

**CITY
CHAMBER
CHOIR**

"Bringing music to life in the City"

PRESIDENT Cecilia McDowall

PATRON Bob Chilcott

www.citychamberchoir.org.uk



**Music and readings for Christmas
from St John the Baptist Church,
Ripe, East Sussex**

Sunday 13 December 2020 5.00 pm

- Revd Geoffrey Smith: Welcome and introduction**
- Choir: Maria durch ein Dornwald ging**
Arr. Stefan Claas (b.1941)
- Choir: The Angel Gabriel**
Traditional Baque carol arr. Edgar Pettman (1866–1943)
- Reading: Annunciation**
John Donne (1572–1631)
- Choir: O come, o come Emmanuel**
15th Century French melody arr. Paul Leddington Wright (b. 1951)
- Choir: The holly and the ivy**
Matthew Owens (b. 1971)
- Reading: Christmas Eve**
Seamus Heaney (1939–2013)
- Choir: I saw three ships**
Reginald Jacques (1894–1969)
- Reading: Luke 2:1–7**
- Choir: Bethlehem Down**
Peter Warlock (1894–1930)
- Choir: O magnum mysterium**
Tomás Luis de Victoria (c.1548–1611)
- Choir: Ding, dong! Merrily on high**
Arr. Charles Wood (1866–1926)
- Piano solo: Lullaby for the Infant King**
Stephen Jones
Piano: Philip Shannon
- Choir: Lully, lulla thou little tiny child**
Kenneth Leighton (1929–1988)
- Reading: Luke 2:8–20**
- Choir: Personent hodie**
Arr. Gustav Holst (1874–1934)
- Choir: Behold that star**
Spiritual arr. Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)
- Choir: Here is the little door**
Herbert Howells (1892–1983)
- Reading: The meeting place (after Rubens):
The Adoration of the Magi, 1634)**
Christopher Pilling (b. 1936)
- Choir: We three kings**
John Henry Hopkins (1820–1891) arr. Paul Leddington Wright
- Revd Geoffrey Smith: Prayers and blessing**

Maria durch ein Dornwald ging

Arr. Stefan Claas (b.1941)

Born in Bayreuth, Stefan Claas studied at the music academies in Munich and Frankfurt. He is the conductor of the Ars Antiqua Aschaffenburg Chamber Choir and the Main-Taunus Chamber Choir Bad Soden im Taunus.

*Maria durch ein' Dornwald ging,
Kyrieleison!
Maria durch ein' Dornwald ging,
Der hat in sieben Jahr'n kein Laub getragen!
Jesus und Maria.*

Maria walks amid the thorn,
Kyrieleison!
Which for seven years no leaf hath born
She walks amid the wood of thorn
Jesus and Maria.

*Was trug Maria unter ihrem Herzen?
Kyrieleison!
Ein kleines Kindlein ohne Schmerzen,
Das trug Maria unter ihrem Herzen!
Jesus und Maria.*

What 'neath her heart does Mary bear?
Kyrieleison!
A little child doth Mary bear
Beneath her heart he nestles there.
Jesus and Maria.

*Da haben die Dornen Rosen getragen.
Kyrieleison!
Als das Kindlein durch den Wald getragen,
Da haben die Dornen Rosen getragen!
Jesus und Maria.*

And as the two are passing near
Kyrieleison!
Lo! Roses on the thorns appear!
Jesus and Maria

TEXT: 16TH CENTURY

The angel Gabriel

Traditional Basque carol arr. Edgar Pettman (1866–1943)

Edgar Pettman was an English organist, choral conductor and music editor. After studying at the Royal Academy of Music he was organist at a number of London churches, including St James's, Piccadilly. The composer of a number of anthems and other church music, he is best known for his 1892 book *Modern Christmas Carols*. He was also an early editor of the works of Thomas Tallis, publishing an edition in 1900.

The angel Gabriel from heaven came
His wings as drifted snow his eyes as flame
'All hail' said he 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
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!

'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!

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!

SABINE BARING-GOULD (1834–1924)

Reading: Annunciation

John Donne (1572–1631)

Reader: Stephanie Rogers

Although born into a recusant Roman Catholic family, Donne eventually became a priest in the Church of England and ultimately Dean of St Paul's. During a very varied career, however, he was also a lawyer; chief secretary to the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal; an anti-Catholic pamphleteer; and MP for Brackley and later for Taunton; he fought alongside Sir Walter Raleigh against the Spanish at Cadiz. *Annunciation* is part of his sonnet sequence *La Corona*. Each of the seven sonnets begins with the last line of the previous one, making a complete circle representing the 'crown of prayer and praise' of the title.

O come, o come Emmanuel

15th Century French melody arr. Paul Leddington Wright (b. 1951)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine Advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, thou Wisdom from above,
who ord'rest all things by thy love;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.

O come, Desire of nations, bring
All peoples to their Saviour King;
Thou Cornerstone, who makest one,
Complete in us thy work begun.

O come, thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

O come, o come, thou Lord of Might,
Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.

BASED ON THE ADVENT ANTIPHONS, TRANS.
JOHN MASON NEALE (1818–1866) AND
OTHERS.

The holly and the ivy

Matthew Owens (b. 1971)

Matthew Owens is Director of Music at St Anne's Cathedral Belfast. He was Organist and Master of the Music at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Edinburgh (1999–2004), and from 2005 to 2019 he was Organist and Master of the Choristers at Wells Cathedral.

Reading: Christmas Eve

Seamus Heaney (1939–2013)

Reader: Brian Hill

Seamus Heaney was an Irish poet, translator, playwright and academic whose work often evokes Irish rural life and events in Irish history, as well as alluding to Irish myth. He was Professor of Poetry at Oxford from 1989 to 1994 and received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1995.

I saw three ships

Reginald Jacques (1894–1969)

Reginald Jacques was an English choral and orchestral conductor. He obtained his first degree from Oxford University, where he later became organist and fellow of Queen's College. Dr Jacques occupied a succession of increasingly prestigious and influential posts in the music world, founding the Jacques Orchestra in 1936 and conducting the Bach Choir and the Oxford Harmonic Society for many years. He collaborated with Sir David Willcocks in compiling the popular first volume of *Carols for Choirs*, which incorporates several of his better known arrangements and also this original setting.

Reading: Luke 2:1–7

Reader: Roz Webb

Bethlehem Down

Peter Warlock (1894–1930)

Anglo-Welsh composer Warlock set the poem written by Bruce Blunt in 1927. Although it is a beautiful and reverent piece, Warlock wrote it to finance a heavy drinking session on Christmas Eve of that year for himself and Blunt, who were in financial difficulties. They submitted the carol to the *Daily Telegraph's* annual Christmas carol contest and won.

When He is King we will give him the King's
gifts,
Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown,
'Beautiful robes', said the young girl to Joseph
Fair with her first-born on Bethlehem Down.

Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight
Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

When He is King they will clothe Him in grave-
sheets,
Myrrh for embalming, and wood for a crown,
He that lies now in the white arms of Mary
Sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.

Here He has peace and a short while for
dreaming,
Close-huddled oxen to keep Him from cold,
Mary for love, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

BRUCE BLUNT (1899–1957)

O magnum mysterium

Tomás Luis de Victoria (c.1548–1611)

Tomás Luis de Victoria, was born in Avila in 1548 and in about 1558 became a choirboy at Avila Cathedral, where he received his earliest musical training. When his voice broke he was sent to the Collegium Germanicum in Rome at which he was enrolled as a student in 1565. He spent the next twenty years occupying various posts in Rome, where it is likely that he had considerable contact with Palestrina.

In 1575 he took holy orders and three years later he was admitted to a chaplaincy at S Girolamo della Carità. Around 1587 he left Italy and in that year took up an appointment as chaplain to the dowager Empress María at the Real Monasterio Descalzas Reales, where he acted as maestro to the choir of priests and boys that was attached to the convent.

Victoria's musical output was relatively small but the music he did publish shows a very high level of inspiration and musical craftsmanship.

The text 'O magnum mysterium', from Matins on Christmas Day, has inspired many musical settings but Victoria's is surely among the finest, with an opening of devotional simplicity which gathers towards the release of the joyful, dance-like 'Alleluias'.

*O magnum mysterium,
et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum,
iacentem in praesepe!
Beata Virgo, cujus viscera
meruerunt portare
Dominum Iesum Christum.
Alleluia!*

O great mystery and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the new-born Lord lying in a manger! O blessed is the Virgin, whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord. Hail Mary, full of grace: the Lord is with you. Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

Ding, dong! Merrily on high

Arr. Charles Wood (1866–1926)

Wood was born in the precincts of St Patrick's Cathedral Armagh, where his father was a Lay Vicar Choral and Diocesan Registrar.

He received his early education at the Cathedral Choir School and also studied organ with two Organists and Masters of the Boys of Armagh Cathedral: Robert Turle and his successor Dr Thomas Marks. In 1883 he was one of fifty inaugural class members of the Royal College of Music, studying composition with C. V. Stanford and C. H. H. Parry. He became the first Director of Music and Organist at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. After Stanford died in 1924, Wood assumed his mentor's vacant role as Professor of Music in the University of Cambridge, where he taught Vaughan Williams. He also taught at the Royal College of Music, where Herbert Howells was among his students.

Wood collaborated with priest and poet George Ratcliffe Woodward in the revival and popularisation of renaissance tunes to new English religious texts, notably co-editing three books of carols.

Reading: Luke 2:8–20

Reader: Geoffrey Smith

Personent hodie

Arr. Gustav Holst (1874–1934)

PIÆ CANTIO-
NES ECCLESIA-
STICÆ ET SCHOLA-
STICÆ VETERVM EPISCOPO-
rum, in Inchoo Regno Suecia p̄cipim r̄parata,
nuper studio viri cuiusdam Ksueuensis: de d̄ cel̄ sia
Dni & Schola Ab̄ensis in Finlandia op̄imē
meriti accuratē à mendio corre-
ctā, & nunc typis com-
missa, opera

THEODORICI PETRI
Nylandensis.
Nō adit̄i sunt aliquot ex Psalmis recentioribus.



Imprimebatur Gryphiswaldiæ,
per Augustinum Ferberum.

Personent hodie is taken from a compilation of ancient hymns and songs made in 1582 by Theodoricus Petri, a Finnish student at the university in Rostock. Holst's rousing arrangement was made in 1916.

*Personent hodie voces puerulae, laudantes iucunde
Qui nobis est natus, summo Deo datus,
Et de virgineo ventre procreatus.*

*In mundo nascitur, pannis involvitur praesepi ponitur
Stabulo brutorum, rector supernorum.
Perdidit spolia princeps infernorum.*

*Magi tres venerunt, parvulum inquirunt, parvulum
inquirunt,
Stellulam sequendo, ipsum adorando,
Aurum, thus, et myrrham ei offerendo.*

*Omnes clericuli, pariter pueri, cantent ut angeli:
Advenisti mundo, laudes tibi fundo.
Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Let resound today the voices of children, joyfully praising Him who is born to us, given by most high God, and conceived in a virginal womb.

He was born into the world, wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger in a stable for animals, the master of the heavens. The prince of Hell has lost his spoils.

Three Magi came, they were bearing gifts, and sought the little one, following a star, to worship him, and offer him gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Let all the junior clerics and also the boys sing like angels:
'You have come to the world, I pour out praises to you.
Therefore, glory to God in the highest!'

TEXT FROM *PIAE CANTIONES*, 1582

Behold that star

Spiritual, arr. Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

Soloists: Janet Gilbert, William Avery

This atmospheric piece, written by the choir's Patron is headed 'For Steve Jones and the City Chamber Choir'.

Behold that star!
Behold that star up yonder!
Behold that star!
It is the star of Bethlehem.

The wise men came on from the east,
This is the star of Bethlehem,
To worship Him, the Prince of Peace,
This is the star of Bethlehem.

There is no room found in the inn,
This is the star of Bethlehem,
For Him who was born free from sin,
This is the star of Bethlehem.

A song broke forth upon the night,
This is the star of Bethlehem,
From angel hosts all robed in white,
This is the star of Bethlehem.

Here is the little door

Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

Here is the Little Door is the first of Howells' *Three Carol Anthems*. Howells' tender and rapt music captures perfectly the mood of the poem by Frances Chesterton, wife of G. K. Chesterton.

Here is the little door,
lift up the latch, oh lift!
We need not wander more,
but enter with our gift;
Our gift of finest gold.
Gold that was never bought or sold;
Myrrh to be strewn about his bed;
Incense in clouds about His head;
All for the child that stirs not in His sleep,
But holy slumber holds with ass and sheep.

Bend low about His bed,
For each He has a gift;
See how His eyes awake,
Lift up your hands, O lift!
For gold, He gives a keen-edged sword.
(Defend with it thy little Lord!)
For incense, smoke of battle red,
Myrrh for the honoured happy dead;
Gifts for His children, terrible and sweet;
Touched by such tiny hands,
and Oh such tiny feet.

FRANCES CHESTERTON (1959–1938)

Reading: The Meeting Place

(after Rubens: *The Adoration of the Magi*, 1634)

Christopher Pilling (b. 1936)

Reader: Fred Pankhurst

Christopher Pilling was born in Birmingham and has taught French, German, Latin and PE in various schools. He was a prize-winner in the National Poetry Competition and has published nine collections of his own poetry, as well as translations of poems by Tristan Corbière (a Book of the Year for the *Sunday Telegraph* and the World Service of the BBC in 1995), Max Jacob and Lucien Becker (a PBS Recommended Translation in 2004). He has also written a number of plays. With William Scammell, he founded a Cumbrian Poets' workshop which has run for thirty years, and has seen two of his plays performed at Theatre by the Lake in Keswick. In 2006, Christopher Pilling won first prize in the John Dryden Translation Competition, one of the UK's most prestigious translation awards.



Peter Paul Rubens
The Adoration of the Magi, 1634

We three kings

John Henry Hopkins (1820–1891) arr. Paul Leddington Wright (b. 1951)

We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.
*O star of wonder, star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, voices raising,
Worshipping God on high.

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone cold tomb.

Glorious now behold Him arise;
King and God and sacrifice;
Heav'n sings Alleluia,
Alleluia the earth replies.

JOHN HENRY HOPKINS (1820–1891)

STEPHEN JONES conductor

Stephen has enjoyed a rich and varied career as a musician of many talents. He won his first piano competition at the age of seven, sang in a close harmony quartet which appeared on television and radio, sang in London's cathedrals, and was a tenor soloist specialising in Renaissance and Baroque repertoire, played piano, fortepiano, harpsichord, harmonium and organ in all the major London venues, and was a scriptwriter, presenter and pianist on BBC Schools Radio. In 1987 he founded the City Chamber Choir, and in 1994 became Musical Director of Hertfordshire's Aeolian Singers, and he remains conductor of both choirs. He has been accompanist and assistant conductor of Goldsmiths Choral Union since 1978. Stephen has also taught for many years, first as a music specialist in primary and secondary schools, and then as a choral animateur for various organisations including the British Federation of Young Choirs and the BBC Singers, and now as a singing teacher working privately and for Hertfordshire Music Service. Stephen continues to be a busy conductor, singer, accompanist, teacher and performer.

PHILIP SHANNON piano

Philip Shannon took his first degree from Oxford where he was a mathematics scholar at the age of 16. Encouraged by Roger Vignoles to follow his first love, piano accompaniment, he entered the Guildhall School for advanced studies under Paul Hamburger and Gordon Back. After winning all the accompaniment prizes in his first year, he was awarded a scholarship to study vocal repertoire with Graham Johnson. Philip has been active in every capacity as a musician: as repetiteur with experience at ENO and numerous smaller companies; as vocal and instrumental coach at the Guildhall School; as organist at the church of St Anne's, Soho; as broadcaster on Radio 3 with the violinist Leo Payne, with whom he was a joint winner of the National Federation of Music Societies competition; as pianist for both the London Symphony and London Philharmonic Orchestras; and as continuo player with the London Mozart Players. For television he has worked on the Lesley Garrett Show. In 1997 he was awarded an Honorary Fellowship from the Guild of Musicians and Singers.

CITY CHAMBER CHOIR

<i>Sopranos</i>	Janet Gilbert, Hania Laganowski, Rosie Rangarajan, Laura Wellburn, Rosemary Zolynski
<i>Altos</i>	Frances Button, Helen Godwin, Joan Hester
<i>Tenors</i>	Simon James, Steve James, Vijay Rangarajan
<i>Basses</i>	William Avery, Sam Barton Peter Dean

City Chamber Choir, a well established amateur group of 25–30 singers working to professional standards, was founded by Stephen Jones in 1987 to explore neglected repertoire, especially British 20th-century works, and since that time it has given many performances of little known, but beautiful and worthwhile music. As a result, the choir has been awarded PRS Choral Enterprise Awards on six occasions, has been invited to record by the British Music Society and reached the semi-finals of the Sainsbury's Choir of the Year competition.

Highlights of the last few years include a successful tour of the Netherlands, where CCC sang in concerts in the provinces of North Brabant and Gelderland, running regular choral workshops in London and Ripe, performing the music for productions at the Park Theatre (*Revlon Girl*) and the National Theatre (*Love the Sinner*), and singing with the English National Ballet and Orchestra in St Paul's Cathedral for the City of London Festival. The choir has also released three CDs, including *City Chamber Choir at Christmas* and *A Century of Song*. For further details about the Choir please visit its website, www.citychamberchoir.org.uk.



Many thanks to members of the City Chamber Choir for coming to Ripe to provide this seasonal good cheer.



Thanks to
Anthony Brotherton-Ratcliffe and
Chris Smith for setting up the Zoom recording.



We would be enormously grateful if you could make a donation to Ripe & Chalvington Churches, as our income has dropped drastically during the pandemic.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ripe-laughton-chalvington-church>



Thanks to Joan Hester for organising this event.

❄️ A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL ❄️