



St James's  
PICCADILLY

# Carols for Shoppers



**Tuesday 16th December 2025  
at 2.30pm & 5.30pm**

With a congregation in the church  
and live on YouTube



## *Welcome to St James's Church, Piccadilly!*

*Since 1684, Londoners and visitors have come to this holy place to celebrate Christmas. We warmly welcome you to this church to hear the story of the birth of Jesus, and to celebrate the universal themes of light in the darkness, and of hope in our hurting world. In today's city, we celebrate diversity and make no assumptions about your background or beliefs. We invite you to join in the carols enthusiastically!*

*You are also warmly invited to support St James's work with people who are going through a really hard time this season. The meaning of Christmas is love, divine and human, for the whole world. St James's Church doesn't just offer food, clothing and a listening ear every day to people who need it most. We also work together to build a strong and diverse, inclusive community in a fragmented and often fractious society. We do this through our church services, our projects with people going through homelessness and the asylum system, and our year-round music and visual arts programme. You can help build this community together at Christmas and beyond. There are opportunities to volunteer, to learn more about St James's, and to donate to support our work. When the collection plate comes round, or at the tap donation points in the church, please be as generous as you can.*

*We are here at Christmas to celebrate what unites us, which is always so much more than what divides us. And so we hope you have a wonderful time filled with music, joy, and, above all, love. Happy Christmas from everyone at St James's!*

*Music before the service begins is performed by organist,  
Michael Haslam.*

*Mince pies will be served in the church after the service, and all  
are welcome to stay.*

## **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

### **CONGREGATIONAL CAROL**

[Tune: Adeste fideles; Fanfare, for organ and brass, and  
descant by David Willcocks; Words: John Francis Wade  
(1710-1786)]

**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:**

*Refrain:*

**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:**

**Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
glory to God in the highest:**

### **FIRST READING**

**Isaiah 9.2,6,7**

## **CHOIR**

### **Make we joy now in this fest**

Music: Cecilia McDowell; Text: 4th century

(Additional percussion arr. by Toril Azzalini-Machecler, for this performance).

## **SECOND READING**

### **Luke 2.1-7**

## **CHOIR**

### **O be joyful**

Music: Toby Young; Text: Anon 15th century, trans.

H. Brueckner (adap.)

Pianist: Alex Bradford

## **THIRD READING**

### **Luke 2.8-15**

## **CONGREGATIONAL CAROL**

[Tune: Winchester Old; Words: Nahum Tate (1652-1715)]

**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 humankind.**

**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 spake 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 on the earth be peace;  
goodwill henceforth from heav'n to earth  
begin and never cease.'**

## **CHOIR**

### **In the Bleak Mid-Winter**

Music: Harold Darke; Text: Christina Rossetti

Soprano solo: Jemima Price

Tenor solo: Cameron Eldridge

## **FOURTH READING**

**Matthew 2.1-11**

## **CONGREGATIONAL CAROL**

[Tune and Words: John Henry Hopkins (1820-1891) alt.]

**We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar;  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.**

*Refrain:*

*O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a King on Bethlehem plain,  
gold I bring, to crown him again,  
King for ever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I,  
incense owns a Deity nigh,  
prayer and praising, gladly raising,  
worship him, God most 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;  
alleluia, alleluia,  
earth to heav'n replies.

## **CHOIR**

### **Song of the crib**

Music: Bob Chilcott; Text: Charles Bennett

## **FIFTH READING**

### **John 1.1-14**

from the King James version

## CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

[Tune: Noel; Words: Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810-1876)]

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, goodwill to all,  
from heaven's all gracious King!'  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,  
with peaceful wings unfurled;  
and still their heav'nly music floats  
o'er all the weary world:  
above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hov'ring wing;  
and ever o'er its Babel-sounds  
the blessed 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 warring humankind hears not  
the love-song which they bring:  
O hush the noise of mortal strife,  
and hear the angels sing!

For lo, the days are hast'ning on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
comes round the age of gold;

when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendours fling,  
and all the world send back the song  
which now the angels sing.

## ADDRESS AND PRAYERS

2.30pm: The Revd Dr Mariama Ifode-Blease, Associate Priest

5.30pm: The Revd Lucy Winkett, Rector of St James's

*Concluding with 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 kingdom, the power, and the glory  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

*During the final two carols, a collection will be taken for  
St James's **Christmas for All** appeal.*

*Opportunity for cash or tap donations will be passed around  
the audience. £10, £20 or more will make a huge difference to  
the work St James's does with people who need a listening ear,  
hot food or clothing at this time of year and will support music  
and arts education programmes too.*

*Please also use the QR code on page 12.*



## **CONGREGATIONAL CAROL**

[Tune: Irby; Words: Cecil Frances Alexander, Michael Forster]

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.

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.

And our eyes at last shall see him  
through his own redeeming love,  
for that child so dear and gentle  
is our Lord in heav'n 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;  
when like stars his children crowned  
all in white shall wait around.

## **SIXTH READING**

**Don't Hesitate**

by Mary Oliver

## **CHOIR**

**Tomorrow shall be my dancing day**

Music: John Gardner; Text: traditional

## **CONGREGATIONAL CAROL**

[Tune: Mendelssohn; Fanfare, for organ and brass, and  
descant by David Willcocks; Words: Charles Wesley  
(1707-1788) et al.]

**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.'**

*Refrain:*

***Hark, the herald-angels sing  
glory to the new born King.***

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb!  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
hail, th'incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.**

**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 we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.

## THE BLESSING

*Mince pies will now be served in the church, and all are  
welcome to stay.*



## St James's Christmas For All Appeal

In 1684 Sir Christopher Wren's vision of St James's as a place of beauty and justice became a reality.

We often use words like home and family when we talk about Christmas, as we gather to celebrate with love and joy.

Yet, we should remember that for others there is no home, and many feel little love or joy at this time of year.



This Christmas, we invite you to support our work and help us continue to bring hope and comfort to those who need it most. Your donation will make a difference in our community.

Donations may be made by visiting [www.sjp.org.uk/christmas](http://www.sjp.org.uk/christmas), by scanning the QR code, or by using one of the tap donation points in the church.

## **BIOGRAPHIES**

Music performed by Vigala Singers along with brass quintet and percussion, conducted by Joy Hill.

### **Brass quintet:**

Trumpet 1	Lucy Butlin
Trumpet 2	Ellie McKenzie-Jones
Horn	Polly Casy
Trombone	Ellie Curson
Tuba	Nona Lawrence

### **Percussion:**

Toril Azzalini-Machecler  
Isaac Harari

### **Organist:**

Michael Haslam

### **Conductor: Joy Hill**

Joy directed the senior choirs at the Royal College of Music Junior Department from 2001-2025 and prior to this was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to study conducting and choral education in Sweden. Joy has been senior lecturer in Music Education, University College London IOE, a member of the RCM Centre for Performance Science, a teacher at the Purcell School and is now a freelance conductor and a member of the World Choir Council at Interkultur.

## **Organist: Michael Haslam**

Michael Haslam won a scholarship to read music at Christ Church, Oxford University under Simon Preston and continued his studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama with Gordon Back and Paul Hamburger. He was Assistant Organist at the chapel of St Peter ad Vincula, HM Tower of London and was Musician at St Michael's church, Highgate for 12 years. Since 2016 he has been Director of Music at St James's Church, Piccadilly. He has given organ recitals at Christ Church, Oxford, St Lawrence, Jewry, London, Derby Cathedral and Merton College Oxford. Michael was a member of Piano Circus, with whom he made five CDs, and he has recorded, in Berlin, Stravinsky's *Les Noces* for Decca, with Vladimir Ashkenazy. He has conducted Barbara Hendricks and the Guildhall Strings in Salamanca, Tallis's 40-part motet *Spem in Alium* in Chelsea & Westminster Hospital, Handel's *Messiah* in Cabot Hall, Canary Wharf, and Constant Lambert's *Rio Grande* for Egyptian TV. Michael was the Musical Director for *All The Angels—Handel and the First Messiah* at the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, Shakespeare's Globe, London.

## **Vigala Singers**

Founded by Joy Hill, the choir are alumni of the Royal College of Music Chamber Choir and named after Vigala, Estonia, where the RCMJD Chamber Choir were guest performers. They have toured to New York, Hungary, Italy, Sweden and the Baltic States. In October, Joy was invited to direct Tallis's *Spem in Alium*, in the Santa Barbara Basilica, Mantova, Italy, with the choir alongside singers from Ravensburg, and the conservatoires of Mantova and Verona. <https://vigalasingers.org>

## **Christmas 2025 at St James's Church**

### **Festival of Lessons and Carols**

**Sunday 21st Dec at 6pm**

All are welcome to join the parish carol service with scripture, poetry, and music from our Lay Singers and Music Scholars.

### **Christmas Eve Carols**

**Wednesday 24th Dec at 4pm**

Hear the Christmas story and sing carols, accompanied by the St James's Music Scholars and trumpet fanfares. Families and children are especially welcome at this service. This service will be streamed live on our YouTube channel at 4pm.

### **Midnight Mass**

**Wednesday 24th Dec at 11.30pm**

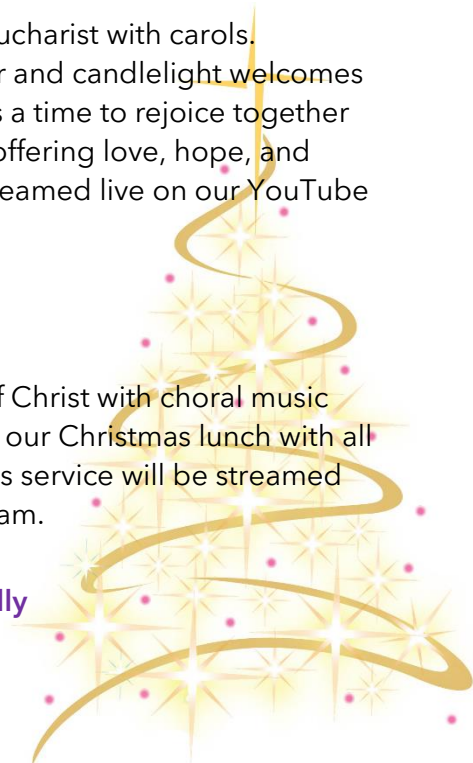
All are welcome to our midnight Eucharist with carols. This atmospheric service with choir and candlelight welcomes the infant Christ into the world. It is a time to rejoice together in the true meaning of Christmas, offering love, hope, and peace to all. This service will be streamed live on our YouTube channel at 11.30pm.

### **Christmas Day Eucharist**

**Thursday 25th Dec at 11am**

Join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ with choral music and carols. All are welcome to join our Christmas lunch with all the trimmings after the service. This service will be streamed live on our YouTube channel at 11am.

**YouTube @stjamesschurchpiccadilly**





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