Icon

Description automatically generated with low confidenceIcon

Description automatically generated with low confidence­

# Events and training More details for all these events at gloucester.anglican.org/events Impact weekend 2025, St Andrew’s Church, Churchdown, GL3 2JT, 10 to 12 October

A weekend of worship, teaching, fellowship and fun, including a quiz night, a hog roast, and kids and youth events. **https://stastb.churchsuite.com/events/i1lc2qhb**

# A Blackbird Sang – a festival of words and music, St Mary the Virgin Church, 10 to 12 October.

# An upcoming weekend of music, poetry and worship at St Mary’s Church, Dymock, inspired by the Dymock poets.

# https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/a-blackbird-sang-a-festival-of-words-and-music/

****

Forge offers individually crafted Sunday School sessions for children aged 7-12, which are run virtually and in person at local churches. It provides a Minecraft Online Club open to young people across the world, and it also offers teaching for young people and their parents or guardians as they start to learn the basics of Minecraft.

Jay said: “Gaming is a powerful platform for building relationships and discussion. For children, particularly children who maybe aren’t connected to churches or places where it’s a bit more rural, they can connect with other young people in the online world and use Minecraft to learn about the Bible and faith.”

In the summer, Jay ran a free, two-day holiday gaming club in Meon Vale, introducing children and young people to popular games like FIFA and Mario Kart.

**For many people, gaming is a space for competition, creativity, and connection. For the Revd Jay Niblett, Rector of Rivervale Churches, he also sees gaming as a platform to explore faith and meet Jesus.**

Jay runs a gaming portal, Eden Forge, with business partner Josiah Holloway. Eden

# Museum of the moon, Tewkesbury Abbey, Church Street, Tewkesbury, GL50 5RZ, 16 October to 4 November

**A lunar installation by Luke Jerram, illuminating the Abbey with light, sound and wonder.** **https://www.tewkesburyabbey.org.uk/themoon/**

# Poppy Fields by Luxmuralis, Gloucester Cathedral Nave, College Green, Gloucester, GL1 2LX, 17 to 25 October

An immersive Luxumarlis installation, combining projections, poetry readings by Eddie Redmayne, and opportunities to support the Royal British Legion. **https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/poppy-fields-by-luxmuralis**

**Meeting Jesus online**

A group of children using computers

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

The Messenger October 2025

### 

**A life of prayer: The diocesan prayer companion**

The diocesan prayer calendar has been relaunched this autumn under the new name, the Diocesan Prayer Companion. This prayer scheme aims to support people in praying for the people, places and projects of this diocese and beyond.

Each Sunday contains a collect and a prayer focus for the week to come, looking at different areas of the Life vision. There are daily prayer prompts to encourage prayer for benefices, schools, the diocese and beyond, uploaded quarterly to the diocesan website.

#### **Prayer is integral to our relationship with God and our growing in faith as followers of Christ.**

#### Bishop Rachel said: “If we want a relationship with someone to deepen and grow, we need to spend time with that person. It can be no surprise that the same is true between us and God.”

You can download the Prayer Companion from <https://gloucester.anglican.org/living-faith/your-prayer/calendar-of-intercessions/>

If you’d like to try praying, or reignite your prayer life visit <https://gloucester.anglican.org/living-faith/your-prayer/> for more resources and support.

They also entered a custom-built Minecraft world, where meeting Jesus was key to the success of the mission.

Jay said: “They entered the cave as a team, encountering dangerous creatures and obstacles. The world was designed to be challenging, so teamwork was essential. Then Jesus arrived in the game, who intervened to help them succeed. It illustrated the idea that God gives us what we need when we need it in life.”

Eden Forge was born out of lockdown, when Jay began exploring how games could support safe conversations. During this time, he encountered *Land of Promise*, a Singapore-based initiative creating biblical storylines within Minecraft. After testing one of their virtual worlds with his own children – walking through a desert while experiencing the story of Moses – Jay recognised the potential of gaming to provide new opportunities for exploring faith.

“You could use Eden Forge to go through a six or seven-week course, but through gaming,” Jay said. “The average age for a gamer is 30 years old – many adults are gaming, why not meet them there? It seems like now’s the time to find any angle where we can connect and see people and become the Church of the future for the next generation. Gaming can help do that.”

Longer term, Jay’s vision is to start regular online gatherings for young people, and occasional events for adults. These would encourage discipleship and fellowship and eventually would evolve into structured resources for churches to run short faith courses within a game.

Find out more at edenforge.gg.

**Got a story or something interesting to share?** You don’t need to write it all up, just email Natalie (nsansom@glosdioc.org.uk) with a quick line about what you would like covered, and she’ll take it from there!

Also, if you have any parish magazines to share, please email them over electronically to Natalie, so she can look for potential stories to share across the diocese.