

Parish & Ward Church of  
**ST. BOTOLPH**  
WITHOUT BISHOPSGATE



# **PARISH CAROL SERVICE**

*with the Choir of The Coopers' Company & Coborn School  
Alexi Williams, Head of Music; Karis White, choir director*

*and the Choir of St Botolph-without-Bishopsgate  
Iestyn Evans, Organist & Director of Music*

*Ruth Ross, trumpet*

**Thursday 14 December 2023  
at 1.10pm**

*St Botolph-without-Bishopsgate - a place of calm, sanctuary and God's love in the City*

**Welcome to St Botolph's - whether you are with us in church or following online - for our Parish Carol Service, which is led by the Rector, Fr David Armstrong. This is one of our major annual celebrations, and allows us to include and thank the wider St Botolph's 'family' and our linked charities and organisations.**



We are greatly appreciative of our links with the **City civic, historic and commercial**: many local firms come to this carol service; there are representatives here today of other City organisations including the City Heritage Society, the Bishopsgate Institute and Central Foundation Schools, both founded from this parish; and U3A Dagenham. The Ward of Bishopsgate is represented by some of the Common Councillors: one of whom, Tom Sleigh CC, is reading the first lesson.

We welcome representatives of our linked Livery Companies, particularly today the Coopers' Company, whose Master, Mr John Fahy, is reading a lesson. Our thanks also to **The Coopers' Company and Coborn School**: to Ms Sue Hay, Headteacher, to Miss Alexi Williams, Head of Music and her staff including choir director Ms Karis White, and to the choir, for giving up their time to join us today in a very busy week in the School's calendar. This year they are once again working alongside our own choir, and both choirs are accompanied by Iestyn Evans, St Botolph's Organist and Director of Music.

**The other readers** show other aspects of the work and contacts of a busy City church: Jane Brightwell represents our neighbours and friends at the Andaz Hotel (who are now in a new partnership with St Botolph's and the Coopers' Company to support our local homeless community), and Detective Sergeant Rebecca Conran works for the City Police at Bishopsgate Police Station – who are also our partners in our work with the Homeless Hub. Fr Andrew Williams is our Priest Missioner, and Vicar of our partner church St Francis at the Engine Room, Tottenham; and friend of St Botolph's Fr Toby Thomas is one of several visiting priests who helps us with services.

**During the service a collection will be taken for our Christmas Charities, Providence Row and ABCD Bethlehem (more information on back cover).**



If you are a UK taxpayer please complete a Gift Aid envelope so that a further 25% may be claimed. If you prefer to make a contactless donation please use one of the devices at the front or back of church, or the dedicated QR code on the back cover.



## —ORDER OF SERVICE—

**The service will proceed unannounced  
—you are invited to sit for the choir items  
and the first four lessons, and stand  
for the final lesson and the carols.**

***Please stand at the ringing of the bell***

### **CAROL**

**Solo**                   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.

**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.

**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;  
                              Where like stars his children crowned  
                              All in white shall wait around.

***Please remain standing***

**WELCOME**           *The Revd David Armstrong, Rector*

**BIDDING PRAYER** *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 this 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.

***Please sit***

**Coopers' and Coborn School Choir—Jesus Child**

Have you heard the story that they're telling 'bout Bethlehem?

Have you heard the story of the Jesus child?

How he came from heaven and was born in a manger bed?

Mary was his virgin mother, pure and mild.

*Sing alleluia, brothers, sing alleluia, sisters,*

*Worship the Jesus child and praise his mother mild.*

*'Glory to God on high', the angel hosts above are singing:*

*Listen to the story of the Jesus child.*

Have you heard the story of the poor humble shepherd men

Sitting on the hillside with their flocks by night?

Suddenly the angel tells them 'Hurry to Bethlehem!

Go and find the Jesus child, the world's new light!'

*Sing alleluia, brothers, sing alleluia, sisters...*

Jesus child, lying at Bethlehem,

Sleeping safe at Mary's knee:

Save my soul and bring me to paradise,

Let me join the angels singing 'Glory to thee'

*Sing alleluia, brothers, sing alleluia, sisters...*

Have you heard the story of the kings from the Orient

Following the star that's shining over his head?

Offering their precious gifts of gold, myrrh and frankincense,

Kneeling with the ox and ass before his bed?

*Sing alleluia, brothers, sing alleluia, sisters...*

Brothers, let us celebrate the birth of the Jesus child,

Sisters, come and welcome him, the new-born King;

Praise the Lord who sent him down from heaven at Christmas time;

Young and old and rich and poor, his praises sing.

*Sing alleluia, brothers, sing alleluia, sisters...*

*Words and music: John Rutter*

## FIRST LESSON:

### The Angel Gabriel salutes Mary

*read by Tom Sleigh CC,  
Common Councillor for the Ward of Bishopsgate*

***Please stand***



## CAROL

**All**

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.

***Please sit***

**SECOND LESSON:  
St Luke tells of the Birth of Jesus**

*read by Jane Brightwell,  
Purchasing Manager, Andaz Hotel, Liverpool Street*



**St Botolph's Choir—For unto us a Child is born**

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his Name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

*Isaiah 9: 6*

*Chorus from 'Messiah', George Frideric Handel*

**THIRD LESSON:  
The shepherds go to the manger**

*read by John Fahy,  
Master, The Worshipful Company of Coopers*



**CAROL**

**All**

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...*

**FOURTH LESSON:  
The Wise Men are led by the star to Jesus**

*read by Detective Sergeant Rebecca Conran,  
City of London Police, Bishopsgate Police Station*



**St Botolph's 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.

*Placide Cappeau, tr. J S Dwight*

*Adolphe Adam, arr. John Rutter*

## PRAYERS

*The Revd Toby Thomas*

**During the singing of the next Carol a collection will be taken up for St Botolph's Advent & Christmas Charities, Providence Row and ABCD Bethlehem**

(more information on back cover).

Please give generously, and if you are a UK taxpayer please complete the Gift Aid envelope provided.

We are also able to accept contactless payments – if you prefer to donate by this method please use one of the devices at the back of church or the dedicated QR code on the back cover.

***Please stand***

**CAROL** *to be sung as directed*

**All** 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?'

**Ladies** 'Sire, he lives a good league hence,  
Underneath the mountain,  
Right against the forest fence,  
By Saint Agnes' fountain.'

**Men** 'Bring me flesh, and bring me wine,  
Bring me pine logs hither:  
Thou and I shall 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.



**Ladies** '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.'

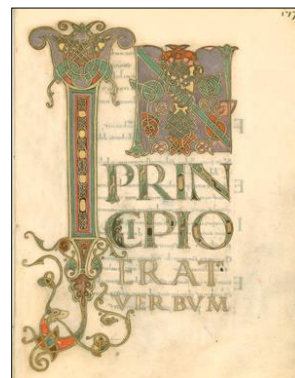
**All** In his master's steps he trod  
Where the snow lay dinted:  
Heat was in the very sod  
Which the Saint had printed.  
Therefore, Christian men, be sure,  
Wealth or rank possessing.  
Ye who now will bless the poor  
Shall yourselves find blessing.

***Please remain standing***

**FIFTH LESSON:  
St John unfolds the Mystery of the Incarnation**

*read by The Revd Andrew Williams,  
Priest Missioner at St Botolph's, and Vicar of  
St Francis at the Engine Room, Tottenham Hale*

***Please sit***



**Coopers' and Coborn Choir: The Coventry Carol**

*Lully, lulla, thou little tiny Child,  
By, by, lully, lullay.*

O sisters too, how may we do for to preserve this day  
This poor youngling for whom we sing, By, by, lully, lullay?

Herod, the King, in his raging, chargèd he hath this day  
His men of might, in his own sight, all young children to slay.

That woe is me, poor child, for thee! and ever morn and may,  
For thy parting neither say nor sing, By, by, lully, lullay.

*Lully, lulla, thou little tiny Child,  
By, by, lully, lullay.*

*Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors, 15<sup>th</sup> century*

*Original tune of 1591, arr. Martin Shaw*

***Please stand***

**BLESSING**      *The Revd David Armstrong*

***Please remain standing***

**CAROL**

**All**      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,*  
    *O come, let us adore him*  
    *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...*

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...*

***Please remain standing as the clergy and choir depart***

**CLOSING MUSIC:** The Prince of Denmark's March—Jeremiah Clarke

**All are warmly invited to join us for mulled wine  
and mince pies—please make your way to the refreshment  
tables at the front and back of the church.**

**A very happy Christmas and a blessed New Year  
to you all from the clergy, congregation and staff  
of St Botolph-without-Bishopsgate**



**ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US  
FOR MORE SERVICES and EVENTS AT  
ST BOTOLPH'S THIS CHRISTMASTIDE**

in church or via livestream

<https://www.youtube.com/c/StBotolphwithoutBishopsgate>

**CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**

**Tomorrow, Friday 15 December at 5.30 pm**

*with St Botolph's Choir*

—a short service of joyful carol singing

**FAMILY CHRISTMAS MASS AND BLESSING OF THE CRIB**

**Friday 22 December at 11.00 am**

*with St Botolph's Choir*

—bring your children and grandchildren

**For the first time at St Botolph's... a Festive Entertainment!  
Acclaimed actor Bruce Morrison presents 'A Christmas Carol'**

*More information and tickets:*

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/charles-dickens-a-christmas-carol-tickets-748331889827>

**CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CLOSURE**

Following the second performance of 'A Christmas Carol' the church will close for the Christmas break, re-opening at 10.00am on Tuesday 2 January 2024.

Our first service of the New Year will be the Said Mass on Tuesday 2 January at 12.10 pm.

(please note there will be no 8.10 am Mass that day).

**EPIPHANY AT ST BOTOLPH'S**

**Wednesday 3 January 2024 at 1.10 pm**

**Choral Mass of the Epiphany** *with St Botolph's Choir*

Regular service pattern

Tuesdays: Said Mass at 8.10 am and 12.10 pm

Wednesdays: Choral Mass with Sermon at 1.10 pm

Thursdays: Said Mass at 12.10 pm

The latest information about future services and events can always be found on our website at [www.botolph.org.uk](http://www.botolph.org.uk). You will also find on the website a link to sign up for our **monthly email newsletter**



## St Botolph's Advent & Christmas Charities

Alms given and collections taken during Advent and at Carol Services are divided between our chosen charities, which this year reflect two issues particularly relevant to our Advent theme of 'The Outcast'.



### PROVIDENCE ROW

HELPING HOMELESS AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE SINCE 1860

**Providence Row** 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. The charity works with more than 1800 homeless and vulnerably housed people a year, offering an integrated service of crisis support, advice, recovery, and learning and training programmes. The Dellow Day Centre provides essential services including food, showers and laundry facilities, which help to restore health and dignity, and the charity's wide range of advice support and outreach services also help to tackle the more complex issues which may be the root cause of a person's homelessness.

**ABCD Bethlehem** is a UK charity which has worked for nearly 40 years in partnership with organisations supporting disabled children in hospitals and refugee camps in the West Bank. The children and their families cared for by ABCD's partners were already in great need of help, but the devastating conflict in Gaza has had a further huge impact on their lives. With Palestinian areas of the West Bank in lockdown and suffering nightly raids, the psychological damage to children and young adults is incalculable. Your donations will go towards ABCD's crisis appeal to meet the needs of hundreds of vulnerable children in refugee camp centres by providing additional trauma therapy, support for families with food parcels and medication, and urgent repairs to centres damaged in the conflict.



Action around Bethlehem Children with Disability

### Please give as generously as you are able at this time:

- **Cash donations** may be placed in the alms boxes, or handed to a member of staff at any time. If you are a UK taxpayer please complete a Gift Aid envelope so we can claim back a further 25% from HMRC.
- **Card/contactless donations** can be made at any time via the devices at the front or back of church, or this dedicated QR code, and can be Gift Aided.
- **Credit card donations** can be made via the link on our website, and can be Gift Aided.

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