

Christmas in Cambridge



With daylight time dwindling every day and the rusty foliage lying at our feet, we can't really help realising that we are gradually heading again for Christmas. It's the time of the year when every one of us is looking forward to our own specific traditions, whether they are community, worship, family, (1) _____ simply personal rituals.

But let's take a peek at what people in Cambridge (UK) might be looking (2) _____ to for Christmas. There will be the turkey and brussels sprouts of course, and the Christmas tree in nearly every home. Cambridge, (3) _____ many other towns in and outside UK will have a Christmas market, as well as a ceremony to officially turn on the Christmas lights. But (4) _____ is unique in Cambridge is the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols held in King's College Chapel on Christmas Eve, (5) _____ is a religious service alternating carols and Bible readings. The service was introduced in 1918, it always begins with the hymn 'Once in Royal David's City', and (since 1982) it always features a new carol, specially commissioned each year for inclusion in the Festival. The choir (6) _____ to be made up of sixteen Choral Scholars and Lay Clerks, but nowadays the voices are provided by fourteen undergraduates.

The Festival has been broadcast (7) _____ radio ever since 1928, even during the Second World War, when the stained-glass windows had been removed from the Chapel to protect them against the bombings. Millions of people are estimated to listen to the radio broadcast both in UK and worldwide, including at the foot of the Everest, in the desert, or at home busy with the Christmas dinner preparations. The service is (8) _____ popular, that people start queuing for a place in the Chapel as early as the day before.

My colleagues at Cambridge Assessment English, based right in the heart of the ancient university town, look forward to their Christmas Reception, held at one of the colleges. There are also the Christmas lunches, taking (9) _____ on various dates over one or two weeks, to enable everyone to pick a suitable time. Most people co-ordinate so they can attend together with their teams. And on the last working day before Christmas, free sausage rolls and mince pies (10) _____ served in the canteen.

What are you looking forward to, this Christmas?

Answers:

1) or; 2) forward; 3) like; 4) what; 5) which; 6) used; 7) on; 8) so; 9) place; 10) are