

THE
BRITAIN-AUSTRALIA
SOCIETY

Christmas Carol Service



*Monday 11th December 2017
at 1.00pm*

*The Choir of St Mary-le-Bow
directed by Alan Wilson*

*The St Paul's Cathedral School Bread Street Choir,
by kind permission of the Headmaster,
directed by Miss C.J. Arbuthnott MA MPhil PGCE*

*with thanks for support from
the Commonwealth Bank of Australia*

CommonwealthBank 

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Large-print orders of service are available at the door

An infrared system is in place to assist those with impaired hearing:
please ask the Verger

Assisted access is available at the west porch from the Churchyard

All Stand
HYMN

solo:

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.

all:

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

*Tune 'Irby' by H.J. Gauntlett (1805–76), revised A.H. Mann (1850–1929)
and New English Hymnal editors, words by Mrs C.F. Alexander (1818–95)*

Remain standing
THE BIDDING

The Revd George Bush, Rector, Chaplain of the Society

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. 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
THE BREAD STREET CHOIR
'Adam lay y-bounden'
English 15th-century words sung to a traditional French melody

Remain seated
READING
'Annunciation' by John Donne (1572–1631)
read by Mr Dale Eaton, National Director, Britain-Australia Society

Salvation to all that will is nigh;
That All, which always is all everywhere,
Which cannot sin, and yet all sins must bear,
Which cannot die, yet cannot choose but die,
Lo, faithful virgin, yields Himself to lie
In prison, in thy womb; and though He there
Can take no sin, nor thou give, yet He will wear,
Taken from thence, flesh, which death's force may try.
Ere by the spheres time was created, thou
Wast in His mind, who is thy Son and Brother;
Whom thou conceivst, conceived; yea thou art now
Thy Maker's maker, and thy Father's mother;
Thou hast light in dark, and shutst in little room,
Immensity cloistered in thy dear womb.

Remain seated
THE BREAD STREET CHOIR
'The Zither Carol'
a traditional Czech carol, arranged by Malcolm Sargent (1895–1967)

All stand

HYMN

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 thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

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.

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.

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.

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

All sit

READING

Colossians 1: 13–20

read by Mr Ken Ryan AM, Agent General for Victoria to The United Kingdom & Commissioner to Europe & Israel

He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Remain seated

CHOIR CAROL

‘He is born’

an Australian carol by Colin Brumby (b. 1933)

READING

‘A Shepherd’s Song’ from ‘A Hymn of the Nativity’

by Richard Crashaw (1613–49)

*read by Mr Andreas Geronimos, Strategic Partnerships Manager,
International Premier Bank, Commonwealth Bank of Australia*

Come, we shepherds whose blest sight
Hath met Love’s noon in nature’s night;
Come, lift we up our loftier song,
And wake the sun that lies too long.

Tell him we now can show him more
Than he e’er showed to mortal sight,
Than he himself e’er saw before,
Which to be seen needs not his light:
In spite of darkness it was day.
It was thy day, sweet, and did rise,
Not from the East, but from Thy eyes.

Welcome all wonders in one sight!
Eternity shut in a span!
Summer in winter! day in night!
Heaven in earth! and God in man!
Great little one,
whose all embracing birth
Lifts earth to Heaven,
stoops Heaven to earth!

Remain seated
CHOIR CAROL

'Mary hushed the little Jesus' music by Edwin Burchett (1884–1966)
*Burchett was the son of the founder of the Methodist Church in Melbourne.
This carol also became popular in the Australian Church of Christ.*

READING

Matthew 2: 1–9

read by Mr Peter Sargent, Board Member, Britain-Australia Society

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

CHOIR CAROL

'O little love' words by Shirley Murray
*Murray has emerged as a distinguished and prolific Australasian hymn writer
often creating poignant texts; music by Alan Wilson (b. 1947)*

Remain seated

READING

verses from 'Christmas' by Sir John Betjeman (1906–84)

*read by Ms Kate White, Director Asia Pacific Directorate,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office*

1. The bells of waiting Advent ring,
The Tortoise stove is lit again
And lamp-oil light across the night
Has caught the streaks of winter rain
In many a stained-glass window sheen
From Crimson Lake to Hookers Green.
2. The holly in the windy hedge
And round the Manor House the yew
Will soon be stripped to deck the ledge,
The altar, font and arch and pew,
So that the villagers can say
'The church looks nice' on Christmas Day.
3. And London shops on Christmas Eve
Are strung with silver bells and flowers
As hurrying clerks the City leave
To pigeon-haunted classic towers,
And marbled clouds go scudding by
The many-steepled London sky.
4. And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me?
5. And is it true? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissued fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant,
6. No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare –
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.

CHOIR CAROL

'Sing Gloria' by J. H. Wheeler (1901–84) and W. G. James (1895–1977)

They collaborated in 1948 to produce real 'Australian' carols.

*In this piece Wheeler refers to 'the Lord who planted the bushland,
tomorrow is born'*

All stand
HYMN

1. THE first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.*

2. They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
3. And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.
4. This star drew nigh to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay.
5. Then entered in those wise men three
Full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.
6. Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,
And with his blood mankind hath bought.

Tune 'The First Nowell' an English third-mode melody harmonised by John Stainer (1840–1901) Words traditional

Remain standing

READING

John 1: 1-14

*read by His Excellency The Hon. Alexander Downer AC,
Australian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom*

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

During the hymn, a collection is taken for the Britain-Australia Society, to defray the costs of the service, and to support the Britain-Australia trusts.

Those who pay income or capital gains tax in the UK are invited to complete the Gift Aid envelope provided with name and postcode.

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:
*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:
*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*
3. Child, for us sinners
Poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;
Who would not love thee,
Loving us so dearly?
*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*
4. 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,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

Remain standing
THE BLESSING

Remain standing as the priest departs

POSTLUDE

'Noël Etranger' (no.8 from 'Livre de Noël')
by Louis-Claude Dacquin (1694-1772)

*Please join the Britain-Australia Society
for refreshments at the back of the church*

*The Rector and people of St Mary-le-Bow
join in wishing all Australians in London
a very Happy Christmas*

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

– all welcome –

THE ADMIRAL ARTHUR PHILLIP COMMEMORATION

Monday 22nd January 2018 at 11.30am

Phillip was born in the City of London and a bust in St Mary-le-Bow commemorates his achievements as first Governor of New South Wales and the founder of the new Nation of Australia.

Everyone is welcome to attend the service; a limited number of tickets to the luncheon that follows (£75) may be ordered from britain-australia.org.uk/events

THE BOYLE LECTURE

Wednesday 7th February 2018 at 6.00pm

Dr Michael Harris (University of Edinburgh)

– all welcome, seating limited and unreserved –

Further details are available here:

www.stmarylebow.co.uk/boyle-lecture

St Mary-le-Bow

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