

Civil Service
Choir

at Christmas

**1pm Tuesday 17th
The Carol Service**

THE LIFEBOAT FUND
Helping the RNLI save lives at sea

Cardinal Home
Centres
Turning Lives Around

St Stephen's, Rochester Row
www.civilservicechoir.org.uk

Welcome to this Carol Service, a celebration of Christmas in words and music, given for the staff of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Department for Transport and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, and other Government Departments.

This event has been organised by the Civil Service Choir and is the twenty-eighth staff Carol Service to be held at St Stephen's, Rochester Row. We should like to express our gratitude to Revd. Graham Buckle for allowing us to use this fine church once again.

The Civil Service Choir brings together staff from almost all Government Departments and agencies in Westminster. Today's service is the choir's 123rd performance since its first performance here in St Stephen's in November 2009. At full strength the choir boasts over 150 members and performs with orchestra. It regularly gives concerts both here at St Stephen's and at St John's Smith Square.

Through its concerts the choir has raised almost £37,000 for charity.

Please visit www.civilservicechoir.org.uk to find out more.

The choir is conducted by Stephen Hall OBE and is accompanied today by Stella Kremer.

The Christian networks offer a warm welcome to Christians and those interested to find out more about what it means to be a Christian. christiansingovernment.org.uk

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There will be a retiring collection for the Cardinal Hume Centre, the Lifeboat Fund and St Stephen's Parish.

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY

Choir introit: Please remain seated. **Personent Hodie (Gustav Holst)**

Welcome from the Reverend Graham Buckle, Vicar of St Stephen's

Congregational carol:

Solo:

Once in Royal David's city
Stood lowly cattle shed.
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for His bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ that little child.

Choir only:

He came down to earth from Heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all.
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour Holy.

Please stand:

All: And our eyes at last shall see Him
Through His own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in Heaven above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor, lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him; but in Heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high,
When, like stars, His children crowned
All in white, shall wait around.

Please sit.

Reading: *The birth of Jesus* St Luke Chapter 2

AND it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judæa, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Choir: *Jauchzet Frohlocket* (Johann Sebastian Bach)

Reading: *The shepherds go to the manger.* St Luke Chapter 2

AND there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Congregational carol. Please stand

While shepherds watched
Their flocks by night
All seated on the ground
The angel of the Lord came down
And glory shone around

“Fear not,” he said,
For mighty dread
Had seized their troubled minds
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.

“To you in David’s town this day
Is born of David’s line
The Saviour who is Christ the Lord
And this shall be the sign.

“The heavenly Babe
You there shall find
To human view displayed
All meanly wrapped In swathing bands
And in a manger laid.”

Thus spake the Seraph,
And forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song

“All glory be to God on high
And to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth
From heaven to men
Begin and never cease!”

Please sit.

Choir: *What Sweeter Music* (John Rutter)

Congregational Carol. Please stand.

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in the dark street shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

How silently, how silently
The wondrous Gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven
No ear may hear His coming
But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive Him still
The dear Christ enters in

O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God, the King
And peace to men on earth
For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love

O holy Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born in us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
Oh, come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel!

Please remain standing.

Reading: *St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.* St John Chapter 1

IN the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light but was sent to bear witness of that light. That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only be-gotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please sit

Choir: The Three Kings (Peter Cornelius)

Address: The Reverend Graham Buckle

Congregational Carol. Please stand.

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
Born the King of Angels:

God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:

Chorus: *O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!
Glory to God In the highest:

Please sit

Choir: Zion Hört die Wächter Singen (Johann Sebastian Bach)

Please remain sitting or kneel for the prayers

Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Please stand for the Blessing

Hark the Herald angels sing
"Glory to the new born King,
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th' incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"



Our principal charity is the **Cardinal Hume Centre** – turning lives around to overcome poverty and homelessness – which provides remarkable support to young and other vulnerable people just a short walk from St Stephen’s.

www.cardinalhumecentre.org.uk



We continue to support **The Lifeboat Fund** – helping the RNLI to save lives at sea – which is the oldest Civil Service charity, celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2016.

www.thelifeboatfund.org.uk

We are also proud to support St Stephen’s Church – the upkeep of this fine building, and the work it supports in this parish and further afield.

Our next public performances will be:

Thursday 23 January 2020, 1.05pm

Weihnachts-Oratorium

J S Bach (BWV 248)

St John's Smith Square

www.sjss.org.uk

Visit the Box Office for free tickets

Tuesday 7 April 2020, 1.05pm

Mass in D

Antonin Dvořák (Op. 86)

Holy Week Festival

St John's Smith Square

www.sjss.org.uk

Visit the Box Office for free tickets

www.civilservicechoir.org.uk

Twitter: @CSChoir

Facebook: /etceterachoir

We are also on YouTube

Email: etcetera@civilservicechoir.org.uk

Patron: Clare Moriarty CB, Permanent Secretary of DExEU