



ELY
CATHEDRAL

CHRISTMAS AT ELY 2026

Services | Concerts | Family Activities



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT ELY CATHEDRAL

Advent & Christmas is a truly special time to experience Ely Cathedral, from joyful services and festive concerts performed by the Cathedral Choristers to family themed activities and events. The sights and sounds of the season are further enhanced by the ancient architecture showcasing Ely's magnificent Christmas tree adorned with lights and decorations.

Ely Cathedral Gift Shop

A place to discover beautiful gifts, accessories, homeware, and seasonal merchandise. The Cathedral shop is open seven days a week and is free to enter.

The Almonry Kitchen

The Almonry Kitchen's rich history and stunning architecture, combined with seasonal hospitality and festive food with a twist, make it the perfect choice for a Christmas treat.

Event Tickets

Visit: www.elycathedral.org

(All ticketed events are asterisked)

Dates and times are correct at time of going to press. Please always check our website for unscheduled changes or cancellations.

To keep up to date with events, sign up to our monthly newsletter, via the home page of our website.

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The Christmas Tree is kindly sponsored by The Friends of Ely Cathedral.

ELY CATHEDRAL

Christmas Gift & Food Fair*

Thursday 19 - Saturday 21 November 2026

150+ Exhibitors * Traditional Attractions
Inspirational Gifts * Festive Food



Tickets and Information:



ELY CATHEDRAL SHOP

Visit the Cathedral shop for beautiful Christmas gifts, cards, decorations and accessories. The shop is free to enter, no visitor ticket is required.

We also have an online shop, which stocks a limited selection of our most popular items.

www.elycathedral.org/shop



Christmas Opening Times

21- 23 December: 10am - 4pm

Christmas Eve: 9.30am - 2.30pm

Christmas Day: Closed

Boxing Day: Closed

27 December: 12 - 3.30pm

28 - 31 December: 10am - 3.30pm

New Year's Day: Closed

2 January: 10am - 4pm

3 January: 12 - 3.30pm



EVENTS & SERVICES

Sunday 29 November, 6pm

Advent Procession

This awe-inspiring service prepares our hearts and minds for the season of Advent, a time of patient waiting and joyful expectation.

Tuesday 1 December, 8pm

Advent Compline

A beautiful candlelit service in the Lady Chapel to help you wind down at the end of the day.

Friday 4 December, 7pm - **SOLD OUT!**

Ian Anderson presents

Christmas with Jethro Tull*

Join Ian and his band for a moment of pre-Christmas madness, goodness and togetherness.

Almonry Kitchen Pre-Concert Supper*

5.30pm, 5.45pm, 6pm & 6.15pm

Saturday 5 December, 7.30pm

Christmas by Candlelight*

A spectacular cast of West End singers and live band, perform favourite Christmas hits.

Sunday 6 December, 5.15pm

The Big Christmas Tree Lights Switch-on Service

Come and enjoy the biggest, most spectacular, Christmas tree in Ely as we count down to the switching on of the lights. This popular family event celebrates the festive season in song and prayer, concluding with the blessing of the magnificent tree! Sung by the Cathedral Choristers.





Tuesday 8 December, 8pm
Advent Compline

Wednesday 9 December,
 11am & 6.30pm - **SOLD OUT!**
Christmas Wreath Workshop*
 With Katie from Wild Oak Workshops

Saturday 12 December, 11.30am
Community Christmas Carols
 Come and sing along to your favourite
 carols with Littleport Brass Band. With
 Christmas music, readings and prayers.

Saturday 12 December, 7.30pm
G4 Christmas*
 Traditional carols, classical
 favourites and modern festive hits.

Sunday 13 December, 5.15pm
Carols on Palace Green
 Wrap up warm for outdoor carol
 singing. Hot chocolate provided.

Tuesday 15 December, 8pm
Advent Compline

Friday 18 December, 7.30pm
A West End Christmas*
 With special guest, West End leading
 lady Gina Beck.

Monday 21 December, 10am - 12pm
Christmas Discovery Morning
 Crafts, sensory play, and colouring for
 children and families. Children are
 encouraged, to come dressed as their
 favourite person from the nativity and
 take selfies at the selfie station.
*Suitable for under 12s and their
 families.* A suggested donation of £2
 per child is welcomed.

Monday 21 December -
 Wednesday 6 January
Discover Christmas Trail
 Discover more about the people of the
 nativity. Collect a booklet from the
 Ticket Office and explore 6 activity
 stations with crafts, games, and puzzles
 to explore the nativity and those in it.
*Suitable for under 12s and their
 families.* Included in usual entrance fee.



Wednesday 23 & Thursday 24
December, 6pm

Carol Services

This processional service includes many opportunities for singing as well as a colourful mix of carols from the Cathedral Choir.

Thursday 24 December,
12pm & 2.30pm

Crib Services

The children of the Cathedral retell the story of Christmas in this wonderful tableau of shepherds, angels, wise men. Sing carols and enjoy this family friendly celebration to mark the birth of Jesus.

12pm: Sung by the Ely Imps.

3pm: Sung by the Choristers.

Tuesday 22 December, 7.30pm

Hark! The Herald Carol Concert*

An evening of traditional Christmas carols and seasonal music sung by the Cathedral Choir and Ely Imps, with Ely Sinfonia.

Almonry Kitchen Pre-Concert Supper*

5.30pm, 5.45pm, 6pm & 6.15pm





Thursday 24 December, 11pm

Midnight Eucharist

The waiting and watching of Advent is brought to fulfilment in the deepest part of the night.

Friday 25 December

8.15am

Holy Communion

10.30am

Christmas Day Eucharist

Sung by the Cathedral Choir.

4pm

Christmas Day Evensong

Sung by the Cathedral Choir.

Sunday 27 December, 4pm

(Rehearsal 2.15 - 4pm)

Come and Sing Carols

Be part of the choir for an afternoon of favourite carols in this festive free-for-all! This annual service is led by local singers and any other singers who happen to be visiting Ely and who would like to join them.



CHRISTMAS AT THE ALMONRY KITCHEN

CANAPÉS

Soup
Almonry Cheese Scone (v)
Hot Smoked Salmon Pâté
Beetroot, Rocket & Capers
Confit Chicken Terrine
Red Onion Marmalade, Salad & French Dressing

MAIN

Turkey Roulade
Turkey Roulade, Glazed Carrots & Greens, Sprouts,
Pigs in Blankets, Roasted Potatoes & Gravy
Fillet of Seabass
Leek & Potato Cake, Sauteed Green Beans
& Saffron Cream Sauce
Squash, Pine Nut & Quince Wellington
Glazed Carrots, Greens, Roasted New
Potatoes & Gravy (vg)

DESSERT

Christmas Pudding
Brandy Sauce (v)
Sticky Toffee Pudding
Toffee Sauce & Vanilla Ice Cream (v)
Apple & Blackberry Crumble
Custard (vg, gf)

2 COURSE LUNCH £30
3 COURSE LUNCH £36

Price is per head. Minimum of 4 people per booking.

Open Tuesday - Sunday from 10:00
Enquire for evening bookings.

Email almonry@cdc.events to book or speak to
a member of the team today!

The Christmas Menu
is available from
17 November - 23 December.

The Almonry Kitchen
will be closed from
24 December - 1 January.

Organ Appeal

Will you help care for Ely Cathedral's Organ?



Music has been at the heart of Ely Cathedral for centuries, and the Great Organ (1908) remains central to its life today. With your support specialist organ builders can restore this magnificent instrument to its former glory, ensuring its music continues for generations to come.

Scan to Donate



Registered Charity no: 1202546.



Your donation will help:

- Conserve and restore 5,800 historic organ pipes
- Improve sound throughout the 75-metre nave
- Inspire future generations of musicians and choristers

Donate online and find out more, including how to sponsor a pipe or stop at www.elycathedral.org/organappeal