

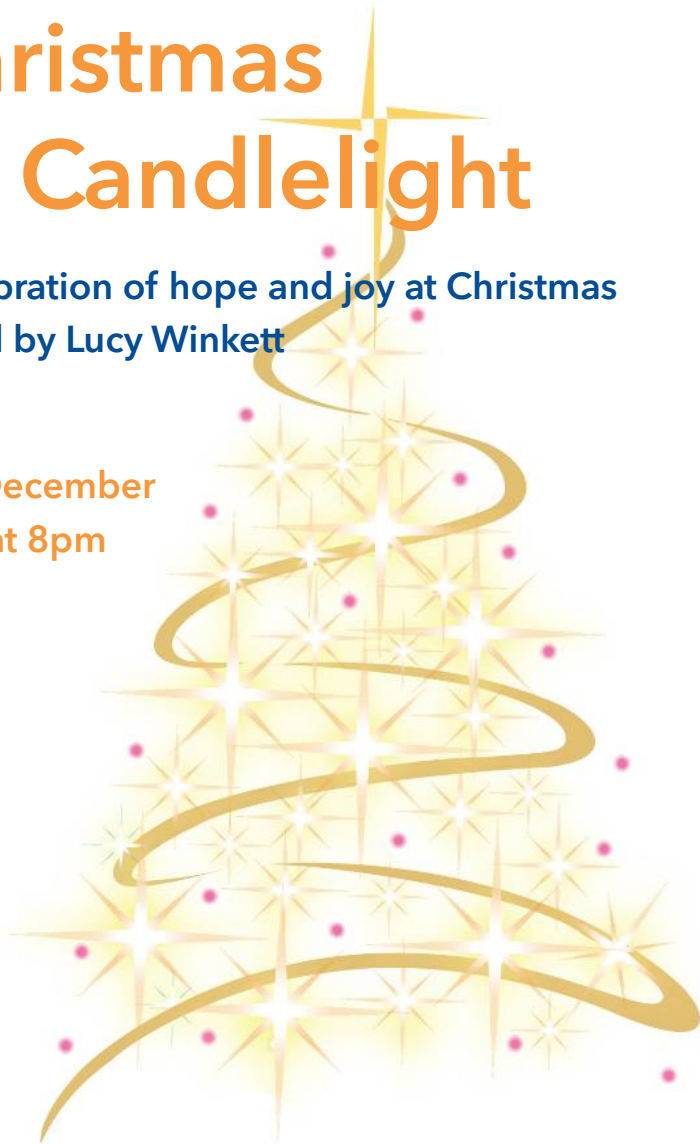


St James's
PICCADILLY

Christmas by Candlelight

A celebration of hope and joy at Christmas
hosted by Lucy Winkett

15th December
2024 at 8pm



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, and also to have some fun with the contemporary song at the end!

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!

From 7.40pm, the brass ensemble will play music to welcome the audience in.

At 8pm the brass fanfare introduces the first carol and the audience stands.

CAROL

**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:**

Welcome and Introduction
by Lucy Winkett



St James's Singers perform

Sussex Carol

by Bob Chilcott

READING

Luke 2.1-20

CAROL

In the bleak midwinter,
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter,
long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him
nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away,
when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter
a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels
may have gathered there,
Cherubim and Seraphim
throngèd the air.
But only his mother
in her maiden bliss



worshipped the beloved
with a kiss.

What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man
I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him –
give my heart.

St James's Singers perform
The Shepherd's Pipe Carol
by John Rutter

READING

December
by Carol Ann Duffy

St James's Singers perform
How Far is it to Bethlehem?
Harrison Knights

CAROL

Silent night! holy night!
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child:
holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace;
sleep in heavenly peace!



Silent night! holy night!
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar:
heavenly hosts sing, 'Alleluia,
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born'.

Silent night! holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light:
radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of saving grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth

Thought for Christmas

Lucy Winkett

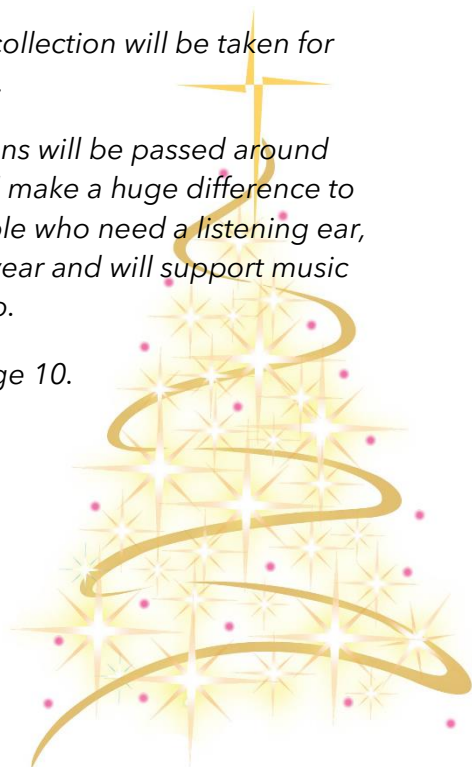
*During the next piece and carol, a collection will be taken for St James's **Christmas for All** appeal.*

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.

St James's Brass perform

Sleigh Ride



CAROL

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 all mankind.

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.

Choir only:

The heav'nly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling-clothes
and in a manger laid."

Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels, praising God, and thus
addressed their joyful song:

"All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace,
goodwill henceforth from heav'n to men
begin and never cease."



St James's Singers and Brass perform

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day

by John Gardner

READING

Touched by an angel

by Maya Angelou

St James's Singers and Brass perform

O Holy Night

CAROL

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.**

Refrain:

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

**Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Son 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.**

Refrain:

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

CLOSING WORDS AND BLESSING

Lucy Winkett

CLOSING MUSIC

St James's Singers perform

All I want for Christmas is you ...





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.



Christmas 2024 at St James's Church

Carols for Shoppers

Tuesday 17th Dec at 2.30pm and 5.30pm

Join young musicians and singers from the Royal College of Music as the Christmas story is told in scripture, poetry, and carols. Tickets at www.sjp.org.uk/christmas/

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

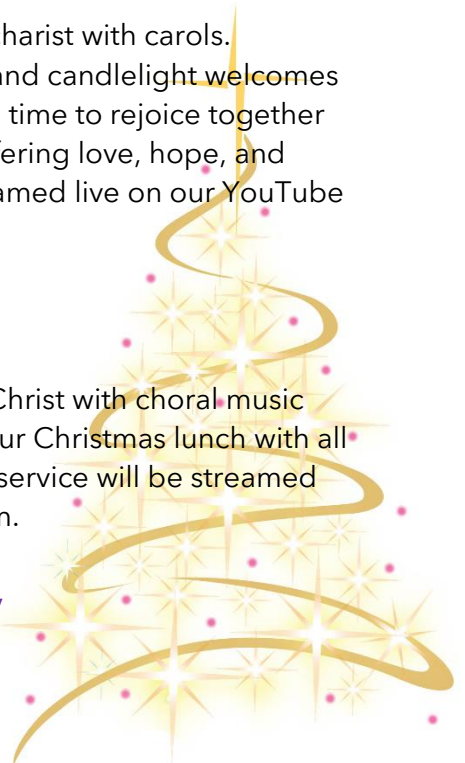
All are welcome to our midnight Eucharist with carols. This atmospheric service with choir and candlelight welcomes the infant Christ into the world. It is a time to rejoice together in the true meaning of Christmas, offering love, hope, and peace to all. This service will be streamed live on our YouTube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





*A very Happy Christmas and a peaceful
New Year from everyone at St James's
Piccadilly!*

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