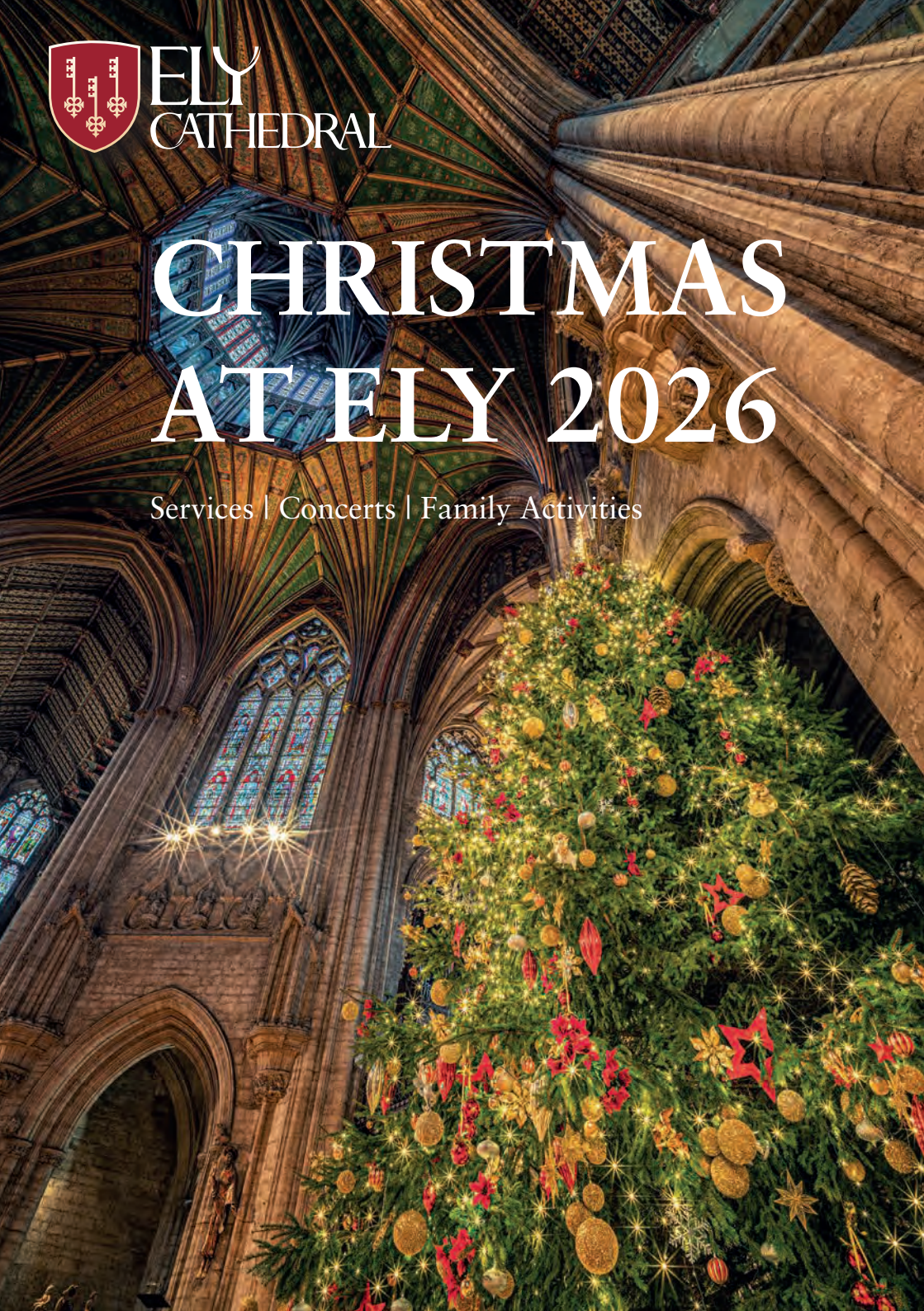
ELY CATHEDRAL

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.

Follow us

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

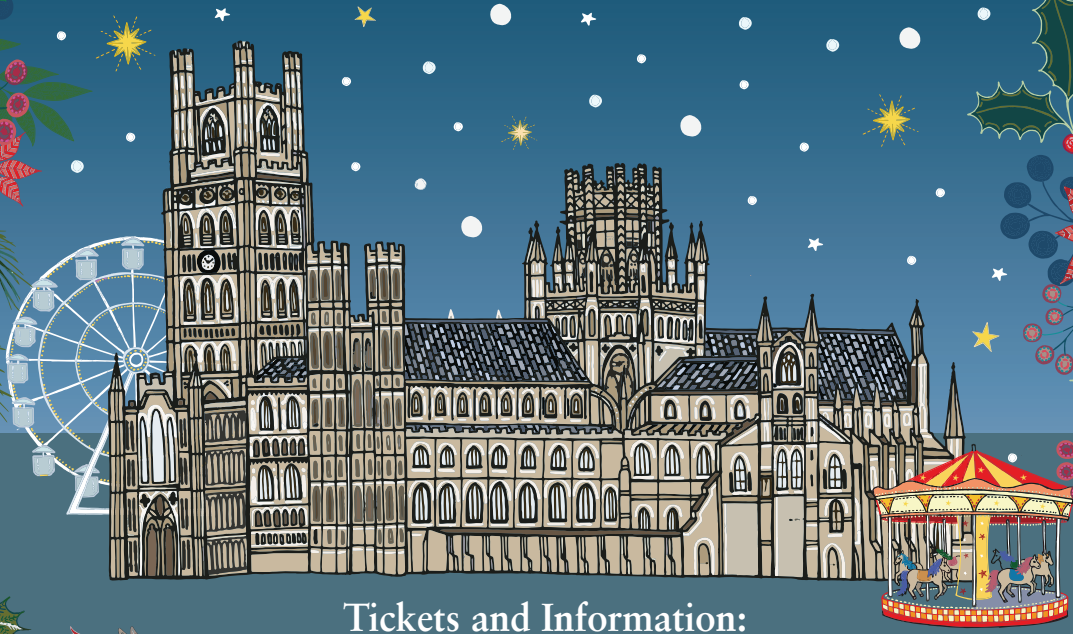
Front cover photo: James Billings

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.

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

The Cathedral shop is free to enter, no visitor ticket is required.

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.

Thursday 3 December, 10.15am

Story and Song Time - Christingle

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.

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 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 Girl Choristers and the Ely Imps.





Tuesday 8 December, 8pm
Advent Compline
A beautiful candlelit service in the Lady Chapel.

Thursday 10 December, 10.15am
Story and Song Time - Getting Ready

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

Saturday 12 December, 7.30pm
G4 Christmas*

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
A beautiful candlelit service in the Lady Chapel.

Thursday 17 December, 10.15am
Story and Song Time - Christmas Story

Friday 18 December, 7.45pm
A West End Christmas*
With special guest, West End leading performer Gina Beck.

Monday 21 December, 10am - 12pm
Christmas Discovery Morning
Crafts, sensory play, and colouring for 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
Christmas Discovery 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. *Suitable for under 12s and their families.* Included in usual entrance fee.





Wedneday 23 & Thursday 24 December, 6pm

Carol Services 1 & 2

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 1 & 2

Children re-tell the tory 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*- *SOLD OUT!*

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







Thursday 24 December, 11pm

Midnight Eucharist

One of the Cathedral's most popular services with a traditional celebration of the Eucharist as Christmas Eve turns into Christmas Day. This is a wonderful way to begin Christmas celebrations with congregational carols and music by the Cathedral Choir.

Friday 25 December, 8.15am

Holy Communion

10.30am

Christmas Day Eucharist

Join us as we celebrate Christ's birth with the sharing of communion. Music from the Ely Cathedral Choir, plus congregational hymns. All welcome.

4pm

Festal Evensong

Come and celebrate with us at this special Christmas Day Evensong. The service will include readings, prayers and music sung by the Cathedral Choir.

Sunday 27 December, 4pm
(Rehearsal 2 - 4pm)

Christmastide 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.

THE ALMONRY KITCHEN

CAMBRIDGE DINING Co



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)

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.