

Events and training

More details for all these events
at gloucester.anglican.org/events

Readers and lay ministry licensing service 2025, Gloucester Cathedral, 12 College Green, Gloucester, GL1 2LY, 13 September

All are invited to this special occasion which celebrates the calling and commitment of those stepping into lay ministry.
<https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/annual-readers-and-licensed-funeral-ministers-2025>

The Choral Pilgrimage 2025, Tewkesbury Abbey, Church Street, Tewkesbury, GL20 5RZ, 13 September

A programme of music spanning six centuries, blending medieval and contemporary works to inspire inner peace.
<https://thesixteen.com/event/the-choral-pilgrimage-2025-tewkesbury>

Have your say

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NAFAS national show 2025 Gloucester Cathedral, 12 College Green, Gloucester, GL1 2LY, 18 to 20 September

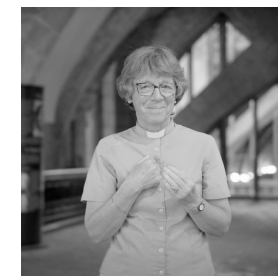
The National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies will be giving floral displays, tutorials, workshops and speeches.
<https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/nafas-national-show-2025>

A morning of Sustainable Church Flowers, St Mary's Church, Fairford GL7 4AF, 19 September

A morning of Sustainable Church Flowers, including flower arranging demonstrations, a talk about 'Flowers on the Farm', ideas for harvest and winter, and beverages.
<https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/a-morning-of-sustainable-church-flowers>

Meet the Bishop's Advisor for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

We are delighted to welcome Philippa Donald as the Bishop's Advisor for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.



Philippa started learning British Sign Language (BSL) in 2021, and she hopes to use her skills to be a friendly point of contact for anyone seeking to explore the Christian faith or find a church community.

She said: "I'm very excited and honoured to be taking on the role of 'Bishop's Advisor for the deaf and hard of hearing' in the Diocese of Gloucester. It has been one of the desires of my heart for some time, to see our churches and church services becoming more accessible to those with whom we cannot communicate in the traditional way of speaking and being heard.

"British Sign Language has its own alphabet. There is a sign for each letter, but most words have their own sign, and some signs can work for several words.

"The sentence structure in BSL is also different from English, and all elements must work together – including facial expressions, which convey the mood of what you are signing. It can be challenging, but it's very rewarding when someone understands your efforts to communicate.

"The message of God's love and salvation for everyone needs to be able to be proclaimed to all, in a way that they can receive, understand and respond.

"Please pray for me as I begin this exciting new role, that it will enable more people to hear the good news of Jesus Christ for themselves and begin or continue their journey of faith."

There is a video of Philippa introducing herself in BSL. You can watch this by visiting <https://gloucester.anglican.org/2025/meet-the-bishops-advisor-for-the-deaf-and-hard-of-hearing>.

Welcoming people into church this month

As schools reopen and daily routines restart after the summer months, September can be a time when people decide to explore new activities or connect with local community groups, including getting involved with church. It's a good time to think about welcome, particularly for new people in an area who might be looking for community and connection.

Robin Riordan, Churchwarden in Tidenham Parish, shares how the churches in Tidenham parish – St Luke's in Tutshill, St Mary and St Peter's in Tidenham, and St Michael and All Angels in Tidenham Chase – welcome people in and aim to make everyone feel included.

"Openness is at the heart of all three churches in the parish. We want anyone who comes in to feel like they are part of the church family. We are always happy to welcome new members and grow.

"We have a welcoming team, alongside sidespeople. There's always someone greeting people as they arrive, and others who continue the welcome inside. When new people come through the door, several people will say hello and chat with them. We try to create a space where everyone feels noticed and at ease.

"We have coffee on offer after some services, to give people a chance to meet and chat. We also run activities in the community that are non-faith based, like coffee mornings, baby and toddler groups, Pilates in the church building, and music evenings. These are ways people can get to know the church without needing to come to a service first.

"We have strong links with our local primary school; the schoolchildren sometimes do assemblies at the church. The families become familiar with us through combined activities like this.

"We make sure to be visible in the community through our website and Facebook page. Being approachable helps people feel comfortable reaching out or dropping in.

"Our goal is that when anyone walks through the doors, whether they come once or regularly, they feel welcome and part of something friendly and supportive."

Ride and Stride is back for 2025

Ride and Stride is back, for 2025, taking place on 13 September. This annual event invites people across Gloucestershire and North Bristol to visit churches by walking, cycling, horse-riding or using public transport to raise money. Funds raised are split between the participant's chosen church and Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust (GHCT) which provides grants for vital repair and improvement work. In 2024, Ride and Stride raised over £36,000, supporting projects such as roof repairs, fire door replacements and improved wheelchair access.

If you'd like to get involved this year, whether by taking part in the Ride and Stride itself or by putting on an event at your church, further information can be found at <https://ghct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/take-part>.