Southwell Minster

CHRISTMAS 2026



Southwell Minster
Cathedral ♦ Gardens ♦ Palace

www.southwellminster.org
SouthwellMinster



A message from our Dean, Stephen Evans

"And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary", Luke 1:30

In an increasingly anxious and troubling world, it is good to be able to hear again the message of the angel to Mary, a message not to be afraid. Through Mary's trust in God, God's very self takes flesh and comes to live with us, among us, beside us. Through readings, carols, concerts and our other events this year, we pray that we shall all come to find the Prince of Peace who lies cradled in his mother's arms and to know more about the 'Great Little One' who brings heaven to earth and earth to heaven. Please come and join us at the Minster this Advent and Christmastime and through Jesus may you know God's loving embrace. Happy Christmas!

These services will be live-streamed on our YouTube channel

Sunday 29 November

Cathedral Eucharist for Advent Sunday

10am, Nave

Sunday 29 November

Darkness to Light:

The Cathedral Advent Procession

6.30pm, Nave



This atmospheric service begins in darkness, building up to a glorious light as the coming of Jesus is foretold. In word and music, themes of prophecy and expectation come together, pointing the way towards the salvation of the world. Beautiful music is sung by the Cathedral Choir, whose journey through the building reminds us of our own spiritual journey towards the light of Christ, in anticipation of the glories of Christmas. *Entry is not ticketed; however early arrival is advised.*

Friday 4 December

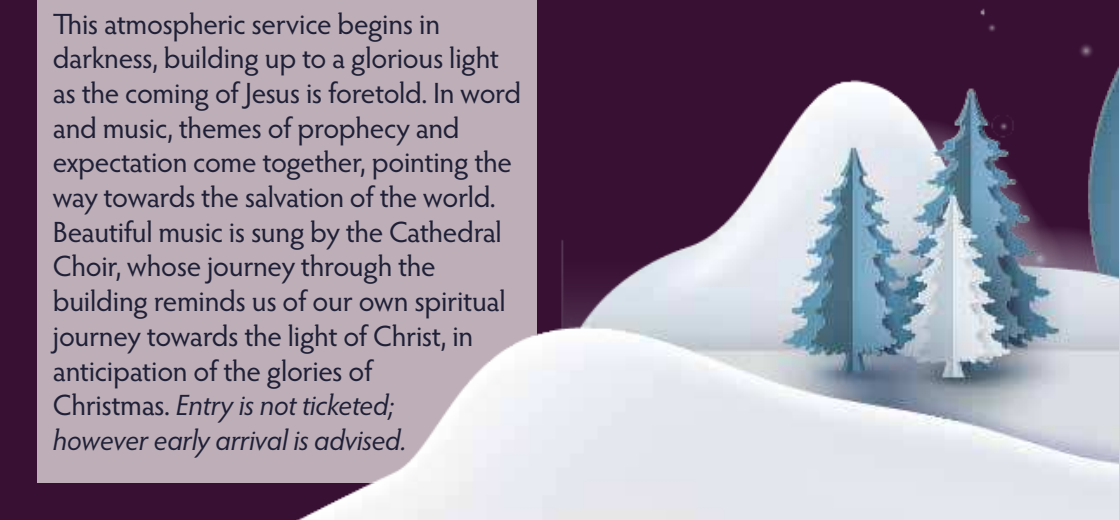
Framework Carol Service

Framework
For your future

7pm, Nave

Raising funds to help homeless people in Nottinghamshire, this special service will include favourite carols to sing, contributions from the Minster Chorale and seasonal refreshments afterwards.

To reserve a free seat go to **www.frameworkha.org/events** or call **0115 970 9558.**



Saturday 5 December

Southwell and District Lions Club 'Carols for Everyone'

7.30pm, Nave

Tickets available from The Cathedral Shop.

Tuesday 8 December

Southwell Minster Choir Association presents Handel's *Messiah*

7pm, Nave

The famous oratorio *Messiah* will be performed by Southwell Minster Chorale, students from the Minster School and the Musical & Amicable Society, together with internationally renowned soloists.

This ever-popular work includes the exciting Hallelujah Chorus, as well as a selection of beautiful arias and choruses telling the Christmas story, continuing through to the season of Easter.

Please note that this is a ticketed event. Tickets available from **ticketsource.co.uk** *(search for Handel's Messiah Southwell). As an annual performance this event has become very popular, so early booking is advised.*

Thursday 10 December

Joint Emergency Services Carol Service

7.30pm, Nave

Saturday 12 December

Southwell Music Festival Christmas Concert

7.30pm, Nave

Tickets available from **www.southwellmusicfestival.com**

Sunday 13 December

Christingle

5pm, Nave

The Christingle service is an unmissable milestone for families on the journey to Christmas. All welcome for oranges, candles, and carols.





Sunday 13 December

Carols in the State Chamber

7.30pm, The Archbishop's Palace

Join Mosaic, a six-part vocal ensemble, for an evening of carols in the atmospheric setting of the State Chamber. This ever-popular event will be accompanied by drinks and nibbles for the festive season, and everyone will have the chance to sing some Christmas favourites! *Tickets £12 (U18s free); to book, please contact Jonathan Allsopp at* **adom@southwellminster.org.uk**

Sunday 20 December

Messiaen: *La Nativité* Organ Meditation

4.30pm, Quire

Monday 21 December

Blue Christmas

2pm, Chapter House

Christmas is not a happy time for everyone. Blue Christmas recognises that. It is a reflective, supportive service for people experiencing grief, loss, or loneliness. Held on the longest night of the year, it acknowledges the trauma and pain that many people carry, and dares to hope for light in the darkness.

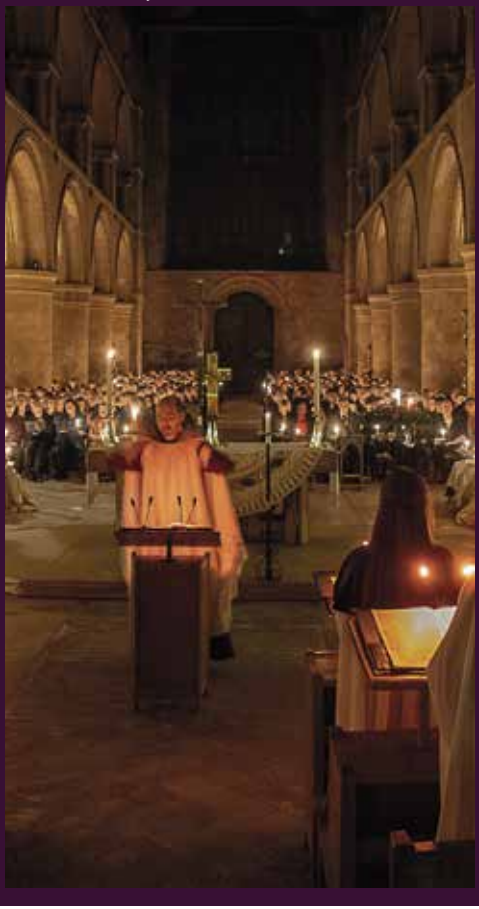


Wednesday 23 /
Thursday 24 December

The Cathedral Carol Service

7pm, Nave

Our Cathedral Carol Service follows the traditional pattern of the famous service at King's College, Cambridge. As well as hearing choral music sung by the Cathedral Choir, there is the chance to sing well-known Christmas carols in a joyful and uplifting setting. The journey to Bethlehem, birth of Jesus, adoration of the shepherds and the coming of the Magi are all part of this festive service of readings and music. *Entry is not ticketed; however early arrival is advised.*



CHRISTMAS EVE

Crib Service

2pm, Nave

The Minster's Crib Service is a fabulous opportunity for families to get into the Christmas spirit, with carols led by a folk band with help from the younger Cathedral Choristers, and the chance for children to dress up as characters from the Christmas story.

Christmas Eve Evensong

3.30pm, Quire

A beautiful traditional service beginning to turn the corner from Advent into Christmas. Sung by the Cathedral Choir.

Eucharist of Christmas Night

11.15pm, Nave

Preacher: The Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham

The first Eucharist of Christmas, this service is popular the world over. As we gather in the depths of night, we celebrate the dawning of a glorious light in the birth of Christ. Music sung by Southwell Minster Chorale with well-known Christmas hymns.



CHRISTMAS DAY

Holy Communion

8am, Quire
With carols.

Cathedral Eucharist

10am, Nave

Our principal Eucharist for Christmas Day is a service for all ages, with music sung by the Cathedral Choir, as well as familiar Christmas hymns.

Festal Mattins

11.15am, Quire

Festal Mattins is sung by the Cathedral Choir, with uplifting music by Wood, Britten, and Owens. Another chance to sing some Christmas hymns, and rejoice in the festive atmosphere of the Minster at Christmas.

Evening Prayer with Carols

3.30pm, Quire

On Christmas Day afternoon, Evening Prayer offers a moment of stillness after the joyful festivities, as well as an opportunity to sing some more carols.



Monday 30 November 2026 – Sunday 3 January 2027

Children's Trail for Advent and Christmas

This free interactive trail for families and children takes visitors around the Cathedral hunting for images which help us to understand the Christmas story. Trail maps are available from Minster stewards at the information desk.

Wednesday 6 January 2027, Epiphany

Sung Eucharist

7.30pm, Quire

Sunday 10 January 2027

The Three Miracles: The Cathedral Epiphany Procession

3.30pm, Nave

Continuing the season of the Nativity, this service explores the Coming of the Magi, the Baptism of Christ, and the Miracle at the Wedding in Cana. Choir and congregation move together round the Minster, as the building helps us tell the story.

Friday 29 January 2027

Southwell Minster Choristers sing *A Ceremony of Carols*

12.45pm-1.30pm, Nave

Britten *A Ceremony of Carols*. As part of the Friday Lunchtime at the Cathedral series, the Cathedral Choristers, with Thea Butterworth (harp), perform Benjamin Britten's timeless *A Ceremony of Carols*, alongside other music for the festive season. *Entry is not ticketed; however, early arrival is advised.*

Sunday 31 January 2027, Candlemas

Patronal Festival Eucharist

10am, Nave

The beautiful feast of Candlemas brings the traditional 40 days of Christmas to an end. We begin to look forward to Lent, blessed by the Light of Christ.

FULL CALENDAR OF SERVICES AND EVENTS

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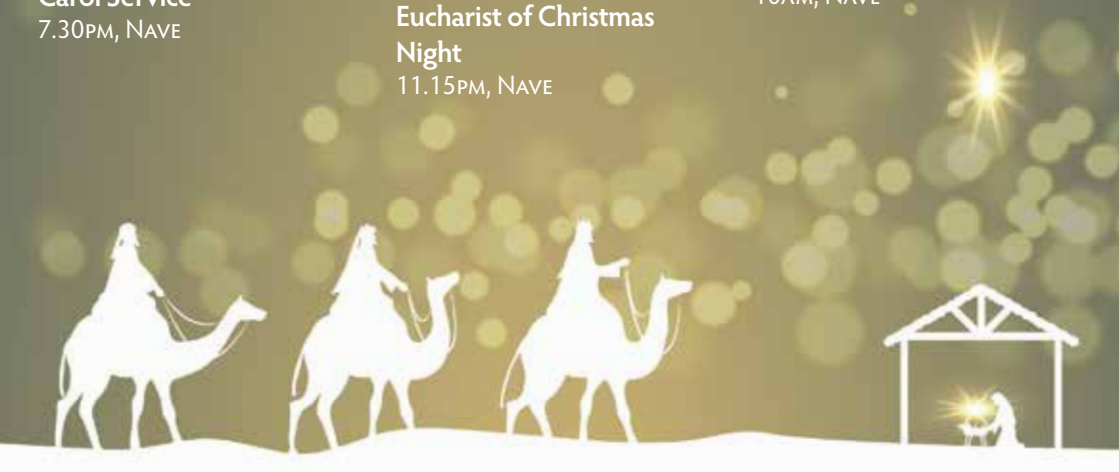
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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham