

Carolfest



Visual Story

What is Carolfest?



Carolfest is an hour-long event, where everyone sings Christmas carols together, inside St Mary's Church in Aylesbury.

It will be dark when I arrive, and the church will be lit up and there will be candles along the path. The ground is cobbled so it is uneven.

What should I wear?



It will be cold outside, but warm inside the church.

Lots of people wear Christmas jumpers,
some people also wear funny Christmas hats and even
Christmas pajamas.

What happens when I get there?



When I go in the church, I will be offered a programme which has all the words to the songs.

I will probably know some of them already, but I can take a song sheet if I would like.

Is there anything to eat or drink?



There are refreshment tables where I can get a hot drink or squash.
They also have mince pies and biscuits.

These are all free, but I can give a donation to charity if I would like to.

It is a good idea to get these before we find our space.

Sometimes I might have to wait
a few minutes to be served.

Where should I go?



The church will get busy, with lots of people.

There are cushions at the front where I can sit.

There are chairs available for people who find it hard to stand.

Most people stand in the middle of the church.

There are also some seats at the back, up some steps, but I might not be able to see much from here.

When does everyone sing?



There will be a small band and choirs at the front facing everyone.

There is also a host who tells everyone what we will be singing next, and a lady doing sign language too.

We all sing at the same time, but I can just watch if I would like.

Sometimes the choirs do a song by themselves and everyone will listen.

What do I do if I need help?



I can ask the people in green t-shirts or coats if I need any help. These people are part of the Event Crew and they are very kind.

The people wearing the special sunflower lanyards will be able to help me.

What do I do if I need some space?



The Event Crew will find me somewhere quieter to go if everything is too loud and busy.

There won't be anything to do, but I can sit with my family until I feel ready to join in again.

Where are the toilets?



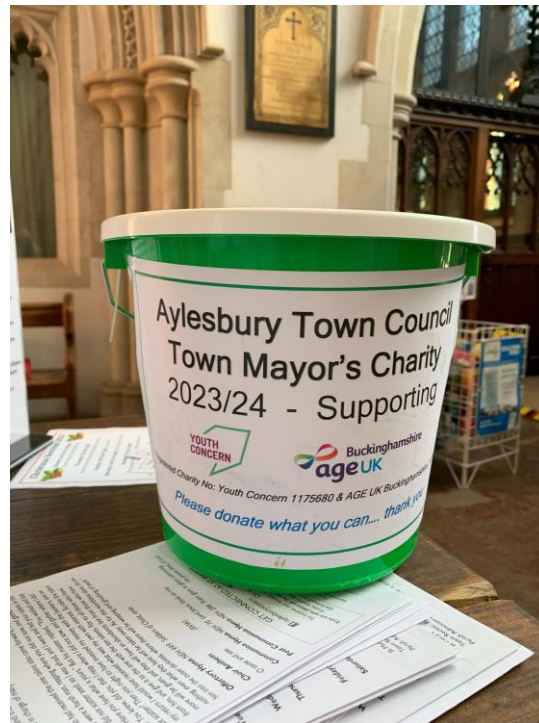
The toilets are at the back of the church,
on the same side as the main door in.

It is the same toilet area for boys and girls.

The church is a very old building, so the toilets are basic.

When the church is full of people it can be difficult to get to
the toilets, so I must allow plenty of time.

What happens at the end?



At the end, everybody will leave through the main doors.

It can be quite busy,
so I might want to wait a little while for most people to leave.

There are people collecting for charity,
I can put money in the collection buckets if I would like.