Advent – Prepare and Rejoice

If you come to a service or concert in Advent you will find the Cathedral illuminated by candlelight. The candles point to the light of Christ coming into the world.

Advent marks the beginning of the Christian year. It is the point when we anticipate the end of history, when time will be no more. The four weeks that precede Christmas are punctuated by calls to wake up, watch and pray. As this comes at a time when it is easy to be caught up in the feverish consumerism of pre-Christmas preparations, it can be hard to contemplate ultimate things.

But an awareness of eternity helps us live well in the here and now. Having a sense of our ultimate destination prevents us from getting too caught up in irrelevances. At this time of year, it is good to pray the prayer of purification: ‘Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts, by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit.’

This prayer also captures the Advent hope. This is the season when we look for light to pierce the darkness, when purity trounces pollution, when salvation overcomes sin. Advent, then, is a serious time of preparation. For Christmas, yes. But also for the rest of our lives, and beyond.
Macmillan Charity Concert: A Celebration of Christmas
Friday 8 December at 8pm
Tickets from www.ticketsoxford.com • Tel: 01865 305305

Raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support, this popular concert will feature sublime festive music from world-class musicians and literary readings from celebrities including Jeremy Irons, Joanna Trollope and Prue Leith. The concert will include choral pieces from the Blenheim Singers, conducted by Tom Hammond-Davies, as well as a guest chorister from New College and music in the quad from the Magdalen College School Brass Ensemble.

This uplifting event, now in its 21st year, serves a vital role in raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support and helping to fund a specialist nurse for Oxfordshire who supports local cancer sufferers and their families.

Family Carol Concert
Saturday 9 December at 2.30pm
Tickets from Music at Oxford
www.musicatoxford.com 01865 244806

If you have a young family, this is the perfect opportunity to enjoy your favourite traditional Christmas carols and well-known Christmas songs sung by the choristers of Christ Church Cathedral Choir. Come and join in with a sparkling occasion in aid of Christ Church Music Trust.
Chapter Charity Concert in aid of the Alzheimer’s Society

Sunday 10 December at 8pm • Tickets from www.alzheimers.org.uk/carolsoxford • 0330 333 0804
Join us for a magical evening of carols, festive treats and celebrity guests all in support of Alzheimer’s Society.

Handel’s Messiah with the Cathedral Singers and Oxybaroxy

Saturday 16 December 2017 at 7.30pm
Tickets: £20/£15/ £10. Available from Tickets Oxford www.ticketsoxford.com • 01865 305305
The Cathedral Singers Christmas Concert is always a highlight of the festive season at Christ Church. This year will be even more special, as the Singers are joined by Oxybaroxy, the Oxfordshire Youth Baroque Strings, and a quartet of tremendous young soloists, to perform Handel's uplifting Messiah, under director James Morley Potter.

www.cathedralsingers.org.uk

Advent Sleepover

Thursday 30 November
A group of Christ Church students, canons and staff will be sleeping overnight in the Cathedral to raise funds for the Church Urban Fund, a charity which supports homeless projects around the country.
To donate, see https://sleepoutchallenge 2017.everdayhero.com/uk/cathedral-sleepover
Christmas at Christ Church
Tuesday 19 December • Service at 6pm followed by supper at 7.30pm.

A special Friends service sung by the Cathedral Choir, followed by a two-course supper with wine, mince pies and coffee. The service is open to the public and all are welcome (no tickets needed) but booking for the supper is essential.

Tickets for the supper (£30 for Friends, £33 for guests) are available by post from Elizabeth Harrison, Hon Secretary, Friends of Christ Church Cathedral, Priory Room Office, Christ Church Oxford OX1 1DP. cathedralfriends@btconnect.com
Organ Meditations
Messiaen, *La Nativité du Seigneur*

**Monday 18 December • 3.30pm • Free entry**

Makoto James (Junior Organ Scholar) performs Messiaen’s iconic meditations on the birth of Jesus on the Cathedral’s famous Rieger organ. Inspired by theology, the mountains of the French Alps, and the stained glass windows of medieval cathedrals, Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992) composed *La Nativité du Seigneur* in 1935. The work is in nine movements, each depicting an image or concept from the birth of Jesus.

Nine Lessons and Carols

**Saturday 23 December 2017 • 7.30pm**
**Sunday 24 December 2017 • 3pm**

Tickets: Entry is free but by ticket (£1 postage). Book at www.ticketsoxford.com or 01865 305305.

The Cathedral Choir sings a selection of Christmas music old and new. The service involves choir processions around the building and congregational participation in the hymns.

If you don’t have a ticket, you are welcome to queue on the day but we cannot guarantee entry.
Be a Chorister Day
Saturday 27 January 2018
Do you know someone who would like to be a chorister for a day? Boys aged six, seven and eight are invited to find out what it’s like to sing in the Cathedral choir. Tea will be served in the magnificent Great Hall, made famous by the Harry Potter films. For more information, please contact Mrs Clare James on 01865 260650 or registrar@cccs.org.uk

Event

Drawing in Rome
16 September to 22 December 2017
Adults £4, (£2 concessions).
Free for members of the University
Rome attracted artists for centuries. From the late 1400s, European artists drew inspiration from the grand sculptures and architecture of antiquity. Many young artists travelled to Rome to study and sketch the city’s classical ruins. This exhibition illustrates, with over thirty drawings, the different artistic forces and personalities which were part of this highly creative and at times volatile arena.

THE PICTURE GALLERY
Opening times from October to May
Mondays, Wednesday-Saturday:
10.30am to 1pm and 2–4.30pm.
Sundays: 2–4.30pm
(Closed on Tuesdays)

Image: Giovanni Baglione (c1566-1643) A male nude seated on a pedestal, black chalk on paper, JBS 584.
Christmas – all are welcome

Come to the Cathedral at Christmas and you will see a great many figures gathered round the crib. Christ’s coming as the saviour of the world is God’s work, but it also involves a great many people.

Mary must say ‘yes’ to the angel, at some personal cost. The innkeeper offers hospitality when his hotel is bursting at the seams. The wise men bring their strange and extravagant gifts. The shepherds mirror the spontaneity and searching of Christ – you may find him, but if you don’t, he will come looking for you anyway.

And the people of Egypt support those unlikely asylum seekers, the holy family. Small wonder, then, that as an adult, Christ will preach on the importance of welcoming the stranger.

God involves many people in his work ‘of gathering up all things in Christ’. We are all partners in this extraordinary work. As anyone who has ever had a child will tell you, a tiny inarticulate infant is utterly absorbing and demanding. And God has come amongst us as a tiny child. As such he shows that all are welcome, all are needed. We hope you will find that welcome in our cathedral services this Christmas.
## Special Events and Services at Christ Church Cathedral - November 2017 - February 2018

### NOVEMBER 2017

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 26 November</td>
<td>College Advent Carol Service (Entry by ticket only)</td>
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<td>Wednesday 29 November</td>
<td>College Choir Carols by Candlelight</td>
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### DECEMBER 2017

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<tr>
<td>Saturday 2 December</td>
<td>Cathedral Advent Carol Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 5 December</td>
<td>Oxford Brookes Christian Union Carol Service (Entry by ticket only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 8 December</td>
<td>Christingle for local schools</td>
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### JANUARY 2018

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<tr>
<td>Saturday 6 January</td>
<td>The Feast of Epiphany (Cathedral Singers)</td>
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### February 2018

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<td>Thursday 1 February</td>
<td>Choral Eucharist for the Eve of Candlemas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 2 February</td>
<td>Choral Evensong (Cathedral Choir)</td>
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Educational visits and workshops

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays
Primary pupils: £3 plus VAT • Secondary pupils: £4 plus VAT

A microcosm of British history, the Cathedral offers a rich learning experience for pupils of all ages. Younger children can dress in historical costumes and engage in story and role play. By exploring the Cathedral’s sacred space they deepen their understanding of Christian values and worship and how these have evolved over time.

Older students are invited to discover Christ Church’s hidden secrets and stories and find out how Christ Church’s famous alumni have searched for answers to BIG questions...

All our educational visits are tailored to meet your learning objectives.

For more information contact:
Jacqueline.holderness@chch.ox.ac.uk or 01865 286003.
See www.chch.ox.ac.uk/schools
Our regular pattern of worship at Christ Church Cathedral

The daily offering of worship to God is at the heart of Christ Church. Everyone is welcome to join the worshipping community of Christ Church Cathedral, whether for a single service, or more regularly.

**Sundays**
- 8am: Holy Communion (1662)
- 9.45am: Matins and Sermon (1662)
- 11am: Sung Eucharist (CW)
- 6pm: Choral Evensong (1662)

**Weekdays**
- 7.15am: Morning Prayer (CW)
- 7.35am: Holy Communion (CW)
- 1pm: Holy Communion (Wednesdays only) (1662)
- 6pm: Evening Prayer – Choral Evensong (1662)

On Mondays, Evening Prayer is either a said service or, during university term time, sung by the College Choir. On Thursdays, the evening service is usually a Choral Eucharist.

Please note that our services begin five minutes later than ‘normal’ time, because the Cathedral keeps the old ‘Oxford Time’ (i.e. five minutes west of Greenwich). This means 6pm Oxford Time is 6.05pm GMT or BST.

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**Book a parish visit to your Cathedral**

The Dean and Chapter of Christ Church warmly invite parishes in the Diocese of Oxford to visit the Cathedral, to share in its worship and discover its history.

**The programme for the day is as follows:**
- 3pm: Arrive at Christ Church for a guided tour of the Cathedral
- 4pm: Visit to Upper Library or Picture Gallery
- 4.30pm: Afternoon tea in the Great Hall
- 5pm: Visit to the Treasury and Cathedral Shop
- 6pm: Choral Evensong
- 7pm: End of visit

The programme runs during university term-times throughout the year: 14 Jan to 10 March / 22nd Apr to 16 June / 7 Oct to 1 Dec 2018

There will be a charge for the tea but guided tours are FREE.

For further information go to www.chch.ox.ac.uk/cathedral or email Miranda Hockliffe at miranda.hockliffe@chch.ox.ac.uk.
Who’s who at Christ Church Cathedral

Dean: The Very Revd Professor Martyn Percy
Sub-Dean: The Revd Canon Dr Edmund Newey
Canon Precentor: The Revd Canon Dr Grant Bayliss
Organist: Canon Dr Stephen Darlington
Registrar: Mr John Briggs

The Cathedral, Christ Church, St Aldates, Oxford OX1 1DP
cathedral@chch.ox.ac.uk Tel: 01865 276155

For up to date information go to www.chch.ox.ac.uk/cathedral

Registered charity in England and Wales number: 1143423