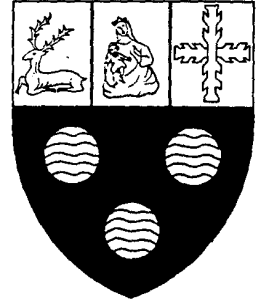


Southwell  
Minster



# THE CATHEDRAL CAROL SERVICE

Tuesday 23 December &  
Wednesday 24 December 2025  
7.00pm

# Welcome to Southwell Minster

A very warm welcome to the Cathedral Carol Service.

Please take care when your candle is lit, and please do not give lit candles to young children.

In the event of an emergency, please follow the directions of the vergers and leave the Cathedral calmly by the nearest exit and gather in the Cathedral grounds. Sidespeople will guide anyone who needs assistance, including those using wheelchairs, to the most appropriate exit. For everyone's safety, please do not return to the building until advised.



As you prepare for worship, please be sensitive to the needs of those around you who may wish to pray in silence. Please switch off mobile telephones and do not use photographic, video or recording equipment at any time.



A loop system is in operation throughout the Minster. Hearing aids that are equipped to do so should be switched to the 'T' position or the loop setting appropriate to your equipment.



**Large print** orders of service are available. Please ask a Churchwarden, Sidesperson or Verger for a copy.



Toilet facilities (including disabled access) are situated in the Archbishop's Palace, opposite the South Door of the Minster.

The congregation is invited to join in all texts printed in **bold**.

The service on Tuesday 23 December will be live-streamed to the internet, and will be available at [www.southwellminster.org/worship-online](http://www.southwellminster.org/worship-online) and on the Minster's YouTube channel until Monday 5 January. Live-streaming allows those joining from home to participate in the same act of worship as those in the Cathedral.

**Support the Mission and Ministry of the Cathedral.** As you leave the service a **retiring collection** will be taken. If you are a taxpayer please use one of the Gift Aid envelopes provided. You can also donate online using the QR code inside the back cover.

# Welcome!

Welcome to the Cathedral Church of Southwell Minster as we celebrate the joy and hope of Christmas together! We are delighted that you have come to share this wonderful season with us. Love is at the heart of the Christmas story, a love which reaches out to each one of us across the millennia; a love which offers hope in a broken and suffering world.

We are reminded in the babe of Bethlehem that God loves humanity, loves each one of us, so much that he sends his Son to be one-with-us. Despite the hurt, injustice, violence and destruction we see around us, the Christmas message shouts loud and clear that there is hope. We sing with the angels, *Glory to God in the highest and peace to all God's people*; and we live this hope out in our lives.

Our Christian faith is fundamentally relational; God reaches out to us in relationship, and we are called to be in relationships one with another. There are many ways in which our Minster community shares in those relationships. If you would like to know more, please do contact us at [office@southwellminster.org.uk](mailto:office@southwellminster.org.uk) or for more information please see our website [www.southwellminster.org](http://www.southwellminster.org).

Amongst the many events and services coming in the New Year, you may like to join us as we mark the next part of the Christmas story, remembering the visit of the Wise Men, on **Sunday 11 January at 3.30pm** with our **Epiphany Procession**.

Finally, if this event has touched you, and you would like to know more about the Christian faith, seeking to follow Jesus, you will see on page 26 booking details for 'Exploring Faith' evenings hosted by Bishop Paul and Sarah Williams and members of the Minster Team. All are most welcome.

With all good wishes for a very happy Christmas and blessed New Year.

**The Revd Canon Dr Neil Evans**  
*Interim Dean of Southwell*

## The Christmas Carol Service

The word 'carol' comes from the French *carole*, a kind of circle dance accompanied by singers. The earliest Christmas carols had their origin outside of church buildings, and were part of the celebration of Christmas in homes and public places. In countless carol services today, they convey the excitement and deep joy of the celebration of Christmas. In tonight's service, carols are combined with readings from the Bible that tell the story of God's love for humankind, woven through the history of Israel and bursting into life in the birth of Jesus, God in human form, in an obscure corner of the 'little town of Bethlehem'.

### Music at this Service

The Cathedral Choir is directed by Paul Provost, *Rector Chori*. The organ is played by Jonathan Allsopp, *Assistant Director of Music*, and Nathan Monk *Organ Scholar*.

### Organ Music before the Service

<i>Praeludium in D</i> , BUXWV 139	Dieterich Buxtehude (c. 1637-1707)
<i>Noël sur les flûtes</i> (from <i>Livre de Noël</i> s)	Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)
<i>Noël Étranger</i> (from <i>Livre de Noël</i> s)	Louis-Claude Daquin
<i>Variations on 'Adeste fideles'</i>	Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)
<i>Ou s'en vont ces gais bergers</i>	Claude Balbastre (1724-99)
<i>Christmas Cradle Song</i>	Alfred Hollins (1865-1942)

### Acknowledgements

*Material from Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, copyright © 2000-2008 the Archbishops' Council. Scriptural quotations are from New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicised Edition, copyright © 1989, 1995, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America (used by permission; all rights reserved). This compilation is copyright © Southwell Cathedral Chapter.*

# ORDER OF SERVICE

*Before the final organ prelude, the Revd Canon Dr Neil Evans, Interim Dean of Southwell, welcomes the congregation and introduces the service.*

ORGAN PRELUDE *during which the congregation's candles are lit*

*Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ, BWV 604*

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

*After the organ prelude, please stand quietly.*

## HYMN

*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*            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 through all his wondrous childhood  
He would honour and obey,  
Love and watch the lowly maiden,  
In whose gentle arms he lay:  
Christian children all must be  
Mild, obedient, good as he.**

**For he is our childhood's pattern,  
Day by day like us he grew,  
He was little, weak, and helpless,  
Tears and smiles like us he knew:  
And he feeleth for our sadness,  
And he shareth in our gladness.**

**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.**

*Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-95)*

*Tune: IRBY CC2 31*

*Henry John Gauntlett (1805-76)*

*arr. Arthur Henry Mann (1850-1929)*

*Descant: David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

*Please remain standing*

## BIDDING *given by the Dean*

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmastide our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity within the Church he came to build, and especially in this town of Southwell and diocese of Southwell and Nottingham.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are for ever one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

## 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.**

## PRAYER

*Dean*      May the Almighty God bless us with his grace;  
Christ give us the joys of everlasting life,  
and unto the fellowship of the citizens above  
may the King of Angels bring us all.  
**Amen.**

*Please sit*

FIRST LESSON: 'The First Sin and its Punishment'  
*read by a Chorister*

Genesis 3: 8–15

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.'

Thanks be to God.

CAROL *sung by the choir*

Adam lay y-bounden,  
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 a been heavené queen..
--	--

Blessed be the time  
that apple taken was,  
Therefore we moun singen  
*Deo gratias!*

*Words: Anonymous, 15th century*

*Music: Matthew Martin (b. 1976)*

SECOND LESSON: 'The Righteous Reign of the Coming King'

Isaiah 9: 2, 6–7

*read by a Lay Clerk*

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and  
his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and  
for evermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL *sung by the choir*

The holly and the ivy,  
When they are both full grown,  
Of all the trees that are in the wood,  
The holly bears the crown.

*O the rising of the sun  
And the running of the deer,  
The playing of the merry organ,  
Sweet singing in the choir.*

The holly bears a blossom,  
As white as the lily flower,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,  
To be our sweet Saviour.

*O the rising of the sun ...*

The holly bears a berry,  
As red as any blood,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
For to do us sinners good.

*O the rising of the sun ...*

The holly bears a prickle,  
As sharp as any thorn,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
On Christmas Day in the morn.

*O the rising of the sun ...*

The holly bears a bark,  
As bitter as any gall,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
For to redeem us all.

*O the rising of the sun ...*

*Words: English Traditional Carol*

*Music: Matthew Owens (b. 1971)*

*Please stand*

# HYMN



1. 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.*

2. 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,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

3. This is he, whom seer and sibyl  
Sang in ages long gone by;  
This is he of old revealed  
In the page of prophecy;  
Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;  
Let the world his praises cry!  
*Evermore and evermore.*

4. 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,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

Words: Latin, Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-413)  
trans. Roby Furley Davis (1866-1937)

Tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM NEH 33  
from Piaae Cantiones Theoderici Petri Nylandensis, 1592  
arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

*Please sit*

*read by an Organist*

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.  
He shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL *sung by the choir*

*There is a flower sprung of a tree,  
The root thereof is called Jesse,  
A flower of price,  
There is none such in paradise.*

This flower is fair and fresh of hue,  
It fadeth never, but ever is new;  
The blessed branch this flower on grew  
Was Mary mild that bare Jesu,  
A flower of grace;  
Against all sorrow it is solace.

The seed hereof was Goddes sand,  
That God himself sowed with his hand,  
In Nazareth that holy land,  
Amidst her arbour a maiden found;  
This blessed flower  
Sprang never but in Mary's bower.

When Gabriel this maid did meet  
With 'Ave Maria' he did her greet;  
Between them two this flower was set  
And safe was kept, no man should wit,  
Till on a day  
In Bethlem it could spread and spray.

When that fair flower began to spread,  
And his sweet blossom began to bed,  
Then rich and poor of every land  
They marvelled how this flower might spread,  
Till kinges three  
That blessed flower came to see.

Angels there came from heaven's tower,  
To look upon this freshele flower,  
How fair he was in his colour,  
And how sweet in his savour,  
And to behold  
How such a flower might spring in gold.

*There is a flower sprung of a tree....*

*read by a representative of Southwell Minster Choir Association (23 December) and  
read by a member of the Cathedral staff (24 December)*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL *sung by the choir*

*Nova! Nova!*

Gabriel of high degree,  
He came down from the Trinity  
From Nazareth to Galilee,

He met a maiden in a place;  
He kneeled down before her face;  
He said: "Hail, Mary, full of grace!"

When the maiden saw all this,  
She was sore abashed, ywis,  
Lest that she had done amiss.

Then said the angel: "Dread not you,  
You shall conceive in all virtue  
A child whose name shall be Jesu."

Then said the maid: "Verily,  
I am your servant truly,  
*Ecce ancilla Domini.*"  
*Nova! Nova!*

*Words: Traditional, 15th century*

*Music: Iain Farrington (b. 1977)*

FIFTH LESSON: 'The Birth of Jesus'

Luke 2: 1-7

*read by the Headteacher of the Minster School (23 December) and*

*read by a representative of the Friends of Southwell Cathedral (24 December)*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Thanks be to God.

*CAROL sung by the choir*

O magnum mysterium,  
et admirabile sacramentum,  
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum,  
jacentem in praesepe!

Beata Virgo,  
cujus viscera meruerunt portare  
Dominum Christum.

Alleluia!

*O great mystery,  
and wondrous sacrament,  
that animals should see the new-born Lord,  
lying in their manger!*

*Blessed is the Virgin,  
whose womb was worthy  
to bear the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Alleluia!*

*Words: from the fourth Responsory  
on Christmas Day in the Office  
of Matins (early medieval rite)*

*Music: Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943)*

*Please stand*

HYMN *with verse 3 sung by the choir alone*



**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..**

*Choir only* **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. Where children pure and happy  
Pray to the blessèd Child,  
Where misery cries out to thee,  
Son of the mother mild;  
Where charity stands watching  
And faith holds wide the door,  
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,  
And Christmas comes once more.**

**5. O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us to-day.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel.**

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-93)

Tune: FOREST GREEN CC1 27

English traditional, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Descant: Thomas Armstrong (1898-1994)

*Please sit*

SIXTH LESSON: 'The Shepherds and the Angels'

Luke 2: 8–16

*read by a representative of the Cathedral Chapter (23 December)*

*read by a representative of the Guild of Minster Stewards (24 December)*

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL *sung by the choir*

A babe is born all of a may,  
To bring salvation to us.  
To him we sing both night and day.  
*Veni Creator Spiritus.*

At Bethlehem, that blessed place,  
The child of bliss now born he was;  
And him to serve God give us grace,  
*O lux beata Trinitas.*

There came three kings out of the East,  
To worship the King that is so free,  
With gold and myrrh and frankincense,  
*A solis ortus cardine.*

The angels came down with one cry,  
A fair song that night sung they  
In worship of that child:  
*Gloria tibi Domine.*

*Words: Anonymous, 15th century*

*Music: William Mathias (1934-1992)*

A CHRISTMAS REFLECTION *given by*  
*the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham, the Rt Revd Paul Williams (23 December),*  
*and the Bishop of Sherwood, The Rt Revd Dr Andy Emerton (24 December)*

*Please stand*

HYMN



Unto us is born a Son,  
King of quires supernal:  
See on earth his life begun,  
Of lords the Lord eternal.

Christ, from heav'n descending low,  
Comes on earth a stranger;  
Ox and ass their owner know,  
Becradled in the manger.

*Lower voices*

This did Herod sore affray,  
And grievously bewilder,  
So he gave the word to slay,  
And slew the little childer.

*Upper voices*

Of his love and mercy mild  
This the Christmas story;  
And O that Mary's gentle Child  
Might lead us up to glory!

*All*

O and A, and A and O,  
Cum cantibus in choro,  
Let our merry organ go,  
Benedicamus Domino.

*Words: Latin, 15th century  
trans. George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934)*

*Tune: PUER NOBIS CC1 43  
from Piae Cantiones, 1582  
arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

*Please sit*

*read by the Lord-Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire (23 December) and  
read by a Churchwarden (24 December)*

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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL *sung by the choir*

Jerusalem rejos for joy:  
Jesus, the sterne of most beauty,  
in thee is rissin as richtous roy,  
fro dirkness to illumine thee.  
With glorious sound of angel glee  
thy prince is born in Bethlehem  
which sall thee mak of thrall-dome free:  
*Illuminare, Jerusalem*

With angellis licht in legionis  
thou art illuminit all about.  
Three kingis of strange regionis  
to thee are cumin with lusty rout.  
All drest with dyamantis,  
reverst with gold in every hem,  
sounding attonis with a shout:  
*Illuminare, Jerusalem.*

The regeand tyrant that in thee rang,  
Herod, is exileit and his offspring,  
The land of Juda that josit wrang,  
and rissin is now thy richtous king.  
Wo he so mychtie is and digne,  
when men his glorious name does nem heaven,  
heaven erd and hell makis inclining:  
*Illuminare, Jerusalem.*

*Words: Anonymous, 15th century*

*Music: Judith Weir (b. 1954)*

*Please stand*

*read by the Dean*

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.

Thanks be to God.

*Please extinguish your candle*

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:  
*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...*

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...*

**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...***

**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...***

*Words: Latin, 18th century  
trans. Frederick Oakeley (1802-80),  
William Thomas Brooke (1848-1917) et al.*

*Tune: ADESTE FIDELES CC1 26  
John Francis Wade (c. 1711-86)  
arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

*Please remain standing*

## COLLECT

*Dean* Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

Almighty God,  
you make us glad with the yearly remembrance  
of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ:  
grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer,  
we may with sure confidence behold him  
when he shall come to be our judge;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

*BLESSING given by the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham (23 December) and the Bishop of Sherwood (24 December)*

May the Father,  
who has loved the eternal Son  
from before the foundation of the world,  
shed that love upon you his children.

**Amen.**

May Christ, who has gathered into one  
things earthly and heavenly,  
fill you with joy and peace.

**Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit,  
by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,  
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

**Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

HYMN



1. 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 th'angelic host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

*Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.*

2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come  
Off-spring of a Virgin's womb:  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see,  
Hail th'incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

*Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.*

3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Ris'n 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  
Glory to the new-born King.*

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88) et al.

Tune: MENDELSSOHN CC1 14  
Felix Mendelssohn (1808-47)  
Descant: David Willcocks (1919-2015)

## ORGAN VOLUNTARIES

*In dulci júbilo*, BWV 729

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

*Scherzo symphonique*

Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

*You are invited to sit quietly to listen to the organ voluntaries. Should you wish to leave before they have finished, please be sensitive to those who wish to listen.*

*As you leave this service a **retiring collection** in support of the mission and ministry of the Cathedral will be taken (please see the inside back cover for further details). Thank you for your generous support of the Cathedral and its ongoing work.*

*Pew News, the Minster's weekly notice sheet (which includes further information about future events at the Cathedral, and also information for prayer), is available on the Minster website at [www.southwellminster.org/worship/pew-news/](http://www.southwellminster.org/worship/pew-news/)*

***Please take this order of service away with you.***



## Do you know a child who sings?

Southwell Minster Choir is always on the lookout for boys and girls aged 6-9 who love singing and would benefit from being a part of our amazing group of choristers.

- Sing as part of a first-rate choir
- Receive free singing lessons
- Make friends for life
- Learn to read music to a high level
- Enjoy singing in our wonderful building
- Termly payment
- Social events and musical trips

Why not get in touch?

Please contact Paul Provost:

[paul.provost@southwellminster.org.uk](mailto:paul.provost@southwellminster.org.uk)



## SERVICES ON CHRISTMAS DAY

- 8.00am Holy Communion with Carols** BCP *Quire*  
Preacher: The Revd Prof. Alison Milbank, *Canon Theologian*
- 10.00am Cathedral Eucharist** CW *Nave (and live-streamed)*  
*sung by the Cathedral Choir*  
Preacher: The Revd Dr Richard Frith, *Canon Precentor*
- 11.15am Festal Mattins** BCP *Quire*  
*sung by the Cathedral Choir*  
Preacher: The Revd Canon Dr Neil Evans, *Interim Dean of Southwell*
- 12.30pm Holy Communion** BCP *Quire*
- 3.30pm Evening Prayer with Carols** BCP *Quire*

After Christmas our next choral service will be Evensong at **5.30pm on Saturday 3 January** (sung by the choir of St Peter's, Nottingham). Services on **Sunday 4 January** will be sung by Leaves. The Cathedral Choir will resume singing services with Evensong at 5.30pm on **Tuesday 6 January**.

**The Three Miracles : The Cathedral Epiphany Procession** service will be held at **3.30pm on Sunday 11 January** and will include music by Marenzio, Bingham, Allain, Wilcocks and Warlock.

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## Exploring Faith

**Hosted by Bishop Paul and Sarah Williams with Southwell Minster**

These evenings offer an opportunity to explore five key themes at the heart of the Christmas story and Christian faith: peace, grace, hope, joy and glory.

Starting on Wednesday 25 February with **'Where can I find lasting peace?'**

**Exploring Faith** runs every **Wednesday from 25 February – 25 March 2026**.

Starting at **6.30pm** with a simple supper at Bishop's Manor, Southwell followed by a short talk, conversation in a small group and **finishing by 9pm**.

### SIGN UP

All are welcome. To find out more or book your place:

[southwell.anglican.org/exploring-faith](https://southwell.anglican.org/exploring-faith)

[bishopsmanor@southwell.anglican.org](mailto:bishopsmanor@southwell.anglican.org)

or phone 01636 817233





## PLEASE DONATE TO SUPPORT YOUR CATHEDRAL

If this evening's carol service has brought you joy, please consider making a donation to help keep the Minster thriving.

Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference.

### WHY YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

It costs over £3,000 a day to run the Cathedral, to preserve and maintain our sacred heritage. We receive no government funding, and the Church of England contributes only 20% of funds required to keep the Minster operating. As a charity, we must raise everything else ourselves.

By making a Christmas gift to the Minster, you will help us keep this historic treasure shining bright!

**COMPLETE  
A GIVING  
ENVELOPE**

Place cash or a cheque inside and hand it to a Churchwarden as you leave tonight.

**SCAN TO  
DONATE  
ONLINE**



**USE A  
DONATION  
STATION**

Use your phone or card to donate as you leave tonight.

**THANK YOU**

**We wish you a holy, blessed and peaceful Christmas.**



Go to [www.churchofengland.org/christmas](http://www.churchofengland.org/christmas) for details of  
the Church of England's Advent and Christmas theme:

**The Joy of Christmas**

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*Would you like to hear more about news, services, concerts and/or events taking place at the Minster?*

*Join our mailing list by completing the online form at [www.southwellminster.org/newsletter](http://www.southwellminster.org/newsletter)*