

BISHOPSGATE WARD CLUB

Founded in the City of London 1790

Carol Service

St. Botolph-without-Bishopsgate

Friday 15th December 2023

at 12.00 noon

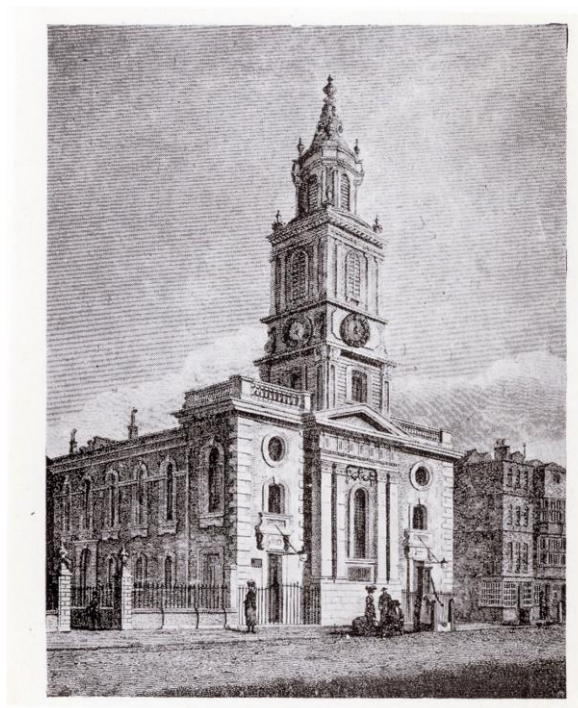
Conducted by The Revd David Armstrong
Rector of St. Botolph
and Hon. Chaplain to the Ward Club

The Choir of St. Botolph-without-Bishopsgate

Organist and Director of Music: Iestyn Evans

Welcome to St Botolph's for the Ward Club's annual Carol Service.

*The clergy and staff of St Botolph's wish the members of the
Bishopsgate Ward Club and their families and friends
a blessed Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year*



All are welcome to attend our Advent and Christmas services
either in church or by following the livestream
(accessible via the church website at www.botolph.org.uk).

*All these services are taken by the Rector and feature St Botolph's Choir
under the direction of Iestyn Evans:*

Friday 15 December at 5.30 pm

Carols by Candlelight

Wednesday 20 December at 1.10pm

Choral Mass of the Advent

Friday 22 December at 11.00 am

Family Mass of Christmas & Blessing of the Crib

Wednesday 3 January 2024 at 1.10 pm

Choral Mass of the Epiphany

—ORDER OF SERVICE—

The service will proceed unannounced—you are invited to sit for the lessons, address and choir items, and stand for the carols sung by all

Please stand at the ringing of the bell. The priest and choir enter during the singing of the first carol

Carol—Once in royal David's city

(choir)

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.

(all)

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.
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.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander

Music: H J Gauntlett, harm. A H Mann, arr, David Willcocks

Welcome and Bidding Prayer

The Revd David Armstrong

concluding with the Lord's Prayer said by all:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven.
Give us each day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And 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.**

1st Reading: Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

read by Frauke Schreiber, Hon. Secretary

Choir—Gabriel's Message

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes of flame;
“All hail,” said he, “thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady,” *Gloria!*

“For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favoured lady,” *Gloria!*

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said,
“My soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name,”
Most highly favoured lady, *Gloria!*

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
“Most highly favoured lady,” *Gloria!*

Words: traditional Basque carol, tr. Sabine Baring-Gould

Music: traditional Basque, arr. Edgar Pettman

2nd Reading: St Luke 1: 26-35, 38

read by Mike Whitson, Committee Member

Carol—It came upon the midnight clear

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, goodwill to men
from heaven’s all-gracious King!’
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

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.

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!

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 send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

Words: E H Sears

Music: traditional English tune, adapted Arthur Sullivan

3rd Reading: St Luke 2: 1-20

read by Barry Laden MBE, Committee Member

Carol—Hark! the herald angels sing

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 the 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 the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel:
Hark! the herald angels sing...

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 them second birth:
Hark! the herald angels sing....

Words: Charles Wesley et al.

Music: Felix Mendelssohn, arr. David Willcocks

4th Reading: St Matthew 2: 1-12

read by Helena Cooke, Vice President

Choir—O holy night!

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till he appeared, and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel-voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand.
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the wise men from the Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend;
He knows our need, he guardeth us from danger;
Behold your King! before the Lowly bend!

Truly he taught us to love one another;
His law is love and his Gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,
And in his Name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise his holy Name.
Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we,
His power and glory evermore proclaim.

Words: Placide Cappeau, tr. J S Dwight

Music: Adolphe Adam, arr. John Rutter

5th Reading: St John 1: 1-14

read by Mike Adams, President

Christmas Message

The Revd David Armstrong

Choir—The Yorkshire Wassail Song

We've been a-while a-wandering amongst the leaves so green.

But now we come a-wassailing so plainly to be seen,
*For it's Christmas time, when we travel far and near;
May God bless you and send you a happy New Year.*

We are not daily beggars that beg from door to door;
We are your neighbours' children, for we've been here before;
For it's Christmas time...

We've got a little purse made of leathern ratchin skin;
We want a little of your money to line it well within;
For it's Christmas time...

Call up the butler of this house, likewise the mistress too,
And all the little children that round the table go;
For it's Christmas time...

Bring us out a table and spread it with a cloth,
Bring us out a mouldy cheese and some of your Christmas loaf;
For it's Christmas time...

Good master and good mistress, while you're sitting by the fire,
Pray think of us poor children that's wandered in the mire;
For it's Christmas time...

Words: traditional English carol

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams

During the singing of the following carol a collection will be taken for St Botolph's Advent & Christmas charities, which this year are: Providence Row, which has been working since 1860 with all sectors of the homeless population in Tower Hamlets and the City of London, including those turned away from other projects due to their special needs; and ABCD Bethlehem, a UK charity which has worked for nearly 40 years in partnership with organisations supporting disabled children in hospitals and refugee camps in Palestine and Gaza.

Please give generously, and if you are a UK taxpayer please complete a Gift Aid envelope so the charities may benefit from an additional 25% on top of your donation. Card and contactless payments may also be made - if you prefer to donate by this method please use one of the devices at the front or back of church or the dedicated QR code displayed in church. These donations may also be Gift Aided.

Carol—Good King Wenceslas

Good King Wenceslas looked out
On the Feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about,
Deep and crisp and even:
Brightly shone the moon that night,
Though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight,
Gathering winter fuel.

(men) “Hither, page, and stand by me,
If thou know’st it, telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?”

(women) “Sire, he lives a good league hence,
Underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence,
By St Agnes’ fountain.”

(men) “Bring me flesh, and bring me wine,
Bring me pine-logs hither:
Thou and I will see him dine,
When we bear them thither.”

(all) Page and monarch forth they went,
Forth they went together;
Through the rude wind’s wild lament
And the bitter weather.

(women) “Sire, the night is darker now,
And the wind blows stronger:
Fails my heart, I know not how;
I can go no longer.”

(men) “Mark my footsteps, good my page;
Tread thou in them boldly;
Thou shalt find the winter’s rage
Freeze thy blood less coldly.”

concluded over

In his master's steps he trod,
Where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod
Which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men, be sure,
Wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor,
Shall yourselves find blessing.

Words: J M Neale

Music: tune from Piaie Cantiones, arr. Reginald Jacques

The Blessing

The Revd David Armstrong

Carol—O come, all ye faithful

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:
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:
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:
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Words: Adeste fideles, Latin hymn tr. F Oakeley, W T Brooke et al.

Music: Anon 18c, arr. David Willcocks

Choir—The Boar's Head Carol

The boar's head in hand bear I,
Bedecked with bays and rosemary;
And I pray you, my masters, be merry,
Quot estis in convivio ¹:
Caput apri defero reddens laudes Domino ².

The boar's head, as I understand,
Is the rarest dish in all this land,
Which thus bedecked with a gay garland,
Let us *servire cantico* ³:
Caput Apri defero reddens laudes Domino.

Our Steward hath provided this
In honour of the King of Bliss;
Which on this day to be served is
In Reginensi atrio ⁴.
Caput apri defero reddens laudes Domino.

1. *Quot estis in convivio* = So many as are at the feast

2. *Caput apri defero reddens laudes Domino* = The boar's head I bring, giving praises to God

3. Let us *servire cantico* = Let us serve with a song

4. In *Reginensi atrio* = In the Queen's hall [*this version of the carol originates from Queen's College, Oxford*]

Words and music: traditional English carol

Organ Voluntary

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729—Johann Sebastian Bach



Bishopsgate Ward Club

Founded in 1790, the Bishopsgate Ward Club was originally a forum for the merchants, traders and other interested parties of the Ward to express their views to the Aldermen and Common Councilmen, linking them to the governance of the City.

In modern times the Ward Club has become a social organisation, promoting community service, good fellowship and interest in the traditions and institutions of the City.

To become a member of the Ward Club is to take the first step to becoming a part of the inner circle of City life. It gives an opportunity for a greater understanding and appreciation of the fine traditions which are still the heart of the City's activities.

One of the most active of the City's 25 Ward Clubs, the Bishopsgate Ward Club arranges a varied programme each year, including receptions, luncheons and insider tours. Formal functions provide introductions to the Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor, Aldermen, Sheriffs and Members of the Court of Common Council.



**The President and Committee would like to
wish Members and their families
Season's Greetings**