



Leicester
Cathedral

Advent &
Christmas 2023
What's On

**SING FOR
JOY**



**The Revd Canon
Emma Davies**
Canon Precentor

Welcome

We are joyful at Leicester Cathedral!

We are so glad that once again we shall be able to celebrate this special time of year in our renewed Cathedral building after nearly two years. What will bring us most joy is welcoming in the people of our City and County – and beyond – to celebrate with us, and we hope you will join us!

We have lots of activities taking place in the Cathedral during these next weeks. Perhaps you might like to join us for a wonderful family Christingle service or come to hear our excellent Cathedral Choir sing at a candlelit concert or Christmas carol service?

We are also joyful because we shall again connect with our local communities outside our walls through some of our activities – look out for our crib figures hiding in plain sight in local shop windows – can you spot them all? Perhaps consider joining in our 'Knitted Nativity' in your community or school by counting down the days to Christmas in the company of Mary and Joseph.

We know that not everyone may feel joyful at the moment. The news is full of situations of conflict and disaster, and we are mindful in this season of people near and far who live in distress and fear. We are open every day and we promise a warm welcome to you however you feel, a listening ear, and candles to light. There are quieter events and services in our programme too, such as our late-night opening evenings and Advent Meditations along with our daily rhythm of services.

On the first Christmas Day, the angels brought news of great joy. A child had been born into an ordinary family, but this event would change everything, for this was God's way of entering our world and sharing his life with us. Whoever you are, and whatever you face, we invite you to come with open eyes, ears and hearts and to find a place with us during this season, and we pray that we may all find together something of God's extraordinary joy.

**Our building
is free to
enter, but we
encourage a
donation to
help support
our mission
and work**

Happy Christmas!
Canon Emma

We are open!

Monday–Friday

8.00am–6.00pm

Saturday

9.00am–6.00pm

Sunday

10.00am–4.30pm

Occasionally there are special services or events which mean that our opening hours change. Please check our website for more information.

Daily Services

Monday

8.30am Morning Eucharist

5.30pm Evening Prayer/
Choral Evensong

Tuesday–Friday

8.30am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Lunchtime Eucharist

5.30pm Evening Prayer/
Choral Evensong

Saturday

9.30am Morning Eucharist

5.30pm Evening Prayer

Sunday

10.30am Cathedral Eucharist

3.30pm Evening Prayer/
Choral Evensong

Subject to change. Please check our website for up-to-date service times.

New Year Opening Times

Monday 25 December

Building closes after the
10.30am Eucharist

Tuesday 26 December

Closed

27 – 30 December

10.00am–4.00pm (with 12.30pm

Lunchtime Eucharist and 3.30pm

Evening Prayer)

Sunday 31 December

Building closes after the
10.30am Eucharist

Monday 1 January 2024

Closed

Tuesday 2 January

Normal opening times and services

Café and Shops

The Cathedral has an outlet in the building selling gifts and souvenirs.

Next door in St Martins House, stop by **CAFÉ NO:7** for drinks and food: open Mon to Sat (8.00am–3.00pm). **Christian Resources Leicester**, for books, gifts, church resources and more, is open Tues to Sat from 9.30am–4.00pm.



Services

Sunday 3 December | 4.30pm

Advent Carol Service

Carols, music, and readings to mark the beginning of Advent.

Saturday 9 December | 3.00pm

Cathedral Christingle Service

A service for children and families, singing carols, building and lighting Christingles – supporting and working with the Children's Society.

Wednesday 13 December | 6.00pm

LGJS Christingle Service

The annual Leicester Grammar Junior School service.

Thursday 14 December | 5.30pm

Leicester & Leicestershire Carol Service for the Courts

The annual service with the Cathedral and Legal Professionals Choirs.

Saturday 16 December | 7.00pm

Diocesan Global Carol Service

An annual intercultural celebration of Christmas traditions from around the world. *Taking place at All Saints with Holy Trinity Church, Loughborough.*

Sunday 17 December | 3.00pm

Carol Service attended by the Freemasons

Sunday 17 December | 6.30pm

Carol Service Together with Holy Trinity, Barrow upon Soar

Join us for a special service of readings and carols service at Holy Trinity Church, as part of our *Together with Leicester Cathedral* project.



Friday 22 December and Saturday 23 December | 6.00pm

The Cathedral Carol Service

A traditional service of readings, prayers, and Choir and congregational carols.

Christmas Eve Sunday 24 December

Blessing of the Crib | 3.00pm

A short service with carols and readings for children and families of all ages, as we build and bless the Crib.

Midnight Mass | 11.30pm

Celebrate the beginning of Christmas, with the Cathedral Choir, carols, and Holy Communion. In the presence of the Christ Child with candles and incense. President: The Lord Bishop of Leicester, Preacher: The Acting Dean.

Christmas Day Monday 25 December

Christmas Eucharist | 10.30am

Our Christmas service sung by the Cathedral Choir, with carols, incense, candles, and Holy Communion. Preacher: The Bishop of Loughborough.

Advent Meditations

Seasonal meditations with organ music, Bible readings and poetry. All at 12.30pm, in Leicester Cathedral.
Admission free, donations encouraged.

Advent Meditation I Mon 4 December

Organist: Chris Ouvry-Johns, with Revd Canon Alison Adams

Advent Meditation II Mon 11 December

Organist: Rosie Vinter, with Revd Canon Karen Rooms

Advent Meditation III Mon 18 December

Organist: David Cowen, with Jude Taylor





Music & Events

Wednesday 22 November | 5.45–6.15pm

Cathedral Choir at John Lewis Christmas Lights Switch-on

Carols from the Choir in the main atrium of John Lewis.

Thursday 7 December | 7.30pm

Leicester Hospitals Christmas Carol Concert

Concert with mixed choirs supporting Leicester hospitals.

Saturday 16 December | 5.30–7.00pm and 7.30–9.00pm

Leicester Symphony Orchestra and Cathedral Choir Christmas Concerts

Join the LSO and Cathedral Choir for two special concerts of Christmas music and audience carols. Tickets: Adults £7 and Children £3, available from www.leicestersymphonyorchestra.co.uk

Wednesday 20 December | 7.30pm

LOROS Hospice Christmas Carol Concert

A carol concert with mixed choirs that work with and support LOROS Hospice Leicestershire.

Cathedral Crib at John Lewis

Friday 17 – Sunday 26 November

Can you spot our Crib figures in John Lewis? They are sheltering in the shop promoting our services and events in the Cathedral before journeying back to us in time for Christmas!





Tuesday 19 and Thursday 21 December | 7.30pm

Cathedral Choir Carol Concerts by Candlelight

See overleaf for how to book!

New Year Lunchtime Recitals

Our popular series of lunchtime recitals in the Cathedral returns in the New Year! On the second and fourth Mondays in the month, all are welcome to take a break at the start of the busy week and enjoy performances from musicians drawn across the City and County. Further details to be announced.

- 22 January Christopher Ouvry-Johns, Organ.
To include Mendelssohn's *Sonata in B-flat Op.65, No.4*
- 12 February TBC
- 26 February Rosie Vinter, Organ
- 11 March TBC
- 25 March David Cowen, Organ Meditation for Holy Week

Cathedral Late-Night Openings

**Monday 4 December &
Wednesday 6 December
6.30–8.00pm**

During the busy season, take a moment for peaceful reflection in special late-night openings. Monday will feature reflective music performed by members of the Cathedral Choir, while The Fosse Singers join us on Wednesday to sing festive music and carols.



Carol Concerts *by* Candlelight

Get into the festive spirit with concerts by the Cathedral Choir in the newly reopened Leicester Cathedral!

Tuesday 19 December and
Thursday 21 December at **7.30pm**

Join us for two special concerts of Christmas music sung by the Cathedral Choir, surrounded by real candlelight in the final resting place of King Richard III.

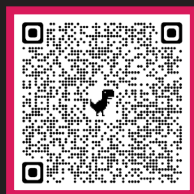
Tickets include light refreshments on the evening. Concession tickets are available for under 18s, students in full-time education, and unwaged people.

Early booking is advised.

Tickets

£10.00 | £8.00 (concessions)

Available from [Eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk)







Discipleship

Sundays 10 December 2023 | 14 January 2024

Questions Together

In the Gospels, Jesus asks 307 questions. He is asked around 183 questions, but only answers three. In fact, Jesus often responded to a question with another question! Asking questions can empower us to learn and grow in our faith, but it can feel challenging, and finding answers can also be difficult.

Our monthly discussion group aims to offer a friendly space to ask questions (and practise giving answers!) about faith and discipleship. Everyone is welcome and there is no need to book a place. Join us as we ask, wonder, and share together!

Taking place from 12.15–1.00pm after the Sunday Eucharist.

Thursdays 14 December 2023 | 18 January 2024

Cathedral Book Club: *Stick with Love*

Meeting online once a month over Zoom: in December, we will be discussing *Stick with Love: Rejoicing in Every Tongue, Every Tribe, Every Nation (The Archbishop of York's Advent Book 2023)* by Arun Arora. New members are always welcome – please email Jude (see below) to be added to the Book Club mailing list. Taking place from 7.00–8.00pm on Zoom.

Saturday 6 January 2024 | 10.30am–12.30pm

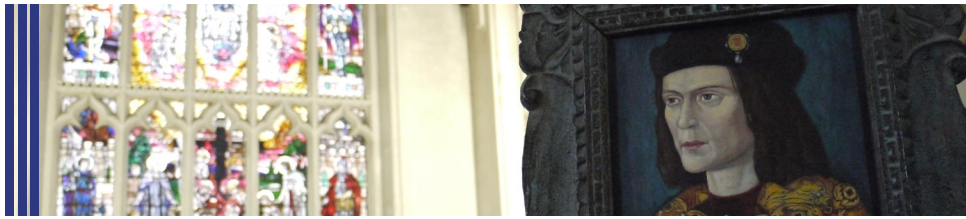
Sing for Joy: A quiet morning for Epiphany

Join us for a quiet morning of reflecting together, on the theme of gifts and what we might offer to God, to others, and to ourselves over the course of the coming year. Please email Jude for more info. Taking place in the Cathedral.

Exploring Faith?

Are you interested in journeying with others who would also like to know more about faith, discipleship and church? After Christmas, we will be offering a short course for anyone who would like an introduction to exploring faith. All are very welcome – especially if you are new to church.

Please contact Jude (Jude.Taylor@LeicesterCofE.org) to register your interest.



Tours

Richard III

Join us in a Richard III tour taking in the beautifully crafted tomb, the magnificent Redemption Windows, and the stunning pall.

Every Wednesday at 11.30am

Every Saturday 11.30am and 2.30pm

Tickets cost £3.50 per person with accompanied children under 16 admitted free, and can be booked on our website or on the day by visiting the welcome desk. The tour lasts approximately half an hour.

Carved in Stone | Evolution of Medicine | Prayer & Pilgrimage

Find out more about some of the stories of the Cathedral through our special bitesize tours.

Every Thursday 11.30am (the tours listed above will run on a rotation basis each week).

Tickets cost £3.50 per person with accompanied children under 16 admitted free, and can be booked on our website or on the day by visiting the welcome desk. The tour lasts approximately half an hour.

Tour times or subjects are subject to change so please check our website for up to date information.

Full Cathedral Tours: Group Tours

A full tour taking in all aspects of the Cathedral's rich and varied history is available for group visits.

Tours last approximately one hour and cost £5 per person with accompanied children under 16 admitted free. The Richard III tour can also be made available for group bookings.

Tours must be booked in advance. To find out more about our pre-bookable group visits please contact cathedralbookings@leicestercofe.org

Talks

Did you know we give talks to local groups? If you would like to find out more about the Cathedral and are interested in booking one of our speakers to come to your group meeting or event, please contact cathedralbookings@leicestercofe.org

Crib Trail!

from
28 Nov
to
19 Dec

Look out! Our crib figures are on the loose! Can you find them all?

Our lovely carved crib figures are on tour before they journey back to the Cathedral ready for Christmas.

Find each of the figures in the trail and scan the QR code to find out more about their story. Tick off each of the figures and then come to see them all together again in the Cathedral to pick up a special prize.

*Visit our website
or pick up a
flyer!*



KNIT-IVITY

POSADA

Last year our knitted Nativities journeyed around the City and County, before coming back together for the Crib Service.

Everyone had such fun joining in that we are again offering you a chance to take Mary, Joseph and the Donkey into your family.

If you want to sign up please message Bev (Bev.Collett@LeicesterCofE.org).

The Holy Family will share your house and hospitality for a couple of days, before you pass them on to other people in your family or community.

There are full instructions, prayers and how to register where all of our sets have been. We will be keeping everyone up to date with the journeys of the different sets on our social media throughout December.

The Holy Families will be starting their great journeys on Advent Sunday and can be collected from the Cathedral, before they all return back to the Cathedral for our Crib Service on Sunday 24 December at 3.00pm.



Leicester Cathedral Revealed



Leicester Cathedral Revealed is renewing the Cathedral so it can be its very best as a place of worship, heritage, pilgrimage, hospitality, learning, sanctuary and celebration.

The project has completed repair and restoration of the Cathedral building to secure the fabric for the long term, including:

- *Conservation of external stonework*
- *A new stone floor, level throughout, with energy-efficient underfloor heating*
- *Replaced failing infrastructure such as boilers, electrical system*
- *Installed new lighting and AV*
- *Plaster repairs and redecoration*
- *Created a new ramped access from Guildhall Lane to the North Porch*



The project is also constructing a new Heritage & Learning Centre, a striking extension to the Cathedral that will open in late summer 2024. This will provide an exhibition gallery with immersive interpretation, a flexible learning space for school children and community groups, and WCs.

Leicester Cathedral Revealed will realise our vision to restore the Cathedral building, renew its sacred spaces, and reaffirm the Cathedral's place at the centre of a resurgent City and County.



Supporting your Cathedral

Leicester Uncovered

Help us tell us new and exciting stories about Leicester's past by donating to this exciting project born out of our recent archaeological excavations. Visit leicestercathedral.org/leicesteruncovered to find out more.

Volunteering

We have a wide range of roles including assisting visitors, flower arranging, bellringing, to helping with our services.

To find out more please email rebecca.hale@leicestercofe.org or call 0116 261 5368.

Join a Guild

The Guild of St Martin supports our services and our outreach work, and The Guild of St Katharine supports our choirs and music in the Cathedral. Find out about the benefits of becoming a member by emailing david.pepworth@leicestercofe.org or calling 0116 261 5344.

Give regularly

Your regular support however small or large helps us best plan ahead and best serve the city and county. Email david.pepworth@leicestercofe.org or call 0116 261 5344 to find out the options to give regularly.





Leicester Cathedral
A beating heart for City and County



Made possible with

**Heritage
Fund**

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