

OCTOBER 2026

Services & Music



BRISTOL CATHEDRAL

The
LORD MAYOR'S CHAPEL

Here
with
you,
yesterday,
today,
and tomorrow

From the Dean acting as Canon for Worship

We complete the Season of Creation by celebrating the Feast of St Francis on 4th October. St Francis opened the eyes of his brothers and sisters to their dependence on, and solidarity with, the whole of the created order, so it is extremely fitting to be celebrating his feast on the last Sunday of the Season of Creation. I am delighted that we shall be welcoming Rev Dr Harriet Harries, Principal of Ripon College Cuddesdon, as our preacher at the 10am Eucharist.

October gives us a short period of “ordinary time” before we enter the Kingdom Season in November. It is an important period of learning and consolidation for our choirs, ending in a well-deserved break at half term - when Evensong will be replaced by Evening Prayer.

On Tuesday 6th October at 5.30pm the Cathedral will be filled for our service to mark the beginning of the Legal Year. On this occasion we welcome those involved in all aspects of law to rededicate themselves in the service of justice. The High Sheriff will be focussing on the importance of social justice and there will be contributions from Preludes, a Bristol children’s choir.

Our own children’s choir, Songbirds, will be singing at Evensong on Monday 19th October. Do come and support them!

Finally, do note our regular recitals which take place most Tuesday lunchtimes. We are particularly featuring our newly restored organ at the moment, with many superb visiting organists enjoying playing this “Rolls Royce” of instruments.

The Very Revd Dr Mandy Ford
Acting as Canon for Worship

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday 27 September

7.40am Morning Prayer

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (*Preacher: The Dean*)

10.00am **Cathedral Eucharist**

<i>Preacher</i>	<i>The Rev Sharon Roberts, Hon Minor Canon</i>	Hymns
<i>Setting</i>	Francis Jackson in G	The God who set <i>Ellacombe</i> NEH 117
<i>Motet</i>	Ubi Caritas <i>Maurice Duruflé</i>	492 <i>Kings Lynn</i>
<i>Voluntary</i>	Creation Dance <i>Neil Cox</i>	The works of the Lord NEH 208 <i>St Catherine's Court</i>

3.30pm **Choral Evensong** with Installation of Honorary Canons

<i>Preacher</i>	<i>The Acting Bishop of Bristol</i>	
<i>Responses</i>	<i>William Smith</i>	Psalm 132
<i>Canticles</i>	<i>Peter Aston in F</i>	Hymns
<i>Anthem</i>	Evening Hymn <i>Henry Balfour Gardiner</i>	333 <i>Michael</i>
<i>Voluntary</i>	Imperial March <i>Edward Elgar</i>	137 <i>Down Ampney</i> <i>Great is Thy Faithfulness</i>

28 Monday *Feria*

Verses | *Decani*

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

5.15pm First **Choral Evensong** of Michael and All Angels

<i>Responses</i>	<i>William Smith</i>	Psalm 91
<i>Canticles</i>	Sixth Service <i>Thomas Weelkes</i>	Hymn 190 <i>Coelites plaudant</i>
<i>Anthem</i>	Let all mortal flesh keep silence <i>Edward Bairstow</i>	

29 Tuesday Michael and All Angels

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

1.15pm **Lunchtime Recital** Paul Gunn Cello Trio

5.15pm **Choral Evensong**

Responses John Reading

Psalm 148

Canticles Sydney Watson in E

Hymn 191 Solothurn

Anthem Factum est silentium Richard Dering

30 Wednesday Jerome, Translator of the Scriptures, Teacher of the Faith, 420

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

5.15pm **Choral Evensong** sung by the Boy Choristers

Responses Tim Noon

Psalm 144

Canticles Herbert Sumsion in G

Hymn 372 Monks Gate

Anthem Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness G F Handel

October

1 Thursday Remigius, Bishop of Rheims, Apostle of the Franks, 533;

Anthony Ashley Cooper, Earl of Shaftesbury, Social Reformer, 1885

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

5.15pm Evening Prayer

Psalm 4, 5

2 Friday Feria

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

5.15pm **Choral Evensong** sung by the Lay Clerks

Responses Paul Edwards

Psalms 10, 11

Canticles Evening Service Paul Edwards

Hymn 457 Dominus Regit me

Anthem Ubi Caritas Philip Moore

3 Saturday George Bell, Bishop of Chichester, 1958

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

5.15pm **Choral Evensong** sung by Melbourne Parish Church Choir, Derbyshire

Responses Philip Radcliffe

Psalm 17

Canticles Herbert Sumsion in A

Hymn 345 Vulpus

Anthem Jubilate Deo Herbert Howells

(Gelobt sei Gott)

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday 4 October

7.40am Morning Prayer

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (Preacher: Revd Canon Neil Patterson, Vice Dean)

10.00am **Cathedral Eucharist**

Preacher	The Revd Dr Harriet Harries, Principal Ripon College Cuddesdon	Hymns
Setting	Missa Brevis Grayston Ives	263 Lasst uns erfruen
Motet	Ave Maris Stella Edvard Grieg	296 St Helen
Voluntary	Final (Symphonie 2) Louis Vierne	When God almighty came to earth, Waly Waly

11.00am **Choral Mattins** (BCP) in the Lord Mayor's Chapel

Preacher	The Revd Simon Goodman, curate St Mary Redcliffe	Venite (320)
Introit	Peace I leave with you Amy Beach	Psalm 122 (328)
Responses	John Sanders	Hymns
Te Deum	Set 4	388 Truro
Jubilate	Morning Service in F John Ireland	370 Falcon Street
Anthem	O for a closer walk with God Charles Villiers Stanford	408 Blaenwern
Voluntary	Carillon de Longpont Op. 31, No. 21 Louis Vierne	

3.30pm **Choral Evensong**

Preacher	The Revd Tatjana Ljujić	
Responses	Humphrey Clucas	Psalm 136.1-9
Canticles	Collegium Regale Charles Wood	Hymns HPP
Anthem	Hail gladdening light Charles Wood	449 Maria jung und zart
Voluntary	Postlude on a theme of Gibbons Charles Villiers Stanford	248 Solothurn

5 Monday *Feria*

Verses | Cantoris

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

5.15pm **Choral Evensong**

Responses	Richard Shephard	Psalm 26
Canticles	Herbert Sumsion in G	Hymn 248 Strength and Stay
Anthem	Jubilate Deo Benjamin Britten	

6 Tuesday William Tyndale, Translator of the Scriptures, Martyr, 1536

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

1.15pm **Lunchtime Recital** *Simon Hogan (Organ)*

5.30pm **Choral Evensong** to mark the beginning of the legal year

Responses *Humphrey Clucas*

Psalm 148

Magnificat *St John's Service Jonathan Dove*

Hymns

Anthem *Valiant-for-Truth Ralph Vaughan Williams*

436 *Praise my soul*

Voluntary *Carillon de Longpont Op. 31, No. 21 Louis Vierne*

353 *Repton*

7 Wednesday *Feria*

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

5.15pm **Choral Evensong** *sung by the Girl Choristers*

Responses *June Nixon*

Psalm 36

Canticles *Canterbury Service Philip Moore*

Hymn 415 *Oxford New*

Anthem *The Father's love Simon Lole*

8 Thursday *Feria*

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

5.15pm Evening Prayer

Psalm 40

9 Friday *Denys, Bishop of Paris, and his Companions, Martyrs, c.250;*

Robert Grosseteste, Bishop of Lincoln, Philosopher, Scientist, 1253

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

5.15pm **Choral Evensong** *sung by the Lay Clerks*

Responses *Frikki Walker*

Psalms 45, 46

Canticles *Service in 3 parts William Mundy*

Hymn 456 *Sandys*

Anthem *Let us now laud William Mundy*

10 Saturday Paulinus, Bishop of York, Missionary, 644

Thomas Traherne, Poet, Spiritual Writer, 1674

8.15am Morning Prayer

10.30am Licensing of Lay Ministers (*special Order of Service*)

12.30pm Eucharist

5.15pm **Choral Evensong** *sung by Christ Church, Swindon*

Responses *Robert Jones*

Psalms 51, 52

Canticles *Robert Jones in B flat*

Hymn 459 *Crimmond*

Anthem *All Wisdom Cometh from the Lord Philip Moore*

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday 11 October

7.40am Morning Prayer

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (*Preacher: The Dean*)

10.00am **Cathedral Eucharist**

<i>Preacher</i>	<i>The Dean</i>	Hymns
<i>Setting</i>	Charles Villiers Stanford in C & F God is our strength, <i>Ein Fest Burg</i> (444)	
<i>Motet</i>	Beati quorum via <i>Charles Villiers Stanford</i>	457 <i>Dominus regit me</i>
<i>Voluntary</i>	Obangiji Fela Sowande	361 <i>Deo Gratias</i>

3.30pm **Choral Evensong**

<i>Preacher</i>	<i>The Revd Canon Neil Patterson, Vice Dean</i>	
<i>Responses</i>	<i>Richard Shephard</i>	Psalm 139.1-11
<i>Canticles</i>	Francis Jackson in G	Hymns NEH
<i>Anthem</i>	Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks <i>Herbert Howells</i>	242 <i>St Peter</i>
<i>Voluntary</i>	Paeon <i>Herbert Howells</i>	467 <i>Wiltshire</i>

12 Monday Wilfrid of Ripon, Bishop, Missionary, 709

Verses / Decani

Elizabeth Fry, Prison Reformer, 1845

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

5.15pm **Choral Evensong**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Richard Shephard</i>	Psalm 63
<i>Canticles</i>	<i>Henry Purcell</i> in B flat	Hymn 486 <i>Fulda</i>
<i>Anthem</i>	O salutaris hostia <i>Thomas Tallis</i>	

13 Tuesday Edward the Confessor, King of England, 1066

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

1.15pm **Lunchtime Recital** Carolyn Craig (Organ)

5.15pm **Choral Evensong**

Responses Humphrey Clucas

Canticles Second Service William Byrd

Anthem Justorum animae William Byrd

Psalm 68.19-35 (*21-23)

Hymn 408 Blaenwern

120 Maccabeus

14 Wednesday Feria

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

5.15pm **Choral Evensong** sung by the Boy Choristers

Responses David Terry

Canticles Kenneth Long in F

Anthem O for a closer walk with God Anthony Caesar

Psalm 72.1-7

Hymn 341 Franconia

15 Thursday Teresa of Avila, Teacher of the Faith, 1582

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

5.15pm Evening Prayer

Psalm 77

16 Friday Nicolas Ridley, Bishop and Hugh Latimer, Bishop, Martyrs, 1555

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

5.15pm **Choral Evensong** sung by the Lay Clerks

Responses Bernard Rose

Canticles Charles Wood in E

Anthem Honestum fecit Jacob Handl

Psalms 80, 81

Hymn HPP 258 Holmcultren

17 Saturday Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, Martyr, c.107

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

5.15pm First Evening Prayer of Luke the Evangelist

Psalm 33

LUKE THE EVANGELIST

Sunday 18 October

7.40am Morning Prayer

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (Preacher: Revd Paul Barrett)

10.00am **Cathedral Eucharist** sung by the Consort

<i>Preacher</i>	<i>The Revd Canon Neil Patterson, Vice Dean</i>	Hymns
<i>Setting</i>	<i>Collegium Regale Herbert Howells</i>	471 Quam Dilecta
<i>Motet</i>	<i>Peace I leave with you Amy Beach</i>	St Luke Beloved Physician, Aurelia
<i>Voluntary</i>	<i>Concert Overture in c Alfred Hollins</i>	(NEH 167)
		329 Swahili

11.00am **Choral Mattins** (BCP) in the Lord Mayor's Chapel

<i>Preacher</i>	<i>The Revd Paul Barrett</i>	Venite (371)
<i>Introit</i>	<i>Exultate Justi Lodovico Viadana</i>	Psalm 147.1-6 (384)
<i>Responses</i>	<i>John Readings</i>	Hymns
<i>Te Deum</i>	<i>Set 5</i>	373 Coe Fen
<i>Jubilate</i>	<i>Morning Service in F John Ireland</i>	346 Richmond
<i>Anthem</i>	<i>Ave Verum Corpus Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart</i>	485 Thornbury
<i>Voluntary</i>	<i>Canzon Quarti Toni Dopo il Post Comune</i> <i>(Messa delli Apostoli) Girolamo Frescobaldi</i>	

3.30pm **Choral Evensong** on Sea Sunday

<i>Preacher</i>	<i>Revd Jeremy Hellier, Hon Chaplain to Royal Portbury & Avonmouth Dock</i>	
<i>Responses</i>	<i>Samuel Bristow</i>	Psalm 103
<i>Canticles</i>	<i>Charles Wood in D</i>	Hymns NEH
<i>Anthem</i>	<i>They that go down to the sea in ships Herbert Sumsion</i>	393 Mannheim
<i>Voluntary</i>	<i>Postlude in g Charles Villers Stanford</i>	354 Melita

19 Monday Henry Martyn, Translator of the Scriptures, Missionary, 1812
(BCP Twentieth Sunday after Trinity)

Verses | Cantoris

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

5.15pm **Choral Evensong** with Songbirds

<i>Introit</i>	<i>Brother James's Air Trad arr Gordon Jacob</i>	
<i>Responses</i>	<i>Richard Shephard</i>	Psalm 97
<i>Canticles</i>	<i>Hereford Service Richard Lloyd</i>	Hymn 368 Cwm Rhondda
<i>Anthem</i>	<i>Let all the world in every corner sing Ralph Vaughan Williams</i>	

20 Tuesday *Feria*

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

1.15pm **Lunchtime Recital** *Christopher Jones (Organ)*

5.15pm **Choral Evensong**

Responses Humphrey Clucas

Psalm 103.1-10

Canticles Herbert Murrill in E

Hymn 359 *Duke Street* (NEH 322)

Anthem Abendlied Joseph Rheinberger

21 Wednesday *Feria*

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

5.15pm **Choral Evensong** *sung by the Girl Choristers*

Responses Peter Nardone

Psalm 105.23-36

Canticles Alan Ridout in E

Hymn 349 *Nativity*

Anthem Prevent us, O Lord *Alan Ridout*

22 Thursday *Feria*

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

5.15pm Evening Prayer

Psalm 107.23-43

23 Friday *Feria*

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

5.15pm Evening Prayer

Psalm 112, 113

24 Saturday *Feria*

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

5.15pm Evening Prayer

Psalm 118

LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
BCP Twenty First Sunday after Trinity
Sunday 25 October

7.40am Morning Prayer

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (*Preacher: The Dean*)

10.00am **Cathedral Eucharist** with baptisms sung by the University of Bristol Chamber Choir

<i>Preacher</i>	<i>The Revd Tatjana Ljujić</i>	Hymns
<i>Setting</i>	<i>The Warren Mass Raymond Warren</i>	352 <i>Diademata</i>
<i>Motet</i>	<i>Ubi Caritas Ola Gjeilo</i>	408 <i>Blaenwern</i>

Be still for the presence of the Lord

3.30pm **Choral Evensong** sung by the University of Bristol Chamber Choir

<i>Preacher</i>	<i>The Rev Sharon Roberts</i>	
<i>Responses</i>	<i>Herbert Sumsion</i>	Psalm 119.89-104
<i>Canticles</i>	<i>St Paul's Service Herbert Howells</i>	Hymns NEH
<i>Anthem</i>	<i>And I saw a new heaven Edgar Bainton</i>	407 <i>Ravenshaw</i>

427 *Laudate dominum*

26 Monday Alfred the Great, King of the West Saxons, Scholar, 899
Cedd, Abbot of Lastingham, Bishop of the East Saxons, 664

Verses | Decani

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

5.15pm Evening Prayer

Psalm 119.129-144

27 Tuesday *Feria*

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

1.15pm **Lunchtime Recital** *Arnos Vocale*

5.15pm First Evening Prayer of Simon and Jude, Apostles

Psalms 124, 125, 126

28 Wednesday Simon and Jude, Apostles

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

5.15pm Evening Prayer

Psalm 119. 1-16

29 Thursday *James Hannington, Bishop of Eastern Equatorial Africa, Martyr in Uganda, 1885*

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

5.15pm Evening Prayer

Psalm 140, 141

30 Friday *Martin Luther, Reformer, 1546*

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

5.15pm Evening Prayer

Psalm 144, 145

31 Saturday *Feria*

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

1.30pm **Lunchtime Recital** *Di voci women's choir*

5.15pm First Evening Prayer of All Saints' Day

Psalms 1, 5

ALL SAINTS' DAY

Sunday 1 November

7.40am Morning Prayer

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (*Preacher: Revd Canon Neil Patterson*)

10.00am **Cathedral Eucharist**

Preacher The Revd Mel Parkin

Hymns

Setting Mass of St Thomas David Thorne

197 *Sine Nomine*

231 *All Saints*

For All the Saints Tallis Canon (NEH 244)

Through Abraham and Moses Ellacombe (NEH 117)

11.00am **Choral Mattins** (BCP) *in the Lord Mayor's Chapel*

Preacher The Revd Jim Linthicum

Venite (101)

Introit O How Glorious Healey Willan

Psalm 33.1-5 (96)

Responses Richard Ayleward

Hymns

Te Deum Set 6

231 *All Saints*

Jubilate Morning Service in F John Ireland

225 *Song 67*

Anthem O quam Gloriosam Tomás Luis de Victoria

381 *Ewing*

Voluntary Toccata in F, BuxWV 157 Dietrich Buxtehude

3.30pm **Choral Evensong** *sung by the Lord Mayor's Chapel Choir*

Preacher The Dean

Responses John Sanders

Psalms 148, 150

Canticles Charles Villiers Stanford in C

Hymns NEH

Anthem And I saw a new heaven Edgar Bainton

476 *Padderborn*

Voluntary i. Allegro Maestoso, Sonata in G, Op. 28 Edward Elgar

381 *Ewing*

2 Monday *Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)*
(BCP Twenty Second Sunday after Trinity)

Verses | Cantoris

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

5.15pm Evening Prayer

Psalm 12, 13

6.00pm Requiem Eucharist† *sung by the Parish Choir of St Paul's, Clifton*

Hymns NEH

Requiem Gabriel Fauré

331 *Eventide*

Sing my soul, Gott will's machen (NEH 179)

625 *Finlandia*

3 Tuesday Richard Hooker, Priest, Anglican Apologist, Teacher of the Faith, 1600

Martin of Porres, Friar, 1639

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

1.15pm **Lunchtime Recital** *Jonathan Hope (Organ)*

5.15pm **Choral Evensong**

Responses Humphrey Clucas

Psalm 18.1-19

Canticles Michael Wise in F

Hymn 196 Kent

Anthem Jehova, quam multi sunt hostes mei Henry Purcell

4 Wednesday *Feria*

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

5.15pm **Choral Evensong** *sung by the Boy Choristers*

Responses Ian Fox

Psalm 22.1-21

Canticles John Wood in G

Hymn 372 *Monk's gate*

Anthem Lux Aeterna Nadia Boulanger transcr David Briggs

5 Thursday *Feria*

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

5.15pm Evening Prayer

Psalm 27

6 Friday *Leonard, Hermit, 6th Century;*

William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury, Teacher of the Faith, 1944

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

5.15pm **Choral Evensong** *sung by the Lay Clerks*

Responses Andrew Millington

Psalms 32, 33

Canticles Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina Tones iv & iii

Hymn 443 *Gopsal*

Anthem Sicut cervus Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

7 Saturday Willibrord of York, Bishop, Apostle of Frisia, 739

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

5.15pm Evening Prayer

Psalm 37.1-20

Services

Bible Translation

The Cathedral uses the NRSV Anglicised Edition translation of the bible for all services except BCP Holy Communion on Sundays. Reading selections are taken from the Common Worship Lectionary, with Evensong readings taken from the Pillar Lectionary. At the Lord Mayor's Chapel, the King James Version is used, and readings are taken from the BCP readings of the day.

Choir

Unless otherwise specified, all choral services are sung by the Cathedral Choir or, at the Lord Mayor's Chapel, the chapel choir.

Communion

If it is your custom to receive communion in your own church, you are welcome to receive here, whatever your denomination. You may choose not to receive wine from the common cup, recognising that some people are still vulnerable. For the safety of all please do not intinct (dip the bread/host) into the chalice.

Feast Days Key

On each day there is an indication of whether it is a day of significance.

The different significances are indicated as follows:

- *Feria (no commemoration or otherwise)*
- *Commemoration*
- Lesser Festival
- Festival
- **PRINCIPAL FEAST**

For Festivals and Principal Feasts, (and the evening service the day before) the altar colours will reflect the occasion, and Festal Responses are said or sung at the close of the evening service.

Hymns

Hymns are taken from the New English Hymnal, except where it indicates "HPP", which refers to the blue Hymns for Prayer + Praise often used at Sunday Evensong.

Incense

On some feast days, incense is used during the service. This is indicated by the † symbol.

Live-Streaming

Weekday Morning Prayer is live streamed on our social media channels.

Photography and Recording

No photography or recording of any other kind may take place during services, concerts, or rehearsals without the express permission of the Chapter.

Psalms

The traditional BCP Coverdale translation is used at Evening Prayer and Evensong. Common Worship translation is used at all other services. The congregation sit for the psalms, standing for “Glory be to the Father...” at the end of the last psalm.

Service Length

Said Morning Prayer lasts approximately 15 minutes.

Said Lunchtime Eucharist lasts approximately 30 minutes.

Evensong lasts around 40 minutes; Evening Prayer around 20 minutes.

BCP Communion lasts around 40 minutes.

The Eucharist on a Sunday lasts around one hour.

On a Sunday, Evensong lasts around one hour, incorporating a sermon.

Translations of Anthems not in English

Translations of weekday anthems sung in languages other than English can be found at the back of this booklet.

Service Locations

On Sundays, the 8.00am BCP Holy Communion is held at the High Altar, and the 10.00am Eucharist in the Nave.

Morning Prayer is held every day in the Newton Chapel.

Evensong or Evening Prayer is held in the Nave, except

Evening Prayer on Saturdays, which is held in the Berkeley Chapel.

Service locations may change at short notice: please speak

to a verger or one of the welcome team to confirm the location of the day's services.

12.30pm Eucharist Locations	
Mon	Eastern Lady Chapel
Tue	Eastern Lady Chapel
Wed	Seafarers' Chapel
Thu	Berkeley Chapel
Fri	Eastern Lady Chapel
Sat	Eastern Lady Chapel

About the Cathedral Choir

Bristol Cathedral Choir lies at the heart of the worshipping life of the Cathedral, sustaining a pattern of worship that reaches back nearly nine hundred years. Our choristers have the joy and privilege of enabling people to worship God through music and singing. A choir has been singing on the site of the Cathedral since the Augustinian monastery was founded in 1140. When the church formally became Bristol Cathedral in 1542 its statutes required that provision be made for the development and maintenance of the choir, whose role was to sing the praises of God. The passing of the centuries has modified but not destroyed the pattern. The choir consists of around 28 choristers, all of whom are educated at Bristol Cathedral Choir School, 16 probationers, educated at Primary Schools across Bristol and the surrounding area, four university-age Choral Scholars, and six professional Lay Clerks. Each year the Cathedral recruits four boys and four girls who are currently in Year 4 to become probationers when they reach Year 5. If you are interested in finding out more about your child becoming a chorister, please contact the Music Department: music@bristol-cathedral.co.uk.

About us

The original foundation of Bristol Cathedral was an abbey established in 1140. It was built just outside the original walls of Bristol on high ground overlooking the river. The new monastery was dedicated to St Augustine of Canterbury, but followed the rule of Augustine of Hippo, a Bishop from North Africa who established communities in which priests lived an ordered life, but one that was not detached from the needs of local people.

The architecture of the building was initially characterised by a particularly elaborate variety of the Romanesque style, with rounded arches and rich carvings that can still be seen in the Chapter House. However, between the 13th and early 16th centuries a sequence of rebuilding projects transformed the church into a Gothic one, with its familiar pointed arches. The most important of these was the unique and beautiful ‘hall church’ east end begun in 1298.

The nave of the church was in the middle of being rebuilt just when Henry VIII dissolved the country’s monasteries and confiscated their assets. However, Bristol was an important place – England’s second city – and in 1542 the truncated building, its building works abandoned, was designated the Cathedral of the Holy and Undivided Trinity, Bristol.

The people of Bristol themselves funded the rebuilding of the nave, from 1868. Like many other institutions in Bristol, these donations would have been substantially built on the legacy of trade in sugar, tobacco and cotton, which until earlier in the century had depended on the labour of enslaved Africans. We acknowledge and repent the human impact of this legacy, together with the experience of racism that flows from it, and are working to address it.

Monuments to the aristocrats and traders of Bristol are all around you, but also notice the stained-glass windows commemorating the sacrifice of ordinary volunteers during the Second World War, and remember the many unnamed artisans and craftspeople who shaped this building, and ordinary citizens buried in its vaults.

Cathedrals are places of prayer and welcome for everyone, and we seek to be a place of welcome for all, to be here for the people of Bristol and beyond.

THE LORD MAYOR’S CHAPEL dates back to 1220 initially built as part of a hospital founded by Maurice and Henry de Gaunt, grandsons of Robert Fitzharding, founder of the Abbey of St Augustine (which would later become Bristol Cathedral). At the dissolution of the monasteries in 1541, the Chapel was purchased by the Mayor of Bristol, at which point it became the Lord Mayor’s Chapel. It has remained in the ownership of the City Council (and its predecessors) ever since, and since April 2023 has been in the care of Bristol Cathedral.

Translations of Anthems

Tuesday 29 September

Factum est silentium

Richard Dering c.1580-1630

Factum est silentium in coelo,
dum committeret bellum draco
cum Michaelle archangelo.
Audita est vox millia millium
dicentium: salus, honor, et virtus
omnipotenti Deo. Alleluia!

*There was a silence in heaven,
as the dragon went to war
against the archangel Michael.
A voice as of a thousand thousands was heard
saying: honour, and power
be to almighty God. Alleluia!
After Revelation 12.7-10*

Friday 2 October

Ubi caritas

Philip Moore b.1943

Ubi caritas et amor,
Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in
unum Christi amor.
Exsultemus et in ipso jucundemur.
Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum.
Et ex corde diligamus
nos sincero.
Amen.

*Wherever charity and love are to be found,
God is there.
The love of Christ
has brought us together as one.
Let us rejoice and be glad in him.
Let us fear and love the living God;
and let us love one another
with sincerity in our heart.
Amen.*

Antiphon at the foot-washing, Maundy Thursday

Monday 12 October

O salutaris hostia

Thomas Tallis c.1505–1585

O salutaris hostia,
Quae caeli pandis ostium:
Bella premunt hostilia,
Da robur, fer auxilium.

*O saving Victim, opening wide
The gate of heaven to man below;
Our foes press on from every side;
Thine aid supply, thy strength bestow.*

Uni trinoque Domino
Sit sempiterna gloria,
Qui vitam sine termino
Nobis donet in patria. Amen.

*To Thy great name be endless praise,
Immortal Godhead, One in Three;
O grant us endless length of days
In our true native land with Thee. Amen*

Tuesday 13 October

Justorum animae

William Byrd c.1540–1623

Justorum animae in manu Dei sunt,
et non tanget illos tormentum mortis.
Visi sunt oculis insipientium mori,
illi autem sunt in pace.

*The souls of the just are in the hand of
God, and the torment of death shall not
touch them.
In the sight of the unwise they seemed
to die; but they are in peace.
Wisdom 3: 1-3*

Friday 16 October

Honestum fecit

Jacob Handl 1550–1591

Honestum fecit illum Dominus,
et custodivit eum ab inimicis,
et a seductoribus tutavit illum,
et dedit illi claritatem aeternam.

*The Lord made him honorable, and
guarded him from enemies, and
protected him from deceivers, and gave
him everlasting glory.*

Tuesday 3 November

Jehova, quam multi sunt hostes mei

Henry Purcell 1659-95

Jehova, quam multi sunt hostes mei:
quam multi insurgunt contra me!

Quam multi dicunt de anima mea:
'non est ulla salus isti in Deo plane.'

At tu, Jehova, clypeus es circa me:
gloria mea, et extollens caput meum.

Voce mea ad Jehovam clamanti:
respondit mihi e monte sanctitatis suae maxime;

ego cubui et dormivi:

ego expergefeci me,
quia Jehova sustentat me.

Non timebo a myriadibus populi:
quas circum disposuerint
metatores contra me.

Surge, Jehova; fac salvum me, Deus mi:
qui percussisti omnes
inimicos meos maxillam,
dentes improborum confregisti.

Jehova est salus:
super populum tuum
sit benedictio tua maxime!

Jehova, how many are my adversaries:
many are they who rise up against me!

Many are they who say to my soul:
'There is no help for you in your God.'

But you, Jehova, are a shield about me:
my glory, and the lifter up of my head.

When I cry aloud to Jehova with my voice:
he answers me from his holy hill;

I have lain down and slept:

and have arisen again,
because Jehova sustains me.

I will not be afraid of hordes of the peoples:
that have set themselves
against me all around.

Rise up, O Jehova; and deliver me, O my God:
for you struck all my
enemies on the cheek
and have broken the teeth of the wicked.

Salvation belongs to Jehova:
may your blessing be greatly
upon your people.

Psalm 3

Friday 6 November

Sicut cervus

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina c.1525-94

Sicut cervus

Like as the hart

desiderat ad fontes aquarum:

desireth the waterbrooks:

ita desiderat anima mea ad te Deus.

so longeth my soul after thee, O God.

Psalm 42.1



Visit the Cathedral

*no charge for entry,
but donations are gratefully received*

Monday to Saturday 8.00am to 5.00pm

(best visiting times, 10.00am to 4.00pm)

Sunday 8.00am to 3.00pm

Services

Monday to Saturday

8.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Lunchtime Eucharist

5.15pm Choral Evensong

(or Evening Prayer, 3.30pm Saturday)

Sunday

7.40am Morning Prayer

8.00am Holy Communion *Book of Common Prayer*

10.00am Cathedral Eucharist

3.30pm Choral Evensong

Visit the Lord Mayor's Chapel

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Check the website for opening hours

Services

Sunday

11.00am Choral Mattins *Book of Common Prayer*

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Choral Evensong *at Bristol Cathedral*



Choral Evensong is sung nearly every day in Bristol Cathedral.

Evensong is a short 35-40 minute service in which most of the words and music is offered by the choir, allowing those present to be simply carried in prayer and song and offer back to God with thanksgiving the day he has given to us.

Evensong is free to attend, and open to all.
We would be delighted to have you with us.

5.15pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
3.30pm Sunday

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