

## Events and training

More details for all these events at [gloucester.anglican.org/events](https://gloucester.anglican.org/events)

**Community day, St Paul and St Stephen's Church, Stroud Road, Gloucester, GL1 5AH, Saturday 6 June, 10am to 2pm.** A family friendly day of fellowship with arts and crafts, food, stalls, and a bouncy castle. <https://www.stpaulstephengloucester.org.uk/>

**'Songs for a summer evening', St Philip and St James Church, Leckhampton, GL50 2DD, Saturday 20 June, 7.30pm to 9.30pm**

An evening with performances from The Cheltenham Singing Groups' The Tuesdays and The Cheltones, alongside The Ladybrook Singers, raising money for Maggie's Cancer Care.

<https://pipandjims.churchsuite.com/events/wqlll6xn>

**Gloucester Cathedral organ festival, Gloucester Cathedral, GL1 2LX, Saturday 13 June to Monday 15 June**

A celebration of the unveiling of Gloucester Cathedral's new organ with a weekend of gala concerts, family performances, recitals, and workshops featuring leading musicians. <https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/organ-festival>

**Sailing Ships of Sound: An Orchestral Premiere by Crimea Butler-Downton, St Laurence Stroud, The Shambles, Stroud, GL5 1JL, Saturday 27 June, 7.30pm to 10.30pm** An evening featuring the premiere of 'Sailing Ships of Sound', the latest orchestral work by Crimea Butler-Downton, whose compositions are created entirely by hand despite total visual impairment. [https://stlaurencestroud.uk/event\\_custom/sailing-ships-of-sound-an-orchestral-premiere-by-crimea-butler-downton/](https://stlaurencestroud.uk/event_custom/sailing-ships-of-sound-an-orchestral-premiere-by-crimea-butler-downton/)

## Have your say

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## Churches Count on Nature 2026

**Churches across England and Wales are being encouraged to take part in Churches Count on Nature 2026, which will take place from Saturday 6 June to Sunday 14 June as part of Love Your Burial Ground Week.**

The initiative invites churches to discover, record and celebrate the wildlife found in churchyards and burial grounds. The information collected contributes to a wider understanding of the ecological value of churchyards and burial grounds across the UK.

Churchyards can provide important habitats for wildlife, particularly in areas where green space is limited or heavily managed. Many have remained relatively undisturbed for centuries and can support a rich variety of species, including wildflowers, lichens, mosses, pollinating insects, birds and small mammals.

One of the simplest changes some churches are making is leaving certain areas of grass un-mowed. Allowing grass to grow longer can encourage native wildflowers to emerge naturally, providing food and shelter for bees, butterflies and other pollinators. In turn, this helps support wider ecosystems within churchyards.

Churches taking part in Churches Count on Nature in the past have often organised community events such as wildlife walks,

species surveys, talks, outdoor activities and guided nature recording sessions. Many also make use of identification charts, bird boxes, and the iNaturalist phone app to help participants recognise and record the species they find.

Erica Siddall, Strategic Net Zero Carbon Lead for the Diocese of Gloucester, said:

"Many people appreciate nature and have experienced God when spending time in creation. We tend to focus on buildings, but spending time beyond the doors of the church is a great reminder that God's beautiful creation also honours Him and is worthy of our love and care. It feels good to learn more and feel more connected with your surroundings, your neighbours and God.

"In the past six months I have enjoyed starting to use the iNaturalist app, and I have also begun paying special attention to our churchyard yews. If these sound too vigorous, simple personal prayers of thanksgiving for creation are also a great starting point."

For more information about Churches Count on Nature 2026, visit <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/love-your-burial-ground-week-national-cemeteries-week-and-churches-count-on-nature/>

As part of Churches Count on Nature 2026, the Church of England and Caring for God's Acre will also host a series of lunchtime webinars on Zoom exploring different aspects of land and nature. You can find more information about these webinars at <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/churches-count-nature>

## **GDBF supports affordable housing at Innsworth**

**The Diocese of Gloucester has helped open seven new affordable homes in Innsworth, near Gloucester. The homes are part of the Church Housing Association's first ever housing project.**

The project was paid for with support from the Gloucester Diocesan Board of Finance. The rent is set at or below Local Housing Allowance levels, which means it's cheaper than many 'affordable' homes that still cost close to normal market prices.

One tenant shared the impact the new home has had on their family: "It has truly been life changing. For many years, we lived in a very small space. Now, my four children each have their own space to sleep, grow and feel comfortable. My oldest finally has a quiet place to focus on schoolwork, and the younger ones are happier too. Our home feels peaceful for the first time in a long time."

The project follows ideas set out in the Church of England's Coming Home report in 2021. The report challenged the Church to use its land, money and influence to help tackle the housing crisis and create homes people can genuinely afford.

At the opening ceremony in April, Bishop Robert said the homes were "far more than bricks and mortar".

"These houses are becoming real homes and communities," he said. "This project is about hope, faith in action, and helping neighbours who are struggling to find somewhere secure to live.

"We hope this inspires similar projects across the country."

Read the full article at <https://gloucester.anglican.org/2026/gdbf-supports-affordable-housing-at-innsworth/>