

Events and training

More details for all these events at gloucester.anglican.org/events

An Advent Enneagram

4 December, 10am to 3pm
Glebe Cottages at St Peter's Church, GL53 0QJ

A collaborative exploration of the nativity narrative with reflections on our modern-day experience of Christmas. £20 per person, limited numbers.

hello@helencaldercoaching.co.uk for further details and a booking form.

Carol services at Gloucester Cathedral

22 & 23 December, 6pm

All are welcome for this traditional service of readings and carols with the acclaimed Cathedral Choir. You must book a free ticket, find out more - <https://bit.ly/2YzjAeW>

Christmas Tree Festival.

11 & 12 December

St Lawrence Church, Swindon Village, Cheltenham. The theme of this year's Festival is Hopes and Dreams.

There will be lots of Christmas Tree Festivals and other special events this Christmas in our churches. Make sure to Check A Church Near You.

Have your say

Visit Facebook [f/Diocese.of.Gloucester](https://www.facebook.com/Diocese.of.Gloucester), email Katherine at 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

Canalside Carol Service

11 December, 6pm to 7pm at Saul Junction (GL2 7LA)

A traditional carol service with Frampton Silver Band. You are invited to come by boat, with moorings available and bridges open from 8am to 4pm or to come by car with parking available from 5pm. Mulled wine and mince pies after the service. Bring a torch.

Family Crib Service with the lighting of the Christmas Trees at Gloucester Cathedral.

23 or 24 December, 2.30pm

All are welcome to this informal family service. You must book a free ticket – visit <https://bit.ly/3EWJzMQ>

At the heart of Christmas



Visit A Church Near You to find details of Christmas services and events in your area. Your local church would be delighted to welcome you along to celebrate! Have a happy Christmas.

At the heart of Christmas



During Advent, getting some time to reflect, rest and be restored is so vital to enjoying the holiday period. Churches across the diocese will be offering a range of different services and events including:

- Christingle, a service where you decorate an orange with sweets and ribbons to think about Christian themes
- 9 Lessons and Carols (a church service made up of singing and reading from the Bible)
- Crib services with a dramatic retelling of the Christmas story
- Christmas tree and crib festivals
- Midnight mass, a late-night church service, starting around 11.30 pm.

From Christmas Eve through to the Epiphany on 6 January, the national Church will be sharing *At the heart of Christmas: 12 days of stories and mediations for Christmas*. On each of the 12 days, a different person will share something that lies close to the heart of Christmas for them, bringing the theme to life through a mixture of personal story, Bible reading, reflection and questions to ponder. You can download the *At the heart of Christmas app* via the Church of England website from late November.

On each Sunday of Advent there will be an online service broadcast on the Church of England's YouTube channel [youtube.com/thechurchofengland](https://www.youtube.com/thechurchofengland)

Visit A Church Near You to find details of Christmas services and events in your area. Your local church would be delighted to welcome you along to celebrate!

A time to give...

Christmas is a time for giving, so here is a roundup of some of the people that might truly appreciate your generosity in our area this Christmas.

Gloucester City Mission is opening its winter night shelter during the coldest months. Could you sponsor a bed for someone for the night? The shelter provides up to 15 beds per night for 122 nights over the winter period. Donations cover the cost of dinner, breakfast and a packed lunch, plus a bed, laundry, showers, clothes and toiletries and safety. Sponsoring a bed for the night costs £25. Visit www.gloscitymission.org.uk to donate.

Gloucestershire Bundles is a baby bank helping families in need, with toiletries, clothing, toys, books and equipment. People must be referred in order to use the service. Visit forcommongood.co.uk and find a shopping list of things that they would like to be able to provide for their clients and see what you can afford to contribute.

Christian Aid's Mums on the Frontline Christmas Appeal

Mums on the frontline of the climate crisis face impossible choices every day. Christian Aid is encouraging people to use its Christmas resources to encourage your worshipping community to donate too. Donations could help build more boreholes, provide seeds and farming tools and give mums the chance to set up small businesses.

Christmas isn't Christmas without a **Children's Society** Christingle service. The cosy glow of a candle, the smell of Christmas oranges and sweets and sound of beloved Christmas carols filling churches, all helps to spread the Christmas spirit, while raising money to help the organisation work with young people to counsel and support them through their most serious life challenges.

Visit childrenssociety.org.uk for more information.



Sign up to The Word

A fortnightly email bringing inspiring videos, powerful faith stories, courses to get you excited, useful apps and great books straight to your inbox.

To get your email visit <https://bit.ly/3Aup7kF> and tick the box for The Word.



Don't have time to read an email every week?

Sign up for the **OneDiocese WhatsApp** notification. Every Friday you will get a WhatsApp message with our TOP three inspiring stories, blogs or events, straight to your phone.

To get your message, open WhatsApp on your phone and send a message to 07709 524258 with the words *Subscribe* and your name.

Add our number, 07709 524258, to your phone contacts and wait for the ping!

Brought to you by the Communications Team for the Diocese of Gloucester. We work behind the scenes with C of E churches in this area.

 DIOCESE OF
GLOUCESTER

Life