



WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

Services and Music May 2026

I have been in a number of conversations, lately, about what is distinctive about Cathedrals. There are many ways to answer that, but almost always, the conversation includes reference to the English Choral Tradition. And almost inevitably, in that conversation, someone will say, 'but why do we do it? It's so expensive.'

Chances are if you're reading this, you know exactly why we do it, but let me try naming it anyway.

We do this because making music is 'distinctly human' — part of the very movement of human beings that is bound up culturally, emotionally, and even in terms of brain structure — with the very same things that make us seek God, and that give us the capacity to reflect and find language for our experience of God. We do it because Christianity is about learning to become fully human, and music is part of this.

We do it because this is the faith that formed us. When the choir sing, we are visible, tangibly, audibly set in continuity with the community of faith that has been singing here since the late 7th century. We are stepping into a tradition of people learning to sing, learning to pray, learning to listen to God and each other, as we synchronise breath. The sounds that fill this building have evolved here — from rough lines of plainsong, to the rich tradition of music held in the Antiphoner, to all the upheavals of Reformation which were wonderfully, ironically, soothed by creative perseverance of composers who knew that the offering they made to God mattered more than what language it was set in, or what theological wars were raging.

We do this because we are committed to an embodied faith, rooted in an ancient tradition, and always being made anew. And we do it because in a world where music is too often seen as a luxury, we say it's not. It is of the essence. It is who we are.

Kimberly Bohan

Dean:
Director of Music:

Stephen Edwards
Samuel Hudson

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

April/May 2026

Wednesday 29th

**Catherine of Siena,
Teacher of the Faith, 1380**

7.30 am	Morning Prayer	Psalms 119.57-80
8.00 am	Holy Communion <i>(with livestream)</i>	
1.00 pm	Holy Communion	
5.30 pm	Evensong <i>(sung by the Choral Scholars)</i>	Responses: Plainsong
	Plainsong Canticles	Psalms 59, 60, 67
	Pascha nostrum <i>Conrad Rein</i>	

VERSE: DECANI

Thursday 30th

7.30 am	Morning Prayer	Psalms 56, 57, 63
12.15 pm	Lunchtime Recital	Nicholas Freestone (organ)
8.00 am	Holy Communion <i>(with livestream)</i>	
2.00 pm	Memorial Service for Marietta Lougee	
5.30 pm	Evening Prayer	Psalms 61, 62, 64

Friday 1st May

Philip and James, Apostles

Day of music endowed by Les and Carol West.

7.30 am	Morning Prayer	Psalms 139, 146
8.00 am	Holy Communion <i>(with livestream)</i>	
11.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
5.30 pm	Evensong attended by King's Scholars	Responses: Tomkins
	The Fauxbourdon Service <i>Percy Whitlock</i>	Psalms 149
	This joyful Eastertide <i>William Harris</i>	Hymns 164, 381
7.30 pm	Concert	B*Witched
	B*Witched – The Ripped Jeans Tour	

Saturday 2nd

**Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria,
Teacher of the Faith, 373**

7.30 am	Morning Prayer	Psalms 68
8.00 am	Holy Communion <i>(with livestream)</i>	
5.30 pm	Evensong	Responses: Reading
	New College Service <i>Herbert Howells</i>	Psalms 65, 66
	The Song of Solomon <i>Ian Venables</i>	Hymns 247, 423ii
7.30 pm	Concert	Boyzlife
	Boyzlife Live	

May 2026

In Residence: The Dean

Sunday 3rd

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

- 7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalm 30
- 8.00 am **Holy Communion** (BCP) (*with livestream*) Preacher: The Dean
- 10.30 am **Sung Eucharist**
Missa Brevis Sancti Joannis de Deo *Joseph Haydn* Psalm 31.1-6
Os justi Anton Bruckner Preacher: The Revd Canon Kimberly Bohan
- 3.00 pm **Worship in the Garden**
entering the garden through the 'deliveries' doorway outside the Edgar Tower gate.
- 4.00 pm **Evensong** Responses: Tomkins
The Three Choirs Service *Bob Chilcott* Psalm 147.1-11
In exitu Israel Samuel Wesley Hymns 108, 362
- 6.30 pm **Evening Worship** (*sung by the Voluntary Choir*)
Jesus is Lord Martin How
A Jubilant Song Mary Lynn Lightfoot
Preacher: The Revd Dr Mark Dorsett
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Monday 4th

English Saints and Martyrs of the Reformation Era

- 7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalm 71
- 8.00 am **Holy Communion** (*with livestream*)
- 5.30 pm **Evensong** (*sung by the University of Birmingham Liturgical Choir*)
Evening Service in D *George Dyson* Responses: *Clucas*
Antiphon Ralph Vaughan Williams Psalms 72, 75

Tuesday 5th

Day of music endowed in memory of Roger Brooks.

- 7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalm 73
- 8.00 am **Holy Communion** (*with livestream*)
- 5.30 pm **Evening Prayer** Psalm 74

May 2026

Wednesday 6th

7.30 am	Morning Prayer	Psalm 77
8.00 am	Holy Communion <i>(with livestream)</i>	
1.00 pm	Holy Communion	
5.30 pm	Evensong <i>(sung by the Choral Scholars)</i>	Responses: Plainsong
	Plainsong Canticles	Psalm 119.81-104
	<i>Haec dies Thomas Morley</i>	

VERSE: CANTORIS

Thursday 7th

7.30 am	Morning Prayer	Psalm 78.1-39
8.00 am	Holy Communion <i>(with livestream)</i>	
12.15 pm	Lunchtime Recital	Allan Walker (organ)
5.30 pm	Evensong	Responses: Wheeler
	<i>The Alfrick Service Peter Nardone</i>	Psalm 78.41-end
	<i>Since by man came death George Frideric Handel</i>	

Friday 8th **Julian of Norwich, Spiritual Writer, c. 1417**

7.30 am	Morning Prayer	Psalm 55
8.00 am	Holy Communion <i>(with livestream)</i>	
11.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
5.30 pm	Evensong <i>(Lower voices)</i>	Responses: Bertalot
	<i>The Worcester Service Piers Connor Kennedy</i>	Psalm 69
	<i>Exsultate justi Lodovico da Viadana</i>	

Saturday 9th

7.30 am	Morning Prayer	Psalms 76, 79
8.00 am	Holy Communion <i>(with livestream)</i>	
5.30 pm	Evensong	Responses: Leighton
	<i>Evening Service in B minor Hugh Blair</i>	Psalms 81, 84
	<i>Easter Ralph Vaughan Williams</i>	Hymns 107, 363
7.30 pm	Concert	Worcestershire Symphony Orchestra
	<i>Symphony no. 9 'Choral' Ludwig van Beethoven</i>	WSO Voices
	<i>Violin Concerto Johannes Brahms</i>	
	<i>I was glad C. Hubert H. Parry</i>	

May 2026

In Residence: The Revd Canon Kimberly Bohan

Sunday 10th

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

- 7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalm 73.21-28
- 8.00 am **Holy Communion** (BCP) (*with livestream*)
Preacher: The Revd Canon Kimberly Bohan
- 10.30 am **Sung Eucharist**
Missa Brevis *Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina* Psalm 66.7-end
If ye love me Thomas Tallis Preacher: The Dean
- 4.00 pm **Evensong** (*sung by the Youth Choir*) Responses: *Ebdon*
Evening Service in D *Ernest Moeran* Psalm 87
The Lord hath been mindful of us *Samuel Sebastian Wesley*
Hymns 102, 483
- 6.30 pm **Evening Worship** (*sung by the Voluntary Choir*)
Truly the Lord is in this place *Peter Hurford*
As the bridegroom to his chosen *John Rutter* Preacher: The Dean
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Monday 11th

Rogation Day

- 7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalms 80, 82
- 8.00 am **Holy Communion** (*with livestream*)
- 11.00 am **Eucharist for Retired Clergy**
- 5.30 pm **Evensong** Responses: *Wheeler*
The Short Service *Nathaniel Patrick* Psalms 85, 86
Alleluia. I heard a voice *Thomas Weelkes*

Tuesday 12th

Rogation Day

- 7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalms 87, 89.1-18
- 8.00 am **Holy Communion** (*with livestream*)
- 5.30 pm **Evening Prayer** Psalm 89.20-end

May 2026

Wednesday 13th

Day of music endowed by Joan Harris.

7.30 am **Morning Prayer**

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

12.00 noon **Holy Communion for the Society of Catholic Priests**

1.00 pm **Holy Communion**

5.30 pm **Evensong** *(sung by the Choral Scholars)*

Plainsong Canticles

Viri Galilaei Heinrich Isaac

Rogation Day

Psalms 119.105-128

Responses: Plainsong

Psalms 15, 24

Hymn 128ii

VERSE: DECANI

Thursday 14th

7.30 am **Morning Prayer**

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

12.15 pm **Lunchtime Recital**

5.00 pm **Evening Prayer**

5.30 pm **Sung Eucharist** *(with incense)*

Communion Service in G *Francis Jackson*

O clap your hands *Ralph Vaughan Williams*

Preacher: The Revd Canon Andy Todd

Ascension Day

Psalms 110, 150

Brandon Roku Ali (piano)

Psalm 8

Psalm 47

Friday 15th

7.30 am **Morning Prayer**

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

11.30 am **Holy Communion** (BCP)

5.30 pm **Evensong**

Evening Service in A minor *Harold Darke*

O quam gloriosum *Tomás Luis de Victoria*

7.30 pm **Concert**

The Music of David Bowie by Candlelight

Matthias the Apostle

Psalms 16, 147.1-12

Responses: Wheeler

Psalm 80

Hymn 165 (t. 318)

Concerts by Candlelight

Saturday 16th

7.30 am **Morning Prayer**

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

5.30 pm **Evening Prayer**

7.30 pm **Concert**

The music of Pink Floyd by Candlelight

Psalms 96, 97, 100

Psalm 104

Concerts by Candlelight

May 2026

Wednesday 20th **Alcuin of York, Deacon, Abbot, 804**

Day of music endowed anonymously in gratitude for the musicians of the Three Choirs Festival.

7.30 am	Morning Prayer	Psalms 110, 111, 112
8.00 am	Holy Communion <i>(with livestream)</i>	
1.00 pm	Holy Communion	
5.30 pm	Evensong <i>(sung by the Choral Scholars)</i>	Responses: Plainsong
	Plainsong Canticles	Psalms 119.129-152
	Non conturbetur cor vestrum <i>Pierre de Manchicourt</i>	

VERSE: CANTORIS

Thursday 21st

Day of music endowed by Richard Spalding.

7.30 am	Morning Prayer	Psalms 113, 115
8.00 am	Holy Communion <i>(with livestream)</i>	
12.15 pm	Lunchtime Recital	Jake Scicinski (organ)
5.30 pm	Evensong	Responses: <i>Smith</i>
	Evening Service in D <i>Charles Wood</i>	Psalms 114, 116, 117
	Antiphon <i>Ralph Vaughan Williams</i>	
7.00 pm	Concert (Old Palace) The Choral Scholars of Worcester Cathedral	
	An Evening with the Choral Scholars	

Friday 22nd

7.30 am	Morning Prayer	Psalms 139
8.00 am	Holy Communion <i>(with livestream)</i>	
11.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
5.30 pm	Evensong <i>(Lower voices)</i>	Responses: <i>Bertalot</i>
	Secundi et quinti toni <i>Orlande de Lassus</i>	Psalms 130, 131, 137
	<i>Viri Galilaei William Byrd</i>	

Saturday 23rd

7.30 am	Morning Prayer	Psalms 120, 121, 122
8.00 am	Holy Communion <i>(with livestream)</i>	
2.00 pm	Baptism	
5.30 pm	Evensong <i>(sung by the Choir of All Saints' Church, West Ham)</i>	
	Evening Service in A <i>Samuel Arnold</i>	Responses: <i>Westoby</i>
	I give to you a new commandment <i>Peter Nardone</i>	Psalms 48
		Hymns 138, 140

May 2026

In Residence: The Revd Canon Kimberly Bohan

Sunday 24th

Pentecost

7.30 am **Morning Prayer**

Psalm 87

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

Preacher: The Dean

10.30 am **Sung Eucharist** *(sung by the Choir of All Saints' Church, West Ham)*
(with incense)

The New Service *Jon Cullen*

Psalm 104.24-end

It is well with my soul *arr. Mack Wilberg*

Preacher: The Revd Canon Kimberly Bohan

4.00 pm **Evensong** *(sung by the Choir of All Saints' Church, West Ham)*

Evening Service in A *William Harris*

Responses: *Sanders*

Irish Blessing *Bob Chilcott*

Psalms 67, 133

Hymns 367ii, 431

Monday 25th

The Venerable Bede, Monk, Scholar, Historian, 735

7.30 am **Morning Prayer**

Psalms 123, 124, 125, 126

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

5.30 pm **Evening Prayer**

Psalms 127, 128, 129

Tuesday 26th Augustine, first Archbishop of Canterbury, 605

7.30 am **Morning Prayer**

Psalms 132, 133

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

5.30 pm **Evening Prayer**

Psalms 134, 135

May 2026

Wednesday 27th

7.30 am	Morning Prayer	Psalm 119.153-end
8.00 am	Holy Communion <i>(with livestream)</i>	
1.00 pm	Holy Communion	
5.30 pm	Evening Prayer	Psalm 136
7.15 pm	Elgar for Everyone Concert	ESO Youth Ensembles Musicians of the English Symphony Orchestra
	<i>Music to include</i>	Zeb Soanes (presenter)
	Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra	<i>Benjamin Britten</i>
	Chanson de Matin	<i>Edward Elgar</i>
	Themes from Pomp and Circumstance Marches no. 1 and no. 4	<i>Edward Elgar</i>

VERSE: DECANI

Thursday 28th

7.30 am	Morning Prayer	Psalms 143, 146
8.00 am	Holy Communion <i>(with livestream)</i>	
5.30 pm	Evening Prayer	Psalms 138, 140, 141

Friday 29th

7.30 am	Morning Prayer	Psalms 142, 144
8.00 am	Holy Communion <i>(with livestream)</i>	
11.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
5.30 pm	Evening Prayer	Psalm 145
7.30 pm	Concert	English Symphony Orchestra
	Reaching for the Stars – Great British Tone Poems	
	Tintagel	<i>Arnold Bax</i>
	Falstaff	<i>Edward Elgar</i>
	The Planets	<i>Gustav Holst</i>

May 2026

Saturday 30th Josephine Butler, Social Reformer, 1906

- 7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalm 147
- 8.00 am **Holy Communion** (*with livestream*)
- 5.30 pm **Elgar Festival Evensong** (*sung by the Chamber Choir*)
Evening Service in G *Paul Paviour* Responses: *Briggs*
I saw the Lord John Stainer Psalms 97, 98
Hymns 393, 427
- 7.30 pm **Elgar Festival Gala Concert** English Symphony Orchestra
The Seasons Thea Musgrave
Cello Concerto Edward Elgar, arr Lionel Tertis
The Black Knight Edward Elgar
Imperial March Edward Elgar

In Residence: The Dean

Sunday 31st

Trinity Sunday

- 7.30 am **Morning Prayer** Psalm 86.8-13
- 8.00 am **Holy Communion** (BCP) (*with livestream*)
Preacher: The Revd Canon Kimberly Bohan
- 10.30 am **Sung Eucharist** (*sung by the Chamber Choir; with incense*)
Collegium Regale Herbert Howells Psalm 8
O salutaris hostia Edward Elgar Preacher: The Revd Dr Robin Parry
- 4.00 pm **Elgar Festival Evensong with Wreath-Laying**
by the Elgar Society (*sung by the Chamber Choir*) Responses: *Briggs*
Evening Service in D *George Dyson* Psalms 93, 150
Great is the Lord Edward Elgar
They are at rest Edward Elgar Hymns 358ii, 373
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