

Welcome to

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT

by

THE WENDEL SINGERS

(conductor Joe Reeves,
accompanist Lynne Staveley)

at
Barwick in Elmet Methodist Church
Thursday 15th December 2022
at 7.30pm



Choir & Audience

Words by Mrs Cecil Francies Alexander (1818-1895), Irish author of many children's hymns, which were intended as tools to teach the Christian faith and its celebrations. Philanthropist and co-founder of a school for the deaf. Married the future Primate of All-Ireland. Tune by Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876), organist, designer and builder of organs for William Hill's company, and composer of many thousands of hymn tunes. Chosen by Mendelssohn to play for the premier performance of *Elijah*.

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.

3. 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.



Choir

Christmas Day; choral fantasy on old carols

by Gustav Holst(1874-1934)

The Infant King

Words by S. Baring-Gould (1834-1924). Tune a Basque Noel arranged by David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Interlude: Nigel Craddock: *The Gift of Christmas*

Choir

Let Us Light a Candle

Words and music by June Clark (1966), who studied piano and composition at the Royal Academy of Music. Her first works were published whilst still a twenty-year-old student, launched as one of England's rare women composers. Alongside a career as an international pianist, she published many vocal and choral works. This piece is dedicated to the choir of St Alban's Cathedral, where she founded a Chamber Choir in 1958.

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

18th century words, probably written as a carol, possibly by Revd Revd Richard Hutchins, a Calvinist Baptist minister in Northamptonshire. It alludes to the apple tree in Song of Solomon 2:3, which has been taken as an image of Christ, and to the tree of life in Like 13:18-19 and elsewhere. This setting is by Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987) a composer, pianist and writer, a director of music at the BBC during World War II.

Interlude: Barbara Dunkley: *Christmas* by John Betjeman

Choir

The Holly and The Ivy

English traditional carol arranged by Reginald Jacques (1894-1969). Dr Jacques had a distinguished musical career mainly in Oxford and London.



Choir and Congregation

It came upon the midnight clear

Words published in 1849 by Edmund Sears, pastor of a Unitarian Church in Massachusetts. Traditional English tune adapted by Sir Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900), famous for many orchestral and choral works, particularly his comic operas in collaboration with W.S. Gilbert.

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.

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:
Oh 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.



BRIEF INTERVAL

PART 2

Choir and Congregation

While shepherds watched their flocks

Words by Nahum Tate (1652-1715), an Irish lyricist who was Poet Laureate in England from 1692 until his death. First published in 1700 in a collection of metrical psalms which Tate published with Nicholas Brady. It was the only Christmas hymn authorised in the Church of England, as up to then only psalms could be sung. Many tunes have been used for it. We sing it tonight to Cranbrook, composed about 1800 by Thomas Clark (1775-1859), a cobbler from Canterbury. When it first appeared it was used for Grace, 'tis a charming sound by Philip Doddridge but it soon became better known as the tune for While Shepherds Watched. Fifty years later a Halifax church choir used it on their outing to sing On Ilkla Moor Baht 'at and the association remained.

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,

All seated on the ground,

The angel of the Lord came down,

And glory shone around.

“Fear not!” said he, for mighty dread

Had seized their troubled mind.

“Glad tidings of great joy I bring

To you and all mankind.

“To you, in David’s town, this day

Is born of David’s line

A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,

And this shall be the sign.

“To you in David’s town this day

is born of David’s line

a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be the sign:

“The heavenly babe you there shall find

to human view displayed,

all meanly wrapped in swathing bands

and in a manger laid.”

Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

“All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
goodwill henceforth from highest heaven
begin and never cease!”

Interlude: Gill Sinclair: *Goodwill To Men - Give Us Your Money* by Pam Ayres

Choir

Gaudete Traditional words and music arranged by David Lee (1926-)
Translation:

Rejoice! rejoice! Christ is born of the Virgin Mary, rejoice!
At this time of grace and longed-for blessing,
love faithfully offers a song of praise.
God is made human in this wonderful birth:
the world is cleansed through the rule of Christ.
The gate of heaven now opens which to us was closed,
sending forth transforming light through which holiness is found.
Therefore we meet in pure songs of joy:
we bless the Lord, king of our salvation.



The Boar's Head Carol, 15th century words arr. Sir Malcom Sargeant

The practice of bringing a boar's head ceremonially to the table at a Yuletide feast still continues at Queen's College, Oxford.

The boar's head in hand bear I,

Bedeck'd with [bays](#) and [rosemary](#).

And I pray you, my masters, be merry

Quot estis in convivio (Translation: As many as are at the feast)

Caput apri defero (Translation: The boar's head I bear)

Reddens laudes Domino (Translation: Rendering praises to the Lord)

The boar's head, as I understand,

Is the rarest dish in all this land,

Which thus bedeck'd with a gay garland

Let us *servire cantico*. (Translation: Let us serve with a song).

Our steward hath provided this

In honour of the King of Bliss;

Which on this day to be servèd is

In Regimensi atrio. (Translation: In the hall of The Queen's)

Interlude: Paule Duncan Austwick: *Messiah*

Choir

In the Darkness of the Night Words by Ivor Morgan, music by Donald Cashmore

Fum. Fum, Fum Traditional Catalan Dance Carol: English version and arrangement by Alice Parker and Robert Shaw.

Thought to have originated in 16th or 17th cent.

'Fum' means 'smoke' in Catalan. Its meaning here is

debated: chimney smoke seen from afar? the

beating of a drum or strumming of a guitar? the



Choir & Congregation
Ding Dong, Merrily on High

French Traditional Arr Roger Harvey

1. Ding Dong! merrily on high
In heav'n the bells are ringing
Ding, dong! verily the sky
Is riv'n with angel singing
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis

2. E'en so here below, below
Let steeple bells be swungen
And i-o, i-o, i-o
By priest and people be sungen
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis

3. Pray ye dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers
May ye beautifully rime²
Your evetime song, ye singers
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis.



END OF CONCERT
Thank you for your support