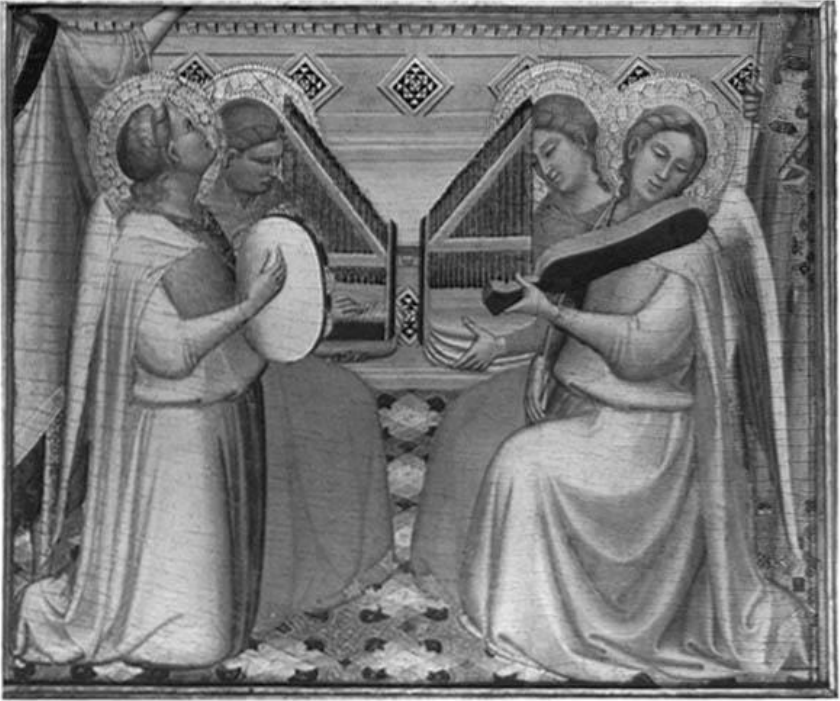


The Temple Church *Carol Service*



SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER 2024 at 11.15 a.m.

THURSDAY 12 DECEMBER 2024 at 6.00 p.m.

SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER 2024 at 11.15 a.m.

COLLECTIONS

The collection at these services will be on behalf of the Temple Church.

Contactless collection points will be available at the exits. It will be of great advantage to the Church if you would kindly fill in the Gift Aid envelope enclosed in this Order of Service and drop it into a collection-basket as you leave, stating the amount of your cash or contactless gift.

If you would prefer to donate online the Church has a Just Giving page. For donations this way, kindly scan the QR code below.



Thank you very much for your support of the Church.

Robin, Mark, Catherine, Charles, Matthew, Paul, Susan and Thomas

Organ music before the service

Fantasia in G, BWV572

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

When the Master and Reader enter the Church please allow a period of silent reflection as the organist plays:

Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ, BWV604

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

The painting reproduced on the front of this booklet is from the Florentine School, 15th century. It is in the collection of Christ Church, Oxford. (Photo: Christ Church, Oxford)

All stand as the Choir enters the Church.

CAROL *Once in royal David's city*

Choir 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.

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.

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: Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

Music: Melody: 'Irby', Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876);

Harmony: Arthur Henry Mann (1850-1929), Organist of King's College,
Cambridge; descant by Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)

All remain standing for the Bidding Prayer.

BELOVED IN CHRIST, be it this Christmastide our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and with the shepherds and the wise men to adore the Christ Child lying in the manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God in the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and in company with the whole Church let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first let us pray for the needs of God's whole world; for peace and good will over all the earth, within the dominions of our sovereign lord King Charles and within this city; for all those who work within these Inns and in the Courts of London, for all those who protect the rights and freedoms and the Rule of Law with which our land is blessed.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us remember before God the victims of war and terror and civil strife, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all 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 whose hope was in the Word made flesh and with whom, in the Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself has taught us:

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.

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.

All sit for the following lessons and carols.

CAROL *I saw three ships*

Choir

I saw three ships come sailing in,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
I saw three ships come sailing in,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

And what was in those ships all three?
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
And what was in those ships all three?
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Our Saviour Christ and his Lady,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
Our Saviour Christ and his Lady,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Pray whither sailed those ships all three?
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
Pray whither sailed those ships all three?
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Oh, they sailed into Bethlehem,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
Oh, they sailed into Bethlehem,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the bells on earth shall ring,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
And all the bells on earth shall ring,
On Christmas Day in the morning

And all the angels in heav'n shall sing,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
And all the angels in heav'n shall sing,
On Christmas Day in the morning

And all the souls on earth shall sing,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
And all the souls on earth shall sing,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Then let us all rejoice amain,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
Then let us all rejoice amain,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Words: English Traditional Carol

Music: English Traditional Melody, arr. Richard Lloyd

LESSON *Isaiab 9:2, 6-7*

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.

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.

All stand.

CAROL *Of the Father's heart begotten*

All 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.

This is he, whom seer and sybil
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.

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: 'Corde natus ex parentis', Prudentius (348-413), from *Hymnus omnis Horae*, tr. by R. F. Davis (1866-1937)

Music: 'Divinum mysterium', 13th century melody adapted in *Piae Cantiones*, 1582: descant by Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)

All sit.

CAROL *Tomorrow shall be my dancing day*

Choir Tomorrow shall be my dancing day:
I would my true love did so chance
To see the legend of my play,
To call my true love to my dance:

*Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love;
This have I done for my true love.*

Then was I born of a virgin pure,
Of her I took fleshly substance;
Thus was I knit to man's nature,
To call my true love to my dance:

In a manger laid and wrapped I was,
So very poor, this was my chance,
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,
To call my true love to my dance:

Then afterwards baptized I was;
The Holy Ghost on me did glance,
My Father's voice heard from above,
To call my true love to my dance:

Words: English Traditional

Music: John Gardner (1917-2011)

LESSON *Matthew 1:18-25*

The angel foretells to Joseph the birth of Jesus.

NOW THE BIRTH of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL *Away in a manger*

Choir

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my bedside until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Words: Verses 1-2 in a Lutheran compilation, Philadelphia, 1885;
verse 3 added, 1892.

Music: 'Normandy' arr. Reginald Jacques (1894-1969)

All stand.

CAROL *Unto us is born a son*

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

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

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

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

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

Words: 'Puer Nobis Nascitur,' Trier ms, 15th century, tr. George Ratcliffe
Woodward (1848-1934)

Music: *Piae Cantiones*, 1582, arr. Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)

All sit.

CAROL *Long, long ago*

Choir Long, long ago on a clear winter evening
Shepherds kept watch on a cold mountainside.
Angels appeared in the sky with a message
Bringing them joy on that first Christmastide.

*Sing, sing aloud with the angels who then sang:
Peace upon earth, goodwill to all men.*

Far, far away shining brightly at evening,
Kings a new star in the night sky espied,
Telling the birth of the child they awaited,
Bringing them joy on that first Christmastide.

Still, still today hear the words of the angels:
As with glad hearts, round the earth far and wide,
Christians rejoice in the birth of the Saviour,
Bringing them joy on that first Christmastide.

Words: Robert Willis (1947-2024), former Dean of Canterbury

Music: Richard Shephard (1949-2021)

LESSON *Luke 2:1-7*

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

AND IT CAME TO PASS in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one unto 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.

All stand.

CAROL *God rest you merry, gentlemen*

All
**God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born upon this day,
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray:
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

From God our heav'nly Father
A blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name:

The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoicèd much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding,
In tempest, storm and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway
This blessèd babe to find:

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All others doth deface:

Words: Anonymous

Music: English Traditional Carol, arr. Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)

All sit.

LESSON *Luke 2:8-20*

The shepherds go to the manger.

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 go now even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known to us. And they came with haste, and found

Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Thanks be to God.

All stand.

CAROL *While shepherds watched*

All 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:

‘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 to the earth be peace;
Good will henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.’

Words: Nahum Tate (1652-1715)

Music: ‘Winchester Old’, melody from T. Este, *Psalms*, 1592

All sit.

CAROL *Glory to God (Messiah)*

Choir And suddenly there was with the Angel, a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying:
Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth,
good will towards men.

Words: Luke 2. 14

Music: from *Messiah*, G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

LESSON *Matthew 2:1-12*

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

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.

CAROL *Silent night*

Choir

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 first saw the sight,
Glory streams from heaven afar,
Heav'nly 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 redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Words: Fr Josef Mohr (1792-1848)

Music: Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863), arr. John Rutter (b. 1945)

All stand.

CAROL *O little town of Bethlehem*

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 to-night.

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.

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 angels
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

Words: Bishop Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

Music: English Traditional Melody, 'The Ploughboy's Dream', arr. Ralph

Vaughan Williams (1872-1958); descant by Thomas Armstrong (1898-1994)

All sit.

CAROL

A Babe is born

Choir

A babe is born all of a may,
To bring salvation unto 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.

A babe is born all of a may,
To bring salvation unto us.
To him we sing both night and day,
Veni Creator spiritus.
Noel!

Words: 15th Century

Music: William Mathias (1934-1992)

All stand.

LESSON

*John 1:1-14**St John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation.*

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: which 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.

CAROL

*O come, all ye faithful**All*

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:

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God in the highest:

Words: 'Adeste fideles', first recorded by John Francis Wade, c. 1743, tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and W. T. Brooke, 1884

Music: 'Adeste fideles', in the manuscripts of J. F. Wade, ascribed to John Reading (died 1692), organist of Winchester Cathedral, 1675-1681, of Winchester College, 1681-1692; descant by Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)

PRAYER

O GOD, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thine 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 Ghost, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

BLESSING

MAY HE who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and good will; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

CAROL *Hark! the herald angels sing*

All **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: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), with alterations by George Whitefield (1714-1770) and Martin Madan (in 1760)

Music: J. L. F. Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, adapted from 'Festgesang' (Op. 68, 1840) by W. H. Cummings and others; descant by Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Organ music after the service

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her, BWV700

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

We wish you a very

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Master, the Reader and all at the Temple Church

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Monday 16 December, 6.00 p.m.

The Temple Singers

Tickets are not required.

LUNCHTIME CAROLS SING-ALONG

Wednesday 18 December, 1.15p.m. – 1.45 p.m.

An informal half hour of carol singing.

Requests will be taken!

BAH HUMBUG? – CERTAINLY NOT!

Wednesday 18 December, 6.00pm

The Temple Singers

Tickets are not required.

CEREMONY OF CAROLS

Thursday 19 December, 7.00pm

The Temple Church Choristers

For more information and to book: www.templemusic.org

CHORAL COMMUNION

Sunday 22 December, 11.15am

The Temple Singers

CHRISTMAS EVE: MIDNIGHT CHORAL
COMMUNION

Tuesday 24 December, 11.15 p.m.

The Temple Singers

Tickets are not required.

CHRISTMAS DAY: CHORAL MATTINS

Wednesday 25 December, 11.15 a.m.

The Temple Church Choir

Tickets are not required.

SAFEGUARDING

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The full Safeguarding Policy is available on the Temple Church website at <https://www.templechurch.com/safeguarding-policy>

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