

Enjoy a festive
sing-along, meet
the Cathedral team,
and see if you
would like to join
Song Squad!



Saturday 20 December 2025

10.00am–11.00am



Reserve your FREE place online at
wellscathedral.org.uk/events



Seasonal Services



Cathedral Advent Carol Service

Sunday 30 November, 5pm

Cathedral Carol Services

Tuesday 23 December and Christmas Eve, 6pm

Crib Services

Christmas Eve, 1.15pm and 2.30pm

Christmas Services

Eucharist of Christmas Night (Christmas Eve), 11.00pm

Christmas Day Holy Communion (BCP), 8.30am

Christmas Day Eucharist, 10.30am

Said Evening Prayer on Christmas Day, 3.00pm



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CATHEDRAL COMMISSIONS

Enriching the choral tradition and inspiring a new generation of composers, performers, and listeners.

Started in 2006, Cathedral Commissions exists to raise funds for the commissioning of new works from today's most exciting composers for performance in Wells Cathedral by its internationally acclaimed music foundation. In former periods of music, Cathedral Choirs and the choirs of collegiate foundations were at the forefront of compositional development; their repertoire mostly consisted of newly composed music. In more recent times, music for worship in the Anglican Church had a reputation for clinging to outdated and backward-looking compositional techniques. A letter to the Independent in May 1999, expressed the view that 'the Anglican organ loft is a backwater.'

Cathedral Commissions aims to redress the balance. Since its start, works by highly distinguished composers have entered the repertoire of Wells Cathedral Choir. These include Lord Michael Berkeley, Judith Bingham, Jonathan Dove, Grayston Ives, Gabriel Jackson, John Joubert, Sir James MacMillan, Sir Peter Maxwell-Davies, Cecilia McDowall, Howard Skempton, Joby Talbot, and Judith Weir. It has been particularly successful in championing music by younger composers, including Anna Semple and Kerensa Briggs, among others.

It then seeks to share this as widely as possible, through live performances, broadcasts, and recordings. In turn these new pieces have an ongoing life beyond their premiere performance, in other musical centres around the world in liturgical or concert settings.

If you would like to join us and become a commissioner, please visit www.wellscathedral.org.uk/commissions

John Williams

Chair of Cathedral Commissions

cathedral  commissions
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