

The Narthex

at The Cathedral of St John the Baptist

Premier Events
Venue & Catering
in Norwich





About our venue

Located at the entrance to the Cathedral, the Narthex offers a warm welcome to everyone, regardless of faith, belief or denomination. It is a vibrant and welcoming space where history, hospitality and community come together.

Home to the Garden Café, the Cathedral Gift Shop, two flexible function rooms and access to the beautiful Cathedral garden, the Narthex is at the heart of the Cathedral's visitor experience. Guests can discover the rich history of this inspiring place while enjoying the warm hospitality that awaits.

Throughout the year, we host a wide range of events, including business meetings, conferences, workshops, private celebrations, family occasions and community gatherings. Our flexible function rooms can be tailored to suit your event, with modern facilities, a fully licensed bar and a dedicated team on hand to ensure everything runs smoothly.

Whether you're planning a professional meeting, a memorable celebration or a special gathering, the Narthex offers a unique venue where historic surroundings and exceptional hospitality come together to create an unforgettable experience.

Narthex Hall

The Narthex Hall is a spacious and versatile venue set within the Cathedral's historic surroundings, offering a unique setting for a wide variety of events. Ideal for meetings, conferences, exhibitions, evening classes, weddings, parties, community events, fairs and celebrations, the Hall can be adapted to suit both formal and informal occasions.

Originally the Cathedral's church hall, the space combines character with modern facilities. Its bright, airy interior is complemented by large glass doors on either side, providing views of the Cathedral Garden and the beautiful Plantation Garden, while allowing plenty of natural light to fill the room.

Designed with flexibility in mind, the Hall can be arranged in a range of layouts to suit your event. It is fully equipped with a ceiling-mounted projector and screen (HDMI connection), sound system, microphones and speakers, making it equally suited to presentations, performances, training sessions and celebrations.

Whether you're hosting a corporate event, community gathering or special occasion, the Narthex Hall provides a welcoming and memorable venue in the heart of the Cathedral.

Room Hire:

Monday to Thursday
From £43 per hour

Friday to Sunday
From £54 per hour







Narthex Bar

Our private Bar offers a welcoming and adaptable space, perfect for weddings, parties, family celebrations, corporate entertaining, meetings and social gatherings. Whether you're hosting an intimate occasion or using it alongside a larger event, the Bar provides a relaxed yet elegant setting for your guests.

With its warm, cosy atmosphere, the Bar works equally well as a standalone venue or as an additional space when hired alongside the Narthex Hall. The room can be configured to suit a variety of events, from informal drinks receptions and networking events to private celebrations and business meetings.

For presentations and meetings, a portable projector and screen can be provided. A fully stocked private bar is also available for an additional hire fee, allowing you to tailor the space to your event and create a memorable experience for your guests.

Room Hire:

Monday to Thursday
From £22 per hour

Friday to Sunday
From £27 per hour





The Bar

Our staffed bar service offers a flexible and professional drinks experience for your event. Available as an additional service, our bar team will take care of serving your guests, allowing you to relax and enjoy your event.

We offer a wide selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, with the choice of beverages tailored to suit your event and guests. Whether you are looking for a simple selection of drinks or something more specific, we are happy to discuss your requirements.

Our drinks selection includes:

- House wine – red, white and rosé
- Prosecco
- Spirits – including gin, rum, vodka, whisky and more
- Beers, ciders and ales
- Guinness
- Soft drinks – including Coke, Diet Coke, elderflower presse, lemonade and orange juice
- Non-alcoholic options – including beer, cider and spirits

Welcome drinks and Speciality Options

Why not welcome your guests with a drink on arrival? We can provide a selection of welcome drinks to suit your event, with Prosecco, elderflower presse and orange juice among our most popular choices.

If you have something specific in mind, we can work with you to create a drinks selection that reflects your event and your guests' preferences.

The staffed bar service is available for an additional hire fee.

Staffed Bar

Starting From £16.00 per hour

The Garden Cafe

Nestled within the Cathedral grounds, the Garden Café offers a charming and welcoming setting for a wide range of private events. Filled with natural light and overlooking the beautiful Cathedral garden, it provides a relaxed and inviting atmosphere for gatherings of all kinds.

Whether you're planning a birthday celebration, baby shower, afternoon tea, family get-together, celebration of life, networking event or community meeting, the Garden Café offers a unique space where guests can enjoy delicious refreshments in peaceful surroundings.

Our experienced team can provide a selection of homemade catering, including freshly prepared lunches, afternoon teas, cakes and refreshments, with menus tailored to suit your event. A fully licensed bar is also available should you wish to include alcoholic beverages.



Cheese and Wine Tasting

The café can be **hired exclusively outside of our regular opening hours**, giving you and your guests the opportunity to enjoy this special space. With access to the Cathedral gardens, ample seating and a warm, friendly atmosphere, the Garden Café is the perfect venue for both intimate celebrations and larger gatherings.

Whether you're marking a special occasion or bringing people together for a memorable event, the Garden Café combines exceptional hospitality with the unique setting of St John the Baptist Cathedral to create an experience your guests will remember.



For room capacity and specifications, please speak to a member of our team.

Room Hire:

Monday to Thursday
From £22 per hour

Friday to Sunday
From £27 per hour





Event Catering

Complete your event with delicious, freshly prepared catering from our on-site team. Whether you're hosting a business meeting, conference, wedding reception, celebration or community event, we offer a range of catering options to suit every occasion and budget.

Choose from three buffet packages:

- Basic Buffet – from £10.00 per person
- Standard Buffet – from £15.95 per person
- Deluxe Buffet – from £22.95 per person

Looking for something more bespoke? We can create tailored menus to suit your event, dietary requirements and preferences. From elegant canapés and drinks receptions to breakfast networking meetings, working lunches, afternoon teas and celebratory dining, our team will work with you to create the perfect menu.

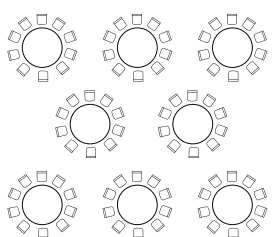
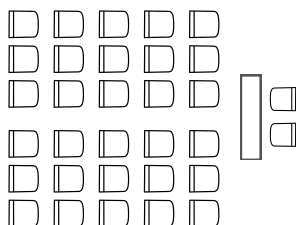
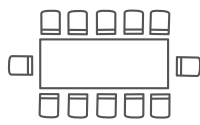
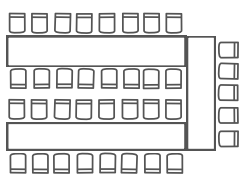
We cater for a wide variety of events, including conferences, training days, weddings, private parties, family celebrations, charity events and community gatherings. Vegetarian, vegan and other dietary requirements can be accommodated, ensuring all of your guests are well catered for.

Our experienced catering team is committed to providing fresh, high-quality food and friendly service, helping to make your event both seamless and memorable.



Room Specifications and Configuration

The chart below provides examples of room layouts and specifications. If you require an alternative layout or any additional extras, please speak to our team, and we will be happy to discuss your requirements and do our best to accommodate your plans.

	Narthex Hall	Narthex Bar
Dimensions	13m x 11m	8.4m x 5.5m
Cabaret Style 	100	n/a
Theatre Style 	120	20
Boardroom Style 	40	20
U-Shape Style 	56	20
Catering &/or Breakout	Yes	Yes

Get in Touch

Whether you're planning a wedding, celebration, corporate event, meeting or something a little different, our team is here to help.

If you have an event in mind, get in touch with us to discuss your requirements, check availability and find out more about our spaces and services. We're happy to answer any questions and help you find the right options for your event.

Planning an event?

- When contacting us, it would be helpful to include:
- Your preferred date or dates
- The type of event you are planning
- Your anticipated number of guests
- Which space you are interested in, if known
- Any catering, refreshments or bar requirements
- Any additional services or equipment you may require

We look forward to hearing from you and helping you plan your event.

Contact Our Team

Email: bookings@sjbcathedral.org.uk

Telephone: 01603 724380

Address: The Narthex, Earlham Road, Norwich, NR2 3RB