

Civil Service Choir

Celebrating 50 years of



Christmas 2022

Carol Service

1pm, Tue 20th Dec

St Stephen's Church

Rochester Row

Westminster

Free entry with a
charity collection supporting:



The Charity for
Civil Servants



Civil Service Choir



@CSChoir

www

civilservicechoir.org.uk

Welcome to this special celebration of Christmas in words and music, organised by the Civil Service Choir. We particularly welcome colleagues from the 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).

This event is the 31st annual 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 154th 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 regularly performs with orchestra at St John's Smith Square. Other performances have included a special service in Westminster Abbey, and concerts in St Martin-in-the-Fields and as part of the Brandenburg London Choral Festival and the London Jazz Festival.

After disruption due to the Covid-19 pandemic, including operating virtually for some time, the choir returned to more-normal activity in 2022. Our summer concert in St John's Smith Square was a celebratory return with a joyous piece of seven movements in seven languages. This was followed by the choir singing as part of the All Souls Service here at St Stephen's, at Somerset House's Remembrance event, at the National Liberal Club, a Vivaldi double choir extravaganza at Holy Trinity Sloane Square, and a further seven performances already this December.

Through its concerts the choir has raised over £42,000 for charities.

Many recordings of the choir's previous performances are available on YouTube, including a carol Advent Calendar. Please visit www.civilservicechoir.org.uk to find out more.

The choir is directed by Stephen Hall OBE, with organist Stella Kremer and pianist Matthew Reed. The choir would like to thank its patron, Dame Claire Moriarty DCB.

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. Please visit <https://christiansingovernment.org.uk/> to find out more.

Catherine Grannum – DLUHC
Christopher Smith – Home Office
Patricia Wilkinson-Forde – Defra

catherine.grannum@rsh.gov.uk
christopher.smith14@homeoffice.gov.uk
patricia.wilkinson-forde@defra.gov.uk

Congregational carol. Please stand.

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

Words by C. F. Alexander

Music by H. J. Gauntlett, harmonised by A. H. Mann, descant by David Willcocks

Solo by Sarah Lusty

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 her 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: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Words translated and edited by Edith M. Reed

Polish traditional carol, arranged by David Willcocks

First verse sung by Jan Gladysz and Richard Kwasniewski

1. W żłobie leży, któż pobieży
kolędować małemu
Jezusowi Chrystusowi dziś nam
narodzonemu?
Pastuszkowie, przybywajcie,
Jemu wdzięcznie przygrywajcie
jako Panu naszemu!

1. In the manger He lies,
who will hasten to carol the little one,
Jesus Christ born to us this day?
Gather ye shepherds
And make sweet music
To Him that is our Lord!

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

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.

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.

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.

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:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

Please sit.

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**

Choir: Angels From The Realms Of Glory

Words by J. Montgomery

Old French tune, arranged by Reginald Jacques

Congregational carol. Please stand.

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

Words by E.H. Sears

English traditional tune, adapted by Arthur Sullivan, descant by David Willcocks

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good-will to men,
From heaven's all-gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

2. Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing;
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long:
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong.
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing!

4. For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet-bards foretold,
When, with the ever-circling years,
Comes round the age of gold.
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

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: O Magnum Mysterium

Latin text from the Matins of Christmas in the Roman Breviary, Music by Morten Lauridsen

Address: The Reverend Graham Buckle

Congregational carol. Please stand.

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

Translated by F. Oakley and W. T. Brook (and others)

Composer unknown (probably 18th century), arranged by David Willcocks

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: In Dulci Jubilo

Words edited and adapted by Reginald Jacques

Old German tune, arranged by R. L. Pearsall

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 Willcocks

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 GIVE GENEROUSLY



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 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.



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/foryoubyyou.org.uk](https://foryoubyyou.org.uk). We are funded by donations from civil servants.
<https://foryoubyyou.org.uk/about-us/who-we-help>

SPARTA – the Sports and Recreational Association of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the Department for Transport – is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2022.

We would like to thank it for all the support it provides to the choir.



Civil Service Choir

and Orchestra Consort

Directed by Stephen Hall, OBE



ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE
EASTER FESTIVAL



vořák

Supporting



**The Charity for
Civil Servants**

Tuesday 4th April, 1.05pm

St John's Smith Square

Free ticketed admission

Box office: sjss.org.uk



Civil Service Choir



@CSChoir



civilservicechoir.org.uk