



WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

Services and Music December 2024

Advent or Christmas? In December, the distinction between Advent and Christmas gets rather blurred. Advent is my favourite time of year – a rich, dark-edged season of anticipation and apprehension, looking forward to Christmas but also to Jesus' second coming at the end of all things. In theory we might keep Advent special by eschewing Christmas and especially Christmas carols until late on Christmas Eve.

But this is entirely unrealistic! For most people – including all of us – the Christmas festivities begin long before 25 December. Indeed, the first Christmas carols are sung here in the cathedral in November, before Advent has even begun.

The reality is that there are two different calendars in play, which is why for several weeks it is both Advent and Christmas. There is the church calendar of the liturgical purists, and there is the secular calendar of the rest of us. The first is important, but it would be wilful not to acknowledge the second. Changing gear rapidly from Advent to Christmas and back again is unsettling, but that's just how it is – and most of us get used to living with the tension.

Perhaps the point is that the Word becomes flesh suddenly and unexpectedly, in an unlikely place and an unlikely time. Interrupting Advent for Christmas reminds us that God bursts in dramatically and decisively, and not just when we are ready for him. Just think of all those carol services between now and Christmas as trailers for the coming main event. Happy (nearly) Christmas!

John Paul Hoskins

Dean:
Canon Precentor:
Director of Music:

Stephen Edwards
John Paul Hoskins
Samuel Hudson

All choral services are sung by the cathedral choir unless otherwise stated.

December 2024

Tuesday 3rd

- 7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalms 5, 6, 8
8.00 am **Holy Communion** (*with livestream*)
1.00 pm **Cherry Orchard Primary School Carol Service**
5.30 pm **Evening Prayer** Psalms 9, 10

Wednesday 4th

- 7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalm 119.1-32
8.00 am **Holy Communion** (*with livestream*)
1.00 pm **Holy Communion**
5.30 pm **Evensong** (*Upper voices*) Responses: Plainsong
Magnificat Plainsong
Nunc dimittis Geoffrey Burgon Psalms 11, 12, 13
There is no rose Benjamin Britten Hymn 2
7.00 pm **King's St Alban's Carol Service**

VERSE: CANTORIS

Thursday 5th

- 7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalms 14, 15, 16
8.00 am **Holy Communion** (*with livestream*)
5.30 pm **Evensong** Responses: Rose
The Paisley Service Humphrey Clucas Psalm 18
Comfort, comfort ye my people Charles Beaudrot Hymn 2
7.30 pm **RGS The Grange Carol Service**

Friday 6th

Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c. 326

- 7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalms 17, 19
8.00 am **Holy Communion** (*with livestream*)
11.30 am **Holy Communion** (BCP)
5.30 pm **Evensong** Responses: Tomkins
The Truro Service Gabriel Jackson Psalm 22
Rorate coeli desuper Josef Rheinberger Hymn 2
7.00 pm **King's Hawford Carol Service**

December 2024

Saturday 7th Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, Teacher of the Faith, 397

- 7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalms 20, 21, 23
- 8.00 am **Holy Communion** (with livestream)
- 5.30 pm **Evensong** (sung by the Chamber Choir) Responses: Byrd
Evening Service in A flat *Edmund Rubbra* Psalms 24, 25
O Lord, support us *David Briggs* Hymns 14, 17
- 7.30 pm **Concert** Worcester Festival Choral Society
Messiah George Frideric Handel

In Residence: The Revd Canon John Paul Hoskins

Sunday 8th The Second Sunday of Advent

- 7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalm 80
- 8.00 am **Holy Communion** (BCP) (with livestream)
Preacher: The Revd Canon John Paul Hoskins
- 10.30 am **Sung Eucharist**
Missa 'Rorate coeli desuper' *Josef Haydn* Cantic: Benedictus
E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come *Paul Manz*
Preacher: The Revd Canon Kimberly Bohan
- 4.00 pm **Evensong** Responses: Tomkins
Evening Service in A minor *Thomas Tertius Noble* Psalms 75, 76
How lovely are the messengers *Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy*
Hymns 3, 8 (t. 128ii)
- 6.30 pm **Evening Worship** (sung by the Voluntary Choir)
The Lord at first did Adam make *arr. Michael Nicholas*
Long ago, prophets knew *arr. James Anderson-Besant*
Preacher: The Revd Canon John Paul Hoskins
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December 2024

Monday 9th

- 7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalms 27, 30
8.00 am **Holy Communion** (*with livestream*)
5.30 pm **Evensong** Responses: Rose
The Penitential Canticles *Adrian Lucas* Psalms 26, 28, 29
Rejoice in the Lord always *Anon.* Hymn 1i
7.30 pm **Royal Grammar School Carol Service**

Tuesday 10th

- 7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalms 32, 36
8.00 am **Holy Communion** (*with livestream*)
5.30 pm **Evening Prayer** Psalm 33
7.30 pm **Northwick Manor Primary School Carol Service**

Wednesday 11th

Ember Day

- 7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalm 34
8.00 am **Holy Communion** (*with livestream*)
1.00 pm **Holy Communion**
5.30 pm **Evensong** (*Upper voices*) Responses: Plainsong
The Durham Service *Christopher Totney* Psalm 119.33-56
How beautiful are the feet *George Frideric Handel* Hymn 1i
7.30 pm **King's School Carol Service**

VERSE: DECANI

Thursday 12th

- 7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalm 37
8.00 am **Holy Communion** (*with livestream*)
5.30 pm **Evensong** Responses: Rose
The Fauxbourdon Service *William Byrd* Psalms 39, 40
Kindle a light *Michael Fleming* Hymn 1i

December 2024

Friday 13th

**Lucy, Martyr, 304
Ember Day**

7.30 am	Morning Prayer	Psalm 31
8.00 am	Holy Communion (<i>with livestream</i>)	
11.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
2.00 pm	Play A Christmas Carol	Chapterhouse Theatre Company
5.30 pm	Evensong (<i>Lower voices</i>) The Worcester Service <i>Piers Connor Kennedy</i> <i>Sive vigilem William Mundy</i>	Responses: <i>Tallis</i> Psalm 35 Hymn 11
7.30 pm	Play A Christmas Carol	Chapterhouse Theatre Company

Saturday 14th

**John of the Cross, Poet,
Teacher of the Faith, 1591**

Day of music endowed by John Wilderspin.

Ember Day

7.30 am	Morning Prayer	Psalms 41, 42, 43
8.00 am	Holy Communion (<i>with livestream</i>)	
5.30 pm	Evening Prayer	Psalms 45, 46
7.30 pm	Concert Tidings of Joy	Worcester Cathedral Choir

December 2024

In Residence: The Revd Canon Kimberly Bohan

Sunday 15th

The Third Sunday of Advent

- 7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalms 12, 14
8.00 am **Holy Communion (BCP)** (*with livestream*) Preacher: The Dean
10.30 am **Sung Eucharist** (*sung by the Youth Choir*)
A Worcester Mass *Donald Hunt* Psalm 146.4-end
Rejoice in the Lord *Henry Purcell* Preacher: The Dean
3.30 pm **Evening Prayer** Psalm 50.1-6, 62
4.00 pm **Voluntary Choir Carol Service** (*sung by the Voluntary Choir*)
O come and join the dance *Graham Kendrick arr. Richard Hubbard*
The Truth from Above *arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams/Christopher Robinson*
Plod on (Little Donkey) *Eric Boswell arr. Ed Jones*
Glory be to the Word *Roxanna Panufnik*
Tomorrow shall be my dancing day *Samuel Hudson*
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Monday 16th

- 7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalm 44
8.00 am **Holy Communion** (*with livestream*)
5.30 pm **Evensong** (*Lower voices*) Responses: *Tallis*
The Short Service *Adrian Batten* Psalms 47, 49
De coelo veniet *Jacob Handl* Hymn 19i (omit vv3, 4, 5)

Tuesday 17th

- 7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalms 48, 52
8.00 am **Holy Communion** (*with livestream*)
5.30 pm **Evening Prayer** Psalms 90, 11
7.30 pm **Worcester News Carol Service** (*sung by the Chamber Choir*)
Preacher: The Revd Canon John Paul Hoskins

December 2024

Wednesday 18th

7.30 am	Morning Prayer	Psalm 119.57-80
8.00 am	Holy Communion (<i>with livestream</i>)	
1.00 pm	Holy Communion	
5.30 pm	Evening Prayer	Psalm 106
7.30 pm	Pitmaston Primary School Carol Service	

VERSE: CANTORIS

Thursday 19th

7.30 am	Morning Prayer	Psalms 144, 146
8.00 am	Holy Communion (<i>with livestream</i>)	
5.30 pm	Evensong (<i>Lower voices</i>)	Responses: Tallis
	The First Service <i>Philip Moore</i>	Psalm 50
	Audivi vocem da coelo <i>Thomas Tallis</i>	Hymn 19i (omit v3, 4, 5)

Friday 20th

7.30 am	Morning Prayer	Psalms 46, 95
8.00 am	Holy Communion (<i>with livestream</i>)	
11.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
5.30 pm	Evening Prayer	Psalm 89.1-34a
7.30 pm	Come and Sing Christmas Carols	

Saturday 21st

7.30 am	Morning Prayer	Psalms 121, 122, 123
8.00 am	Holy Communion (<i>with livestream</i>)	
2.00 pm	Shoppers' Carol Service	
5.30 pm	Evening Prayer	Psalm 27

December 2024

In Residence: The Revd Canon John Paul Hoskins

Sunday 22nd

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalm 144

8.00 am **Holy Communion** (BCP) (*with livestream*)
Preacher: The Revd Dr John Fitzmaurice

10.30 am **Eucharist with Hymns**
Canticle: Magnificat

Preacher: The Revd Canon Kimberly Bohan

4.00 pm **Evening Prayer** Psalms 123, 131

6.30 pm **Cathedral Carol Service**

How sweet and clear *Donald Hunt*

All was for an apple *Richard Lambert*

Angels' Carol *John Rutter*

Nova! Nova! *Bob Chilcott*

Sing lullaby *Herbert Howells*

Stille nacht *arr. Andrew Carter*

A Present for the Future *Joanna Forbes L'Estrange*

Sussex Carol *Philip Ledger*

Monday 23rd

Day of music endowed by Judith Pearce.

7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalms 128, 129, 130, 131

8.00 am **Holy Communion** (*with livestream*)

2.00 pm **Shoppers' Carol Service**

5.30 pm **Evening Prayer** Psalm 80

6.30 pm **Cathedral Carol Service**

Music as for 22nd December.

December 2024

Tuesday 24th

Christmas Eve

- 7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalms 45, 113
- 8.00 am **Holy Communion** (*with livestream*)
- 1.00 pm **Crib Service**
- 3.00 pm **Crib Service**
- 5.00 pm **Evening Prayer** Psalm 85
- 5.30 pm **Evening Service with Carols** (*sung by the Youth Choir and former members of the Cathedral Choir*)
Today, maiden Mary *arr. Michael Nicholas*
Shepherds are kneeling *Peter Nardone*
Sussex Carol *arr. Bob Chilcott*
Preacher: The Rev'd Canon Kimberly Bohan
- 11.00 pm **The Midnight Eucharist** (*with incense*)
Missa Brevis in D *Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart* Psalm 96
Silent Night *arr. David Willcocks*
Preacher: The Revd Canon John Paul Hoskins

Wednesday 25th

CHRISTMAS DAY

- 7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalms 110, 117
- 8.00 am **Holy Communion** (BCP) (*with livestream*)
Preacher: The Revd Canon John Paul Hoskins
- 10.30 am **Sung Eucharist** (*with incense*)
Ding! Dong! Merrily on high *arr. Charles Wood*
Messe Solennelle *Louis Vierne* Psalm 98
I saw three ships *arr. David Willcocks* Preacher: The Dean
- 4.00 pm **Evensong with Carols**
Up! Good Christen folk *arr. George Woodward*
Evening Service in E flat (no. 2) *Charles Wood* Psalm 8
Angels' Carol *John Rutter* Hymns AM 65, 25

December 2024

VERSE: DECANI

Thursday 26th

Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr

- 7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalms 13, 31.1-8, 150
8.00 am **Holy Communion** (*with livestream*)
5.30 pm **Evening Prayer** Psalms 57, 86

Friday 27th

John, Apostle and Evangelist

- 7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalms 21, 147.13-end
8.00 am **Holy Communion** (*with livestream*)
11.30 am **Holy Communion** (BCP)
5.30 pm **Evening Prayer** Psalm 97

Saturday 28th

The Holy Innocents

- 7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalms 36, 146
8.00 am **Holy Communion** (*with livestream*)
5.30 pm **Evensong** (*sung by Sine Nomine*) Responses: Walsh
Evening Service in D minor Thomas Attwood Walmisley
The Holly and the Ivy *June Nixon* Psalms 123, 128
Hymns 203 (omit w6, 7), 39

December 2024

In Residence: The Revd Canon Kimberly Bohan

Sunday 29th **The First Sunday of Christmas**

7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalm 105.1-11

8.00 am **Holy Communion** (BCP) *(with livestream)*

Preacher: The Dean

10.30 am **Sung Eucharist** *(sung by Sine Nomine)*

Mass for Four Voices *William Byrd*

Psalm 148.7-end

O little town of Bethlehem *Carl Rüttli*

Preacher: The Revd Canon Kimberly Bohan

4.00 pm **Evensong** *(sung by Sine Nomine)*

Responses: *Walsh*

Evening Service in E *Herbert Murrill*

Psalm 132

The Magi's Dream *James Whitbourne*

Hymns 23, 37

Monday 30th **Ecgwin, Bishop of Worcester, Founder of Evesham Abbey, 717**

Day of music endowed by the David Willcocks Music Trust.

7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalms 111, 112, 113

8.00 am **Holy Communion** *(with livestream)*

5.30 pm **Evening Prayer** Psalms 65, 84

Tuesday 31st

7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalm 102

8.00 am **Holy Communion** *(with livestream)*

5.30 pm **Evening Prayer** Psalms 90, 148

January 2025

Wednesday 1st January

The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus

7.30 am **Morning Prayer**

Psalms 103, 150

8.00 am **Holy Communion** *(with livestream)*

1.00 pm **Holy Communion**

5.30 pm **Evening Prayer**

Psalms 115

VERSE: CANTORIS

Thursday 2nd

Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzus, Bishops, Teachers of the Faith, 379 and 389

7.30 am **Morning Prayer**

Psalms 18.1-30

8.00 am **Holy Communion** *(with livestream)*

5.30 pm **Evening Prayer**

Psalms 45, 46

Friday 3rd

7.30 am **Morning Prayer**

Psalms 127, 128, 131

8.00 am **Holy Communion** *(with livestream)*

11.30 am **Holy Communion** (BCP)

5.30 pm **Evening Prayer**

Psalms 2, 110

Saturday 4th

7.30 am **Morning Prayer**

Psalms 89.1-37

8.00 am **Holy Communion** *(with livestream)*

5.30 pm **Evensong** *(sung by the Priory Singers)*

Responses:

Evening Service in A *Herbert Sumsion*

Psalms 85, 87

In the bleak midwinter *Richard Prince*

Hymns 20ii (omit vv4, 5), 31

