WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

Services and Music
December 2026

When I was studying theology, I remember a specific seminar on Eamon Duffy's wonderful (if controversial) book *The Stripping of the Altars*. I was in Edinburgh. Most of my classmates were Presbyterians. As we spoke it became clear that for most people in the room, the book was wholly irrelevant — speaking of tradition detached from their own. For me, and a few others, it gave me the same thrill that exploring the attic did as a small child: Oh, look! Oh, this is how they lived! Here's a bauble I want to keep. This is mine too.

Before I knew the theology or the history of the mediaeval church, I knew the carols. Some of them anyway. This is where time bends and past and present meet. For most people, who brush against the choral world without living in it fully, Christmas is the initiation right. The Green Book, The Orange Book, 100 Carols for Choirs. Willcocks and Rutter, John Mason Neale, and Christina Rosetti. This is where we start learning the choral tradition, and this is how we root ourselves in the English traditions of celebrating Advent and Christmas.

This month's music does a careful dance between the two seasons. At Evensong, and on Sunday mornings, we will be firmly in Advent — with all its stark warnings about the need for justice, and all the bright longing of redemption fulfilled. Between times, we leap fully ahead into Christmas: school carol services and community gathering.

It is a month of extraordinary music, and a double celebration of the liturgical year. Welcome, December.

Kimberly Bohan

Interim Dean:	+Martin Gorick
Director of Music:	Samuel Hudson

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

November/December 2026

In Residence: The Interim Dean

Sunday 29th November — The First Sunday of Advent

7.30 am **Morning Prayer** — Psalm 44

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

10.30 am **Sung Eucharist**
The Advent Prose
Mass in the Dorian Mode *Herbert Howells* — Psalm 80.1-7
Rorate coeli *William Byrd* — Preacher: The Revd Dr Robin Parry

4.00 pm **Evening Prayer** — Psalm 25

6.30 pm **Advent Procession by Candlelight**
Advent Responsory *Ed Jones*
The Truth from Above *Ralph Vaughan Williams*
Vigilate *William Byrd*
How beautiful are the feet *George Frideric Handel*
People, look east *arr. Barry Ferguson*
Ave Maria *Franz Biebl*
Comfort, comfort ye my people *Charles Beaudrot*
A tender shoot *Kerensa Briggs*
Advent Vespers Responsory *Gabriel Jackson*

Monday 30th — Andrew the Apostle

7.30 am **Morning Prayer** — Psalms 47, 147.1-12

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

5.30 pm **Evensong** — Responses: *Sumsion*
Evening Service in B minor *T. Tertius Noble* — Psalms 87, 96
O quam gloriosum *Tomás Luis de Victoria* — Hymn 200

7.00 pm **King's St Alban's School Carol Service**

Tuesday 1st December

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

December 2026

Wednesday 2nd

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** *(sung by the Choral Scholars)*	Responses: Plainsong
	Plainsong Canticles	Psalms 11, 12, 13
	Hear my prayer, O Lord *Thomas Tomkins*	Hymn 2
7.30 pm	**RGS The Grange Carol Service**	

VERSE: CANTORIS

Thursday 3rd

7.30 am	**Morning Prayer**	Psalms 14, 15, 16
8.00 am	**Holy Communion** *(with livestream)*	
4.45 pm	**Carol Service to mark the Opening of the Victorian Christmas Fayre** *(sung by the Voluntary Choir)*	
5.30 pm	**Evensong**	Responses: *Tomkins*
	The Penitential Canticles *Adrian Lucas*	Psalm 18
	O radiant dawn *James MacMillan*	Hymn 2

Friday 4th

7.30 am	**Morning Prayer**	Psalms 17, 19
8.00 am	**Holy Communion** *(with livestream)*	
11.30 am	**Holy Communion** (BCP)	
3.30 pm	**Advent Adventure Service**	
5.30 pm	**Evensong**	Responses: *Tomkins*
	The Fauxbourdon Service *William Byrd*	Psalm 22
	In the stillness *Sally Beamish*	Hymn 2

Saturday 5th

7.30 am	**Morning Prayer**	Psalms 20, 21, 23
8.00 am	**Holy Communion** *(with livestream)*	
5.30 pm	**Evensong**	Responses: *Leighton*
	The First Service *Thomas Tomkins*	Psalms 24, 25
	Virga Jesse *Anton Bruckner*	Hymns 13, 500

December 2026

In Residence: The Revd Canon Kimberly Bohan

Sunday 6th — The Second Sunday of Advent

7.30 am **Morning Prayer** — Psalm 80

8.00 am **Holy Communion** (BCP) *(with livestream)*
Preacher: The Bishop of Dudley

10.30 am **Sung Eucharist**
Mass for five voices *William Byrd* — Psalm 85.8-end
The Canticle of Zechariah *James MacMillan*
Preacher: The Bishop of Dudley

2.30 pm **Worship in the Garden**

4.00 pm **Evensong** — Responses: *Tomkins*
Evening Service in B minor *Hugh Blair* — Psalm 40
How lovely are the messengers *Felix Mendelssohn* — Hymns 8, 438

6.30 pm **Evening Worship** *(sung by the Voluntary Choir)*
The Truth from Above *Traditional arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams and Christopher Robinson*
The Cherry Tree Carol *Traditional*
Preacher: The Revd Canon Kimberly Bohan

Monday 7th — Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, Teacher of the Faith, 397

7.30 am **Morning Prayer** — Psalms 27, 30

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

5.30 pm **Evensong with Farewell and Licensing of the Revd Dr John Fitzmaurice as Associate Priest** — Responses: *Tomkins*
Evening Service in D minor *Thomas Attwood Walmisley*
Bogoroditsye dyevo *Arvo Pärt* — Psalms 26, 28, 29
Hymns 1i, 11

7.00 pm **King's Hawford School Carol Service**

Tuesday 8th — The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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 **Royal Grammar School Carol Service**

December 2026

Wednesday 9th — 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** *(sung by the Choral Scholars)*	Responses: Plainsong
	Plainsong Canticles	Psalm 119.33-56
	Es ist ein Ros entsprungen *Michael Praetorius*	Hymn 1i
7.30 pm	**Concert**	Piccadilly Sinfonietta
	Nutcracker Suite *Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky*	
	Piano Concerto No. 2 *Sergei Rachmaninov*	
	Festive Medley *Traditional*	

VERSE: DECANI

Thursday 10th

7.30 am	**Morning Prayer**	Psalm 37
8.00 am	**Holy Communion** *(with livestream)*	
5.30 pm	**Evensong** *(Lower voices)*	Responses: *Tallis*
	The Westminster Service *Humphrey Clucas*	Psalms 39, 40
	Sive vigilem *William Mundy*	Hymn 1i
7.30 pm	**King's School Carol Service**	

Friday 11th — Ember Day

7.30 am	**Morning Prayer**	Psalm 31
8.00 am	**Holy Communion** *(with livestream)*	
11.30 am	**Holy Communion** (BCP)	
5.30 pm	**Evensong** *(Lower voices)*	Responses: *Tallis*
	The Fauxbourdon Service *Sarah MacDonald*	Psalm 35
	Audivi vocem da coelo *Thomas Tallis*	Hymn 1i

Saturday 12th — Ember Day

7.30 am	**Morning Prayer**	Psalms 41, 42, 43
8.00 am	**Holy Communion** *(with livestream)*	
5.30 pm	**Evening Prayer**	Psalms 45, 46
7.30 pm	**Concert**	Worcester Festival Choral Society
	Messiah *George Frideric Handel*	

December 2026

In Residence: The Interim Dean

Sunday 13th — The Third Sunday of Advent

7.30 am **Morning Prayer** — Psalm 50.1-6, 62

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

Preacher: The Revd Gilly Maxim

10.30 am **Sung Eucharist** *(sung by the Youth Choir)* — Psalm 126

Preacher: The Revd Canon Kimberly Bohan

3.30 pm **Evening Prayer** — Psalm 68.1-20

4.00 pm **Voluntary Choir Carol Service** *(sung by the Voluntary Choir)*

Adam lay ybounden *Peter Warlock*

A maiden most gentle *arr. Andrew Carter*

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day *John Gardner*

Monday 14th — John of the Cross, Poet, Teacher of the Faith, 1591

Day of music endowed by John Wilderspin.

7.30 am **Morning Prayer** — Psalm 44

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

5.30 pm **Evensong** *(Lower voices)* — Responses: *Cleobury*

The Third Service *Philip Moore* — Psalms 47, 49

Come, thou redeemer of the earth *Andrew Parnell* — Hymn 19i

Tuesday 15th

7.30 am **Morning Prayer** — Psalms 48, 52

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

5.30 pm **Evening Prayer** — Psalm 50

7.30 pm **Pitmaston Primary School Carol Service**

December 2026

Wednesday 16th

7.30 am	**Morning Prayer**	Psalm 119.57-80
8.00 am	**Holy Communion** *(with livestream)*	
1.00 pm	**Holy Communion**	
5.30 pm	**Evening Prayer**	Psalms 59, 60, 67
7.30 pm	**Northwick Manor Primary School Carol Service**	

VERSE: CANTORIS

Thursday 17th — *O Sapientia*

7.30 am	**Morning Prayer**	Psalms 56, 57, 63
8.00 am	**Holy Communion** *(with livestream)*	
5.30 pm	**Evening Prayer**	Psalms 90, 11
6.30 pm	**Worcester News Carol Service**	
	A Christmas Lullaby *John Rutter*	
	Gaudete *Kristina Arakelyan*	
	A spotless rose *Kerensa Briggs*	
	My Lord has come *Will Todd*	
	Stille nacht *Benjamin Lamb*	
	Sussex Carol *arr. Philip Ledger*	
		Preacher: The Revd Canon Kimberly Bohan

Friday 18th — *O Adonai*

7.30 am	**Morning Prayer**	Psalms 51, 54
8.00 am	**Holy Communion** *(with livestream)*	
11.30 am	**Holy Communion** (BCP)	
5.30 pm	**Evensong** *(Lower voices)*	Responses: *Cleobury*
	Evening Service in D *Robin Doveton*	Psalm 106
	De coelo veniet *Jacob Handl*	Hymn 19i

Saturday 19th — *O Radix Jesse*

7.30 am	**Morning Prayer**	Psalms 144, 146
8.00 am	**Holy Communion** *(with livestream)*	
1.00 pm	**Shoppers' Carol Service**	
5.30 pm	**Evening Prayer**	Psalm 50
7.30 pm	**Concert**	Worcester Cathedral Choir
	Tidings of Joy	

December 2026

In Residence: The Revd Canon Kimberly Bohan

Sunday 20th — The Fourth Sunday of Advent

O Clavis David

7.30 am **Morning Prayer** — Psalm 144

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

10.30 am **Sung Eucharist** *(sung by the Chamber Choir)*
Mass for Four Voices *William Byrd* — Canticle: Magnificat
Ave Maria *Robert Parsons* — Preacher: The Archdeacon of Dudley

4.00 pm **Evensong** *(sung by the Chamber Choir)* — Responses: *Guest*
The St Paul's Service *Joanna Marsh* — Psalms 113, 131
There is no rose *Benjamin Britten* — Hymns 6, 14

Monday 21st — *O Oriens*

7.30 am **Morning Prayer** — Psalms 121, 122, 123

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

5.30 pm **Evensong** *(Lower voices)* — Responses: *Tallis*
Sexti et tertii toni *Tomás Luis de Victoria* — Psalm 27
Out of the deep *Thomas Tomkins* — Hymn 20i

Tuesday 22nd — *O Rex Gentium*

7.30 am **Morning Prayer** — Psalms 124, 125, 126, 127

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

5.30 pm **Evening Prayer** — Psalm 118

6.30 pm **Cathedral Carol Service**
In the bleak midwinter *arr. Mack Wilberg*
Adam lay ybounden *Boris Ord*
Sans Day Carol *arr. John Rutter*
There is no rose *Aaron Nihal King*
Jesu, Jesu *Kristina Arakelyan*
The Shepherd's Carol *Bob Chilcott*
In dulci jubilo *Robert Pearsall*
I saw three ships *arr. Stuart Nicholson*

December 2026

Wednesday 23rd — *O Emmanuel*

Day of music endowed by Judith Pearce.

7.30 am	**Morning Prayer**	Psalms 128, 129, 130, 131
8.00 am	**Holy Communion** *(with livestream)*	
1.00 pm	**Holy Communion**	
1.00 pm	**Shoppers' Carol Service**	
5.30 pm	**Evening Prayer**	Psalm 80
6.30 pm	**Cathedral Carol Service**	
	Music as for 22nd December.	

VERSE: DECANI

Thursday 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	**Carols and Readings for Christmas Eve** *(sung by the Youth Choir and former members of the Cathedral Choir)*	
		Preacher: The Archdeacon of Dudley
11.00 pm	**The Midnight Eucharist with Carols** *(with incense)*	
	Sarum Mass *Kenneth Leighton*	Psalm 96
	Nativity Carol *John Rutter*	Preacher: The Revd Gilly Maxim

Friday 25th — CHRISTMAS DAY

7.30 am	**Morning Prayer**	Psalms 110, 117
8.00 am	**Holy Communion** (BCP) *(with livestream)*	
		Preacher: The Revd Dr John Fitzmaurice
10.30 am	**Sung Eucharist with Carols** *(with incense)*	
	Ding dong! merrily on high *arr. Charles Wood*	Psalm 98
	Missa Brevis *Jonathan Dove*	
	In dulci jubilo *Robert Pearsall*	
	I saw three ships *arr. Stuart Nicholson*	Preacher: The Bishop
4.00 pm	**Evening Prayer**	Psalm 8

December 2026

Saturday 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

In Residence: The Interim Dean

Sunday 27th **John, Apostle and Evangelist**

7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalms 21, 147.13-end
8.00 am **Holy Communion** (BCP) *(with livestream)*
Preacher: The Revd Canon Kimberly Bohan
10.30 am **Eucharist with Hymns** Psalm 117
Preacher: The Revd Dr Mark Dorsett
4.00 pm **Evening Prayer** Psalm 97

Monday 28th **The Holy Innocents**

7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalms 36, 146
8.00 am **Holy Communion** *(with livestream)*
5.30 pm **Evening Prayer** Psalms 123, 128

Tuesday 29th **Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1170**

7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalms 19, 20
8.00 am **Holy Communion** *(with livestream)*
5.30 pm **Evening Prayer** Psalms 131, 132

December 2026/January 2027

Wednesday 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)*	
1.00 pm	**Holy Communion**	
5.30 pm	**Evening Prayer**	Psalms 65, 84

VERSE: CANTORIS

Thursday 31st

7.30 am	**Morning Prayer**	Psalm 102
8.00 am	**Holy Communion** *(with livestream)*	
5.30 pm	**Evening Prayer**	Psalms 90, 148

Friday 1st January — **The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus**

7.30 am	**Morning Prayer**	Psalms 103, 150
8.00 am	**Holy Communion** *(with livestream)*	
11.30 am	**Holy Communion** (BCP)	
5.30 pm	**Evening Prayer**	Psalm 115

Saturday 2nd — **Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzus, Bishops, Teachers of the Faith, 379 and 389**

7.30 am	**Morning Prayer**	Psalm 18.1-30
8.00 am	**Holy Communion** *(with livestream)*	
5.30 pm	**Evensong** *(sung by Sine Nomine)*	Responses: *Rose*
	Evening Service in F *John Ireland*	Psalms 45, 46
	The Holly and the Ivy *June Nixon*	Hymns 27, 29

January 2027

In Residence: The Revd Canon Kimberly Bohan

Sunday 3rd — The Second Sunday of Christmas

7.30 am	**Morning Prayer**	Psalm 87
8.00 am	**Holy Communion** (BCP) *(with livestream)*	
	Preacher: The Revd Dr John Fitzmaurice	
10.30 am	**Sung Eucharist** *(sung by Sine Nomine)*	
	Missa Veni Creator Spiritus *Michele Varotto*	Psalm 147.12-end
	The Magi's Dream *James Whitbourn*	
	Preacher: The Revd Canon Kimberly Bohan	
2.30 pm	**Worship in the Garden**	
4.00 pm	**Evensong** *(sung by Sine Nomine)*	Responses: *Rose*
	Evening Service in D *George Dyson*	Psalm 135
	Tomorrow shall be my dancing day *Carl Rütti*	Hymns 38, 40
6.30 pm	**Organ Devotion**	
	La Nativité du Seigneur *Olivier Messiaen*	