

CARRICKFERGUS GRAMMAR SCHOOL



ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS WITH CAROLS

**DIRECTOR : EDWARD J. CRAIG
ORGANIST : STEPHEN HAMILL**

SAINT NICHOLAS' CHURCH, CARRICKFERGUS

DECEMBER 2021



Welcome to our Annual Festival of Nine Lessons with Carols; a form of worship which we first held together in 1994. It follows the plan laid down by Eric Milner-White, Dean of King's College Cambridge, over 100 years ago for Christmas Eve 1918. The music was directed by Arthur Henry Mann, whose harmonization of the opening hymn '*Once In Royal David's City*' we continue to sing. Almost immediately the structure of the service spread across the country as many churches adapted the service for their own use.

This year we continue to adapt as we rise to the challenges of meeting and singing together throughout another Advent and Christmas Season. We are delighted that following last year's requirement to produce the service virtually, with most of us singing in year groups or even in our own homes, we are now able to continue our tradition of reading scripture and singing music together. Although it would be lovely to have a large congregation of parents, family and friends joining with us as in previous years we hope that you still enjoy listening at home and look forward to future years when we will appreciate being together again.

The service provides a time for both choir and congregation to reflect on the '*development of the loving purposes of God...*' seen '*...through the windows and words of the Bible*'. The carols and anthems are subservient to the words of scripture providing an opportunity for a response to the texts through traditional and contemporary music. The Bidding Prayer encourages us to reflect with gratitude to God for '*all those who rejoice with us but on another shore and in a greater light*'. The centre of the service is still found by those who '*go in heart and mind*' and who consent to follow where the story leads.

The permission of the Rector, Organist and Select Vestry to hold the service in this beautiful building dedicated to Saint Nicholas is very much appreciated by the school community.

We trust that you all find comfort, hope and inspiration throughout the service and we look forward to seeing you all in the near future.



IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

*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, heav'n cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
Heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed –
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus.*

*Angels and Archangels may have gathered there
Cherubim and Seraphim thronged the air;
But his Mother only 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.*

In the Bleak Midwinter is a poem by the English poet Christina Rossetti, first published in 1872. In 1906, the composer Gustav Holst (who also composed some of the best known music of the 20th-century including The Planets Suite) wrote a melody entitled 'Cranham' for the English Hymnal and the poem became a popular Christmas carol throughout the world.

In the spring of 2021 Timothy Allen, formerly an organist in Londonderry and now living and working at the university in Little Rock, America, reimagined the piece in the beautifully fresh setting that the Girls' Choir will perform during the service. This will be the UK (and possibly European) premiere of the piece and we thank the composer for his kind words of encouragement to the young singers.

ORDER OF SERVICE

¶ **The congregation will please stand.**

OPENING HYMN

*The opening verse is performed
by Jenna Kane, Jay Maquarrie and Bronwyn Shields*

Trio **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.

All 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.

All 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.

All 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, C. F. ALEXANDER
Melody, H. J. GAUNTLETT
Harm., H. J. GAUNTLETT and A. H. MANN
Descant v6, DAVID WILLCOCKS
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

THE BIDDING PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER & CAROL

¶ Then the Bidding Prayer is led by the Headmaster,
James Maxwell, after which all together pray:

Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
In earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that 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.

CAROL: DING DONG! MERRILY ON HIGH

Words, G. R. WOODWARD
Music, 16TH-CENTURY FRENCH MELODY
Music Harm., CHARLES WOOD
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

INVITATORY, FIRST LESSON & CAROL

READER: Olivia Woodside, Year 10

*God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise
and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.*

GENESIS 3 : 8-15

AND they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: and I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL: THIS IS THE TRUTH SENT FROM ABOVE

HEREFORDSHIRE CAROL
ENGLISH TRADITIONAL
Music Arr., R. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

SECOND LESSON & CAROL

READER: Jay Macquarrie, Year 14

*God promises to faithful Abraham
that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.*

GENESIS 22 : 15-18

AND the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Thanks be to God.

The Junior Girls' Choir

CAROL: SOMEWHERE IN THE MEMORY

Words, LESLIE BRICUSSE

Music, JOHN WILLIAMS

FOX FILM MUSIC CORPORATION

THIRD LESSON & CAROL

READER: Gracie Hawthorne, Year 8

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah

ISAIAH 9 : 2, 6 & 7

THE people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called wonderful Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL: CAROL OF THE BELLS

Words, PETER J. WILHOUSKY
Music, MYKOLA LEONTOVYCH
CARL FISCHER

¶ The congregation stands

See amid the winter's snow,
Born for us on earth below;
See the tender lamb appears
Promis'd from eternal years:

*Hail, thou ever blessed morn,
Hail, redemption's happy dawn;
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the starry skies
He who, throned in height sublime,
Sits amid the cherubim:

Sacred infant, all divine,
What a tender love was thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss
Down to such a world as this:

Teach, o teach us, Holy Child,
By thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble thee,
In thy sweet humility:

Words, EDWARD CASWELL
Music Arr., DAVID WILLCOCKS
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

¶ The congregation sits

FOURTH LESSON & CAROL

READER: Matthew Edgar, Teaching Staff

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

ISAIAH 11 : 1 - 4, 6 - 9

AND there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots: and the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord. With righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Thanks be to God.

The Junior Girls' Choir

CAROL: IN THE BLEAK MID-WINTER

Words, CHRISTINA ROSSETTI
Music, GUSTAV HOLST
Music Arr., TIMOTHY ALLEN
GALAXY MUSIC CORPORATION

This the UK premiere of this carol

FIFTH LESSON & CAROLS

READER: Glenda Pearson, Learning Support Assistant

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

St Luke 1 : 26 - 35, 38

AND in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Thanks be to God.

Voces Aspirantes with soloist Yasin Difallah

CAROLS: THE ANNUNCIATION

Words, St Luke
Music, CHARLES J. BRENNAN

THE ANGEL GABRIEL

OLD BASQUE CAROL
Music Arr., EDGAR PETTMAN

SIXTH LESSON & CAROL

READER: Mitchell Brown, Year 10

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

St Luke 2 : 1, 3 - 7

AND it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judæa, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Thanks be to God.

The Mens' Voices

CAROL: GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN, REJOICE!

14TH-CENTURY GERMAN CAROL

Words, J. M. NEALE

Music, IN DULCI JUBILO

Music Arr., PHILIP LEDGER

ROGER DEAN PUBLISHING

¶ The congregation stands

All 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.

Choir 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.

All O Holy Child of Bethlehem
 Descend to us, we pray;
 Cast out our sin, and enter in,
 Be born in us today.
 We hear the Christmas angel
 The great glad tidings tell:
 O come to us, abide with us,
 Our Lord Emmanuel.

Words, P. BROOKS
ENGLISH TRADITIONAL
Music Arr., R. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS
Verse 3 Arr., PHILIP LEDGER
Descant, T. ARMSTRONG
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

¶ The congregation sits

SEVENTH LESSON & CAROL

READER: Bronwyn Shields, Head Girl

The shepherds go to the manger.

St Luke 2 : 8 - 16

AND there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Thanks be to God.

Voces Aspirantes

CAROL: AWAY IN A MANGER

Words, ANONYMOUS
Music, W. J. KIRKPATRICK
Music Arr., PHILIP LEDGER
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

EIGHTH LESSON & CAROL

READER: Ben Martin, Head Boy

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

St Matthew 2 : 1 - 12

NOW when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judæa: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts, gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Thanks be to God.

The Junior Girls' Choir

CAROL: MIDNIGHT

Words and Music, MARK & HELEN JOHNSON
OUT OF THE ARK

¶ Everyone will please stand for the reading of the Ninth Lesson

NINTH LESSON

READER: James Maxwell, Headmaster

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

St John 1 : 1 - 14

IN the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light. That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Thanks be to God.

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:

Choir ***O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,***
All ***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:

Choir ***O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,***
All ***O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!***

Sing, choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,
"Glory to God
In the Highest."

All ***O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!***

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesu, to Thee be glory given,
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:

All *O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!*

Words, 18TH-CENTURY LATIN, ADESTE FIDELES
Trans., F. OAKELEY
Melody, J. F. WADE
Music Arr., DAVID WILLCOCKS
Descant v4, DAVID HILL
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

¶ Please remain standing

PRAYERS

¶ Then Prayers are led by the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Maurice Smith:

COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Let us pray:

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

All: Amen.

BLESSING

May he who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

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 the angelic host proclaim:
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'

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

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord:
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with man to dwell:
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen 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.

Words, C. WESLEY AND G. WHITEFIELD
Music, J. L. F. MENDELSSOHN-BARTHOLDY
Descant, DAVID WILLCOCKS
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

¶ Please sit in silence throughout the Organ Postlude

ON behalf of the choirs, pupils, staff and governors of Carrickfergus Grammar School, I thank for joining with us again this year from what I hope is the comfort of your own homes. We are grateful to be able to sing together again and look forward to the days when we can again see you all in front of us but until then we will keep moving forward as restrictions allow.

We started the 2021-22 academic year with a simple phrase often seen towards the end of a piece of music - da capo, meaning to 'return to the beginning'. #dacapo21 gave us some focus on the work to be done - to go back to the beginning but, drawing on our experiences of the past, to strive to make the future performances even better and more fulfilling for the next generation of students just embarking on their lives in Carrickfergus Grammar School Music Society.

Meeting tentatively at first in the vast space of the school gym rather than our little Music Department was rather overwhelming for many of us. As we have drawn a little closer together since Half Term, thanks to Mr Irwin's bright and well-ventilated room, our confidence is growing again and our trust in each other, so essential to a successful performance at any level, is deepening and with great hopes for 2022 we press ever onward.

There are four vocal groups leading the singing today: the Senior Choir made up of boys and girls from Year 11 to 14, the Junior Girls' Choir who welcome all young ladies from their first days in the school in Year 8 until Year 11, the Boys' Voices who are always keen to bring together the young gentlemen of the school from any year group and a newly formed vocal ensemble from a group of students who were keen to do a little more together - Voces Aspirantes (Aspiring Voices). All our groups have maintained our ethos of working with each voice without audition, helping anyone who wishes to work together to achieve musicianship that wouldn't be possible on their own.

Our Carol Service this year may be missing our friends and family but we know that they will be watching from home and so we carry on this important moment in our school's calendar.

We hope that 2022 will be a refreshing year for us all as we hope to be able to welcome you along to more live concerts and times when we can just be together, making and enjoying great music.

May you have a peaceful Christmas, and a happy New Year.

Edward J. Craig

Our chosen charity for this year is **Mary's Meals**. We believe that every child deserves an education – and enough to eat. We all love to sit down to a Christmas Dinner but so many go without, not just on Christmas Day! We would very much value your support of this “simple solution to world hunger” at this Christmas season.

mary's
meals

a simple solution
to world hunger

Mary's Meals was founded in a shed in Argyll in 2002 and has grown from feeding 200 children in Malawi to more than two million children every school day in 19 countries around the world.

As an organisation working in some of the world's poorest communities, they are committed to keeping their running costs low to maximise the good they can do with the donations entrusted to them with at least 93% of all funds raised going directly to these charitable activities.

£15.90 is all it takes to feed TWO children for a whole school year.

Donations made to Mary's Meals this winter will be matched, with up to £1.6 million available. Film stars Sophie and Emma Thompson are backing their new campaign, Double The Love, which will help them to feed even more hungry children.

Your donations will help the charity:

- To provide a daily meal, in a place of education, for children in the world's poorest communities.
- To provide relief for those suffering, in any part of the world, as a result of humanitarian crises or poverty; to help people escape poverty; and to provide care for orphaned, abandoned and vulnerable children.
- To raise awareness in the UK and worldwide of poverty issues through education.



So as you sit down to what we hope will be a delicious Christmas Dinner this year, do so in the knowledge that you have helped others to have enough to eat this season too. Follow the link below or scan the QR code to donate.

<https://gofund.me/aa262f14>

