

Events and training

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

Digital media training

6 October, 10am to 7.30pm

Hatherley Manor, Down
Hatherley Lane GL2 9QA

Join the national Digital Labs team for free interactive sessions taking participants from the basics of setting up internal and external communication channels for worshipping communities, through to a seminar-style session to discuss current issues facing church comms. gloucester.anglican.org/digital-media-training

Carbon awareness training

11 October, 7.30pm to 9.30pm

The Exchange, Brick Row, Stroud
GL5 1DF

Explore questions around engaging with climate change in church life. Participants will be better equipped to make positive changes in their own household as well as feeling more confident to engage both with church, and others to encourage more people to take this seriously.

gloucester.anglican.org/carbon-awareness-training-october-2023

Have your say

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'Light eternal: Yesterday, today, forever'

19 to 28 October

Gloucester Cathedral GL1 2LX

Experience the Cathedral like never before. This medieval space will be transformed by a light and sound installation, with dazzling projections throughout the building. Journey into the Cathedral's 1,000-year-long history, examining its breathtaking architecture and stained glass, as well as its more recent life as a famous filming location.

gloucestercathedral.org.uk/what-s-on/light-eternal-by-luxmuralis

Wholeness: Being well day

28 October, 10am to 3pm

St Mary's Church, Wotton-under-Edge
GL12 7LS

St Mary's will be filled with creative opportunities for people of all ages and stages of faith, or none, to explore different approaches to finding healing and wholeness.

gloucester.anglican.org/being-well-day

Rugby – an evasion sport with the potential to encounter God

During the Men's Rugby World Cup 2023, Richard Witham, Head of Sport and Faith for Sportily, shares how his passion for the sport links with his passion for his Christian faith.



“As a child, I found a love for sport, especially Rugby Union, long before a love for Jesus. It will come as no surprise that I am pretty excited about the Men's Rugby World Cup, which runs to 28 October – work colleagues and family might find me harder than usual to get hold of.

“I look back at those moments of epiphany where rugby and faith have collided for me:

“**In sixth form** – When I had just started out on the adventure of following God as a sixth former in Bristol and looking at the touch line to see a youth leader from church giving up their Saturday afternoon to come and watch me.

“**In scripture** – Enjoying and accepting Romans 12, verse 1. Our worship is always in response to what God has done for us and for who God is. For me, this sense of giving my whole self to God is true and proper worship was transformative especially this direct link to my physical body. Of course, this is not just around physical activity and sport but worship for me is hugely rooted in this.

“Through coaching – I have re-learnt how to coach others and it is very different to how I was taught. I can picture where I was standing as the coach educator talked us through creating a positive learning environment, letting the players play conditioned games and then as a coach asking the right question to help the players truly learn and encourage them to question what they are doing and why. This sounded very much like the way Jesus taught his disciples – through them doing, joining in and through two-way questions. I can trace this moment to the birth of ‘Play sport talk life’, a phrase at the heart of the what and the how of Sportily.

“During the Rugby World Cup, I will be aware of the natural conversations that can come from it with friends, family, those at the rugby club and young people through Sportily, around success and disappointment, enjoyment, beauty and creativity.

“I will enjoy the post-match hymns and prayers from some of the countries and players and join in when they openly give glory to God. I will enjoy watching some top-class rugby and be thankful to God. And each match I watch I will pause and pray for those countries – for the challenging situations they face, maybe for people and organisations that are linked to those I know.”

Read Richard’s testimony in full: gloucester.anglican.org/rugby-an-evasion-sport-with-the-potential-to-encounter-god

Rebuilding life after prison

At the start of Prisons Week, on 9 October, the Rt Revd Rachel Treweek, Anglican Bishop for HM Prisons, invites worshipping communities to a special event at Gloucester Cathedral in partnership with The Welcome Directory and The Community Chaplaincy Association. This is an opportunity to learn more about how, working together, we can reach out in faith to those seeking to rebuild their lives after leaving prison.

Register: gloucester.anglican.org/rebuilding-life-after-prison



St Mary’s celebrates first full immersion baptism

St Mary’s in Wotton-under-Edge held its first full immersion baptism – which coincided with the 740th anniversary of the church’s dedication.

Full immersion baptism, as the name suggests, is when a person is fully covered in water by submerging under the surface as part of the baptism ceremony, signifying their new life in Christ.

Rachel Tooley, who has been a member of the worshipping community at St Mary’s for a year, decided she wanted to be baptised and chose full immersion baptism.

The Revd Lesley Hewish, Priest in Charge for Tyndale Benefice, says, “Rachel joined our congregation last summer, along with her life partner, Shelley, who has already been baptised. It has been a real joy walking with these two women on their journey with Jesus.

“Shelley helped me baptise Rachel, so we all got very wet; and so did the rest of the congregation as everyone renewed their baptism vows, which involved a branch of rosemary and lots of baptism pool water being shared.

Lesley says, “We are praying this will be the first of many full immersion baptisms and more members of our community explore together what it means to be a follower of Jesus. We are therefore confident that more candidates will join them for confirmation next year. God is doing amazing things.”

Read more at: gloucester.anglican.org/st-marys-celebrates-first-full-immersion-baptism