

Civil Service  
Choir



*Christmas 2021*  
**Carol Service**

Choir Director: Stephen Hall, OBE

**Tuesday 14th December, 5-6pm**  
**St Stephen's Church**  
**Rochester Row**  
**Westminster**



**Free entry, charity collection**

Cardinal Hume  
**Centre**  
Turning Lives Around

The Charity for  
Civil Servants **for you**  
**by you**

In association  
with:

**G**Christians in  
Government UK

[www.civilservicechoir.org.uk](http://www.civilservicechoir.org.uk)

Welcome to this special celebration of Christmas in words and music, organised by the Civil Service Choir in association with Christians in Government networks in the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC); the Home Office; the Department for Transport (DfT); and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). The service is being live-streamed from St Stephen's Rochester Row, Westminster.

This event is the 30th staff Carol Service to be held at St Stephen's. 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 136th performance since it gave its first concert here in St Stephen's in November 2009. At full strength the choir boasts over 150 members and performs with orchestra. In 2019 it gave 23 performances including in St John's Smith Square, Central Hall Westminster, Westminster Abbey, St Martin-in-the-Fields, Lancaster House, Somerset House, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and here at St Stephen's. Concerts included performances in the Brandenburg London Choral Festival and the London Jazz Festival.

Through its concerts the choir has raised almost £40,000 for charity.

The choir has continued to operate virtually since the Covid-19 pandemic and has produced five virtual recordings. These and recordings of many other performances are available on YouTube. Please visit [www.civilservicechoir.org.uk](http://www.civilservicechoir.org.uk) to find out more. A carol Advent Calendar of the choir's past Christmas performances is also available on YouTube.

The choir resumed weekly rehearsals at the beginning of October and performed Fauré's Requiem in the Service for All Souls here at St Stephen's on 2 November.

The choir is directed by Stephen Hall with accompanists Stella Kremer (who plays the organ today) and Matthew Reed.

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Christians in Government UK (CIG UK) is a non-denominational staff network connecting, supporting and representing Christians working in UK national Government. We are passionate about supporting our members to serve Ministers and the public, and to bring the blessing of God to the heart of Government for the benefit of all.

The network has been running Whitehall Christmas and Easter Services and other events for civil servants since 1999, having taken over the role of supporting Christians in the civil service from the Civil Service Christian Union. Having formal recognition from the Cabinet Office to represent and serve civil servants, CIG UK is the umbrella organisation for all Christian networks in UK Government departments. <https://christiansingovernment.org.uk/>

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There will be a retiring collection for the Cardinal Hume Centre – a homelessness and poverty charity based on Horseferry Road; the Charity for Civil Servants; and St Stephen's Church.

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY

**Congregational carol. Please stand**

**ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY**

*Words by Mrs C. F. Alexander*

*Music by H. J. Gauntlett, Harmonised by A.H. Mann, Descant by David Willocks*

**Choir only:**

1. Once in Royal David's city  
Stood a 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.

2. 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.

**All:** 3. 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.

4. 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.**

**Bidding Prayer 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.

**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: The Shepherd's Cradle Song**

*Words and music by Karl Leuner*

*Translated from the German by A Foxton Ferguson, Arranged by Charles MacPherson*

**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**

**SEE AMID THE WINTER'S SNOW**

*Words by E Caswall*

*Music by John Goss arranged by David Willocks*

1. **Choir only:** See amid the winter's snow,  
Born for us on earth below,  
See the tender Lamb appears,  
Promised from eternal years.

**All: Chorus**

*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!*

*Hail, redemption's happy dawn!*

*Sing through all Jerusalem,*

*Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

2. **All:** Lo, within a manger lies  
He who built the starry skies;  
He, who throned in height sublime  
Sits amid the cherubim.

**All: Chorus**

3. **Choir only:** Say, ye holy shepherds, say  
What your joyful news today;  
Wherefore have ye left your sheep  
On the lonely mountain steep?

**All: Chorus**

**Please sit.**

**Choir: The Sans Day Carol**

*Cornish traditional carol arranged by John Rutter*

**Congregational Carol. Please stand.**

**O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM**

*Words by Bishop Phillips Brooks*

*English traditional tune arranged by Ralph Vaughan-Williams, Descant by Thomas Armstrong*

4. **Choir only:** "As we watched at dead of  
night,  
Lo, we saw a wondrous light;  
Angels singing peace on earth  
Told us of the Saviour's birth".

**All: Chorus**

5. **All:** Sacred infant, all divine,  
What a tender love was Thine,  
Thus to come from highest bliss  
Down to such a world as this.

**All: Chorus**

Two-bar introduction played on the organ

6. **All**

Teach, O teach us, Holy Child,  
By Thy Face so meek and mild,  
Teach us to resemble Thee,  
In Thy Sweet humility!

**All: Chorus**

1. 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

2. 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

3. 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

4. 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: Variations on O Tannenbaum**

*Arranged by Stephen Hall*

*Based on a Traditional folk melody*

*Text: Ernst Anschütz, 1824*

*Literal English translation*

*O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum,  
wie treu sind deine Blätter!  
Du grünst nicht nur zur Sommerzeit,  
Nein auch im Winter, wenn es schneit.  
O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum,  
wie treu sind deine Blätter!  
O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum!  
Du kannst mir sehr gefallen!  
Wie oft hat nicht zur Weihnachtszeit  
Ein Baum von dir mich hoch erfreut!  
O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum!  
Du kannst mir sehr gefallen!  
O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum!  
Dein Kleid will mich was lehren:  
Die Hoffnung und Beständigkeit  
Gibt Trost und Kraft zu jeder Zeit.  
O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum!  
Das soll dein Kleid mich lehren.*

O Christmas tree, o Christmas tree  
How loyal are your leaves/needles!  
You're green not only in the summertime,  
No, also in winter when it snows.  
O Christmas tree, o Christmas tree  
How loyal are your leaves/needles!  
O Christmas tree, o Christmas tree  
You can please me very much!  
How often has not at Christmastime  
A tree like you given me such joy!  
O Christmas tree, o Christmas tree,  
You can please me very much!  
O Christmas tree, o Christmas tree  
Your dress wants to teach me something:  
Your hope and durability  
Provide comfort and strength at any time.  
O Christmas tree, o Christmas tree  
That's what your dress should teach me.

**Address: The Reverend Graham Buckle**

**Congregational carol. Please stand**

**O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL**

*Composer unknown (probably 18<sup>th</sup> century) Translated by F. Oakley and W.T. Brook (and others)  
Music arranged by David Willocks*

1. 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:

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

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

**Chorus**

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

**Chorus**

**Please sit**

**Choir: The Linden Tree**

*Translated from the German by G. R. Woodward  
Traditional Old German tune arranged by Reginald Jacques*

**Please stand for the Blessing**

**Congregational carol. Please remain standing.**

**HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING**

*Words by C. Wesley, T. Whitfield, M. Madan (and others)*

*Music by Felix Mendelssohn, Descant by David Willocks*

1. Hark the Herald angels sing  
"Glory to the new-born King,  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful all 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!"

2. 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!"

3. 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!"

**There will be a retiring collection for the Cardinal Hume Centre – a homelessness and poverty charity based on Horseferry Road; the Charity for Civil Servants; and St Stephen's Church.**

(Please see details overleaf)

**[www.civilservicechoir.org.uk](http://www.civilservicechoir.org.uk)**

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We are also on YouTube

Email: [etcetera@civilservicechoir.org.uk](mailto:etcetera@civilservicechoir.org.uk)



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](http://www.cardinalhumecentre.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.**



## The Charity for Civil Servants

Founded in 1886 we support all civil servants, past and present, throughout their lives, with whatever problems they may have. We can probably help, or we'll know someone who can. You'd be surprised with what we deal with every day. So just get in touch. Discover tools, services, news and more [linktr.ee/foryoubyyoucharity](https://linktr.ee/foryoubyyoucharity). We are funded by donations from civil servants.

<https://foryoubyyou.org.uk/about-us/who-we-help>