

## Events and training

More details for all these events at [gloucester.anglican.org/events](http://gloucester.anglican.org/events)

At the time of going to press (10 Nov 2020) there was much uncertainty about what would be possible under Covid restrictions this Christmas. Please do continue to check websites and local information for the latest updates.

## Christmas services 2020

### #fromyourcathedraltoyou

Gloucester Cathedral will provide a programme of live streamed services, including Midnight Mass and Christmas Day Eucharist. There will also be on-line family and traditional carol services to enjoy. We hope, in these uncertain times, that public services will be able to take place in the cathedral in December, but if you are not able to come for whatever

reason, the cathedral will bring Christmas to you. Look out for their interactive digital Advent Calendar on Facebook and follow the Cathedral on Twitter and Instagram where they will be spreading comfort and joy to all. Please visit [www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk](http://www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk) for the latest news on services and events for December.

The Church of England's weekly Sunday online service can be viewed at [churchofengland.org/news-and-media/church-online/weekly-online-services](http://churchofengland.org/news-and-media/church-online/weekly-online-services)

## What's happening near me?

Visit [AChurchNearYou.com](http://AChurchNearYou.com) to get local information. If the arrangements for local services aren't clear then please do feel free to contact the local priest or the churchwarden, who will be delighted to share joining details with you.

## Have your say

Visit Facebook [f/Diocese.of.Gloucester](https://www.facebook.com/Diocese.of.Gloucester), email Katherine at [kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk), follow us on Twitter [@glosdioc](https://twitter.com/glosdioc), view videos on YouTube [Diocese of Gloucester](https://www.youtube.com/Diocese%20of%20Gloucester) or visit our website [gloucester.anglican.org](http://gloucester.anglican.org)

December 2020

# Comfort and Joy



Christmas will be different for many people this year and uncertain times are all around us. But amid all the media messages and confusion, one thing we do know is that Christmas will never be cancelled. Jesus Christ came to earth as a tiny baby and nothing can undo that message of hope and love stronger than death.

We can all make Christmas magical by sharing God's love and hope with those around us. Simple acts of dropping off some flowers for a neighbour, writing a letter to someone stuck at home or providing a home cooked meal for a friend who's on their own, all make a difference.

Sharing is part of the joy of Christmas. Whatever position you are in, there will be something you can give to others; time to listen to someone, a donation to the local food bank, a smile and a compliment to the person you see on your walk, or a card for someone spending the season alone. These acts of kindness, no matter how small, can bring so much joy to ourselves and others and bring that Christmas spirit to life.

## Five ways to celebrate Christmas at home

The Church of England is providing an online service for each Sunday of Advent, ([www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/church-online/weekly-online-services](http://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/church-online/weekly-online-services)), a Christingle with the Children's Society, nine lessons and carols, and midnight services.

For those who are not internet inclined, Daily Hope is a free phone number (0800 804 8044) offering music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the CofE.



### 1. **Mary and Joseph, the journey**

Choose a couple of toys, or ornaments to be Mary and Joseph on their way to Bethlehem. Each day they can do something along the way—sing songs, have a picnic, look at the stars, feed the donkey, sleep in a tent, tell jokes, cross

a stream, read a map, play I Spy, listen to Christmas music... Imagine the journey they might have taken and join them in the experience.



2. **Light a candle:** The soft glow gives a new perspective and can be calming and reassuring. Remember those who cannot be with you and let the light shine into the darkness. If

you're not in a space where real candles are appropriate, you can light a virtual candle on the Church of England's website [churchofengland.org/our-faith/light-candle](http://churchofengland.org/our-faith/light-candle).



### 3. **Take a virtual tour of Bethlehem:**

See the place where Jesus came to earth and imagine what it might have been like to have been there. Try [https://youtu.be/aLCBQ\\_w8BQQ](https://youtu.be/aLCBQ_w8BQQ). You can move your screen around the room and see for yourself the place

Jesus was said to have been born.



4. **Get moving:** Everyone loves a Christmas stroll—get your coat and shoes and head out for some fresh air, exercise and to appreciate the natural world. If you've overdone it on the lockdown chocolates or if you've missed company and want to see

some smiling faces, get up and get out there.



### 5. **Follow the story:**

@glosdiocschools Twitter account is providing four short videos, released on every Tuesday in December, with each week telling a different part of the Christmas story. From Mary being visited by the angel to the birth of Jesus, these videos will help to create

an individual response to the Christmas story. Every day they will tweet with links to stories, songs and ideas to bring comfort and joy at this very special time of year.