

THE PARISH OF  
ST MARY-LE-BOW

# Christmas Carol Service



*O Adonai*

Friday 18th December 2020 at 6.00pm

The Revd George Bush, Rector  
The Choir of St Mary-le-Bow  
Thomas Allery, Director of Music

During the current emergency face coverings must be worn in the church, hands must be sanitised on arrival and social distancing must be observed. Please use the track and trace code at the door and do not mingle before or after the service.

St  
Mary  
le  
Bow  
Church



HANDS



FACE



SPACE



A personal loop is available to assist those with impaired hearing, please ask the vergers.

*Before the service the organist plays 'Meine Seele erhebt den Herren'  
Fugue on the Magnificat (BWV 733) by J.S. Bach (1685–1750)*

*Remain seated*  
**THE INTROIT**

**Matin Responsory**

*words translated from the first responsory of Advent Sunday in the office of Matins,  
music adapted from a Magnificat by Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525–94)*

V: *I look from afar:*

R: And lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.

V: *Go ye out to meet him and say:*

R: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

V: *High and low, rich and poor, one with another,*

R: Go ye out to meet him and say:

V: *Hear, O thou shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.*

R: Tell us, art thou he that should come?

V: *Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come*

R: To reign over thy people Israel.

V: *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.*

R: I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming,  
and a cloud covering the whole earth.

V: *Go ye out to meet him and say:*

R: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

*During the current emergency, congregational singing has to be omitted.  
Hymns are sung by the choir on our behalf.*

*All stand*  
**HYMN**

OF the Father's heart begotten,  
Ere the world from chaos rose,  
He is Alpha: from that Fountain  
All that is and hath been flows;  
He is Omega, of all things  
Yet to come the mystic Close,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

He assumed this mortal body,  
Frail and feeble, doomed to die,  
That the race from dust created  
Might not perish utterly,  
Which the dreadful Law had sentenced  
In the depths of hell to lie,

O how blest that wondrous birthday,  
When the Maid the curse retrieved,  
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,  
By the Holy Ghost conceived;  
And the Babe, the World's Redeemer,  
In her loving arms received,  
*The hymn pauses while  
the Christmas crib is blessed*

Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;  
Angels and Archangels, sing!  
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,  
Let your joyous anthems ring,  
Every tongue his name confessing,  
Countless voices answering,

*Latin words by Prudentius (348–413), translated by J.M. Neale (1818–66), and H.W. Baker (1821–77),  
tune 'Divinum mysterium', melody from Piaae Cantiones Theodorici Petri Nylandensis (1582)*

*Remain standing*  
**THE BIDDING PRAYER**

*All join in saying*  
**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. 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.**

*All sit*  
**CHOIR CAROL**  
*'Sans Day Carol'*

*traditional Cornish words set to music by John Rutter (1945–)*

*Remain seated*  
**READING**  
Genesis 3: 8–19

THEY heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' The Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.' To the woman he said, 'I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.' And to the man he said, 'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, "You shall not eat of it", cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.'

*Remain seated*  
**CHOIR CAROL**

'Adam lay Ybounden'

*15th-century English words set to music by Peter Warlock (1894–1930)*

Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond: Four thousand winter Thought he not too long.  
And all was for an apple, An apple that he took, As clerkes finden written in their book. Ne  
had the apple taken been, The apple taken been, Ne had never our lady Abeen heavèn  
queen. Blessed be the time That apple taken was. Therefore we moun singen: Deo gracias!

*Remain seated*

**READING**

'O Adonai'

*by Malcolm Guite (1957–)*

*O Adonai, and leader of the house of Israel,  
who appeared in the bush to Moses in a flame of fire,  
and gave him the law in Sinai:  
come and deliver us with an outstretched arm.*

*'O Adonai' is anciently the antiphon to the Magnificat  
– and one of a sequence for the days before Christmas – for this evening*

Unsayable, you chose to speak one tongue,  
Unseeable, you gave yourself away,  
The Adonai, the Tetragrammaton  
Grew by a wayside in the light of day.  
O you who dared to be a tribal God,  
To own a language, people and a place,  
Who chose to be exploited and betrayed,  
If so you might be met with face to face,  
Come to us here, who would not find you there,  
Who chose to know the skin and not the pith,  
Who heard no more than thunder in the air,  
Who marked the mere events and not the myth.  
Touch the bare branches of our unbelief  
And blaze again like fire in every leaf.

*Remain seated*  
**CHOIR CAROL**

'O magnum mysterium'

*music by Tomás Luis de Victoria (c.1548–1611)*

O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the new-born Lord,  
lying in a manger! Blessed is the virgin whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord, Jesus  
Christ. Alleluia!

*All stand*  
**HYMN**

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

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.

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 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.

*Words by Phillips Brooks (1835–93)*  
*Tune 'Forest Green' a traditional English melody, harmony by R. Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)*

*All sit*

**READING**

Matthew 1: 18–end

NOW the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

*Remain seated*

**CHOIR CAROL**

'O Jesu Christ, meins Lebens licht' (BWV 118)

*music by J.S. Bach*

O little one sweet, O little one mild, thy Father's purpose thou hast fulfilled; Thou camest from heaven to dwell below, To share the joys and tears we know, O little one sweet, O little one mild.

O little one sweet, O little one mild, with joy thou hast the whole world filled; thou camest here from heaven's domain, to bring men comfort in our pain, O little one sweet, O little one mild.

O little one sweet, O little one mild. In thee Love's beauties are all distilled; then light in us thy love's bright flame, that we may give thee back the same, O little one sweet, O little one mild.

*Remain seated*

**READING**

'Ring out, wild bells'

*by Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809–92)*

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,  
The flying cloud, the frosty light:  
The year is dying in the night;  
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,  
The faithless coldness of the times;  
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes  
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,  
The civic slander and the spite;  
Ring in the love of truth and right,  
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind  
For those that here we see no more;  
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,  
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;  
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;  
Ring out the thousand wars of old,  
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,  
And ancient forms of party strife;  
Ring in the nobler modes of life,  
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring in the valiant man and free,  
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;  
Ring out the darkness of the land,  
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

*Remain seated*

**CHOIR CAROL**

'Ding dong! Merrily on high'

*Words by G.R. Woodward (1848–1934)*

*set to a French tune arranged by Malcolm Williamson (1931–2003)*

*All stand*

**THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL**

John 1: 1–14

IN the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*All sit*

**THE HOMILY**

The Revd George Bush, Rector

*All stand*  
**HYMN**

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;

See how the Shepherds,  
Summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh  
with lowly fear;  
We too will thither  
Bend our joyful footsteps:

*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:

Child, for us sinners  
Poor and in a manger,  
Fain we embrace thee,  
with awe and love;  
Who would not love thee,  
Loving us so dearly?

Sing, choirs of Angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens  
of heaven above;  
Glory to God  
In the Highest:

*Words: Latin, 18th-century, translated by Frederick Oakley (1802–80), et al  
Tune 'Adeste Fideles' probably by J.F. Wade (1711–86)*

*Remain standing*

PRIEST Now it is time to awake out of sleep,  
ALL **for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.**  
For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers,  
**for the night is far spent.**  
Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness  
and put on the armour of light,  
**for the day is at hand.**  
Put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh,  
**for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.**

### THE BLESSING

*Remain standing while the priest departs*

### ORGAN POSTLUDE

'Finale' from Organ Symphony no.1  
*by Louis Vierne (1870–1937)*

2020 has been an exceptionally demanding year for all voluntary organisations – like most churches St Mary-le-Bow's finances are imperilled. If you are able to make a donation to assist, please use contactless payment at the door, complete and use a gift aid envelope and place in the donations box, or donate online: either visit [stmarylebow.org.uk](http://stmarylebow.org.uk) and follow the 'give' link, or scan the QR code below. Thank you.



*The Rector, Staff and People of St Mary-le-Bow wish you and all your families  
a happy Christmas and a blessed New Year*



**Wednesday 6th January 2021**

The Epiphany of Our Lord

13:05 Sung Eucharist

**Wednesday 3rd February**

The Boyle Lecture 2021

18:00 at York Minster

‘The Rediscovery of Contemplation Through Science’

Lecturer: Professor Tom Mcleish (Professor of Natural Philosophy, University of York); Responder: The Rt Revd & Rt Hon. The Lord Williams of Oystermouth (Formerly Archbishop of Canterbury and Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge)

*During the current pandemic, this year’s lecture will be available online only from the ISSR website. The International Society for Science and Religion (ISSR) [www.issr.org.uk](http://www.issr.org.uk)*

**Regular Services at St Mary-le-Bow  
during the current emergency**

**Morning Prayer:**

08:30 Monday to Friday

**Eucharist:**

13:05 Wednesday

**Evening Prayer:**

17:30 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

18:00 Thursday – also live streamed

For a link to join us online on a Thursday,  
please email [info@stmarylebow.org.uk](mailto:info@stmarylebow.org.uk)

The church is currently open for private prayer  
during daylight hours on weekdays.

You are most welcome.

**FOR PUBLIC HEALTH REASONS,  
PLEASE TAKE THIS ORDER OF SERVICE AWAY WITH YOU**

*This service sheet is printed on chlorine-free paper from a managed and renewed source, and will be recycled after use. Material from the New English Hymnal is included in this service and is copyright.*

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**St  
Mary  
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