



St James's
PICCADILLY

Carols for Shoppers



Tuesday 17th December 2024
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 performed by the Royal College of Music Junior Department Chamber Choir, Advanced Vocal Ensemble (AVE) and Vigala Singers, along with brass quintet and percussion, conducted by Joy Hill.

Music before the service begins is performed by organist, Benjamin Cunningham.

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 descant, organ and brass 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

The First Nowell

Music: Bob Chilcott; Trad. English, with brass and organ

SECOND READING

Luke 2.1-7

CHOIR

In dulci jubilo

Music: Cecilia McDowall; English text translated from German by R.L. Pearsall

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

Coventry Carol 16th Cent. English

Music: B.E. Boykin (arr.), from the Pageant of the Shearmen
and Tailors (16th cent.)

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

A Present for the Future

Words and Music by Joanna Forbes L'Estrange

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 Ayla Lepine, Associate Rector

5.30pm: The Revd Dr Mariama Ifode-Blease, Associate Priest

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 10.

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; traditional words.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

[Tune: Mendelssohn; Fanfare for descant, organ and brass 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.*



Let's make Christmas special for all

Since this church was built in 1684, generations of Londoners and visitors have gathered to celebrate Christmas here. We often use words like 'home' and 'family' when we talk about Christmas, as people gather to celebrate with love and joy.

For many, this season is not a joyful or an easy time. For many, homelessness or heartbreak make Christmas difficult to celebrate.

St James's supports thousands of people every year, providing warmth and offering comfort to those who need it most. Most importantly, we welcome all into the community at St James's. We invite everyone to support the work of St James's this Christmas alongside people of all faiths and none. Your donation, whatever you can afford, will help us bring joy and hope into every heart this winter, together.

Ways to donate:

Using your phone, text the word ALL£10 to the number **70490**

Tap your card on a contactless giving device located in the church.

Visit our website at:

www.sjp.org.uk/christmas

or scan this code QR code.



BIOGRAPHIES

The Royal College of Music Junior Department

Since its inception the Royal College of Music Junior Department has evolved to meet the musical needs of our students and adapted to the changing educational and musical landscape, providing a programme designed to prepare students for musical life in the 21st century and aiming to produce happy, successful, healthy, entrepreneurial and flexible young musicians who can meet the ever changing demands of the profession. Around 350 5-18 year olds attend the RCMJD every Saturday, where a typical day includes first and second study instrumental/composition lessons, orchestral, choral and musicianship training, and chamber ensemble rehearsals.

RCM JD singers featured prominently at the 2024 BBC Proms and have also made recent appearances at the Royal Albert Hall, Wigmore Hall, St James's Piccadilly, the Purcell Room and Cadogan Hall.

Organist: Benjamin Cunningham

Benjamin Cunningham is Assistant Director of Chapel Music at Winchester College, and is the College's principal organist. Benjamin was Organ Scholar at Westminster Abbey from 2016-18. Previously, Benjamin was Organ Scholar of Worcester College, Oxford, whilst reading for a degree in Music, and of Chichester Cathedral. Benjamin has given a number of recitals, most notably at St Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue, New York; Westminster Abbey, St Paul's, Westminster, and Chichester Cathedrals, and Reading Town Hall. In 2017, Benjamin was a Young Artist at the Newbury Spring Festival.

Conductor: Joy Hill

Joy is a choral conductor at the Royal College of Music Junior Department. Joy has worked extensively in choral education, was awarded a Churchill Fellowship (2002) for the study of choral conducting in Sweden and has since been Senior Lecturer, University College London IOE, teacher at the Purcell School and member of the RCM Centre for Performance Science. Joy now works internationally as conductor and guest presenter, is a UK representative for Interkultur World Choir Council and in 2025 will be a jury member for *Riga Sings*, Latvia.

Vigala Singers

Founded and directed by Joy Hill, the singers are alumni of the RCMJD Chamber Choir, are self-funded and named after Vigala in Estonia where the Chamber Choir performed in 2006. They have toured to New York and Washington and in Europe to Hungary, Italy, Sweden and the Baltic States and have created collaborative projects with the Oslo Cathedral Choir and the Hungarian New Liszt Academy Choir. This year they returned to the Basilica Santa Barbara, Mantua, where they were delighted to perform the world premiere, *In the Meadows at Mantua*, by Gabriel Jackson.

Christmas 2024 at St James's Church

Christmas Eve Carols

Tuesday 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

Tuesday 24th Dec at 11.30pm

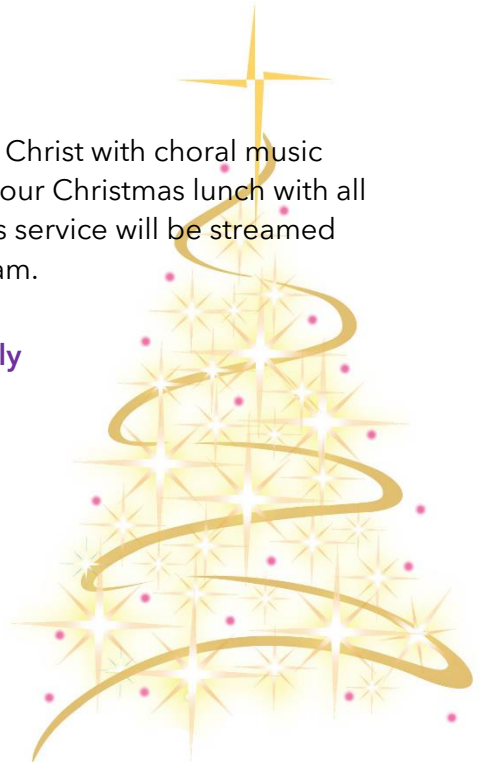
All are welcome to our midnight Eucharist with carols. This atmospheric service with choir and candlelight welcomes the infant Christ into the world. It is a time to rejoice together in the true meaning of Christmas, offering love, hope, and peace to all. This service will be streamed live on our YouTube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

Christmas Day Eucharist

Wednesday 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 @stjameschurchpiccadilly





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