

OLDHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

Directed by
Nigel P Wilkinson

Accompanist
Angela Lloyd Moslyn

With Guests

ASHTON BAND

Directed by
Philip Chalk

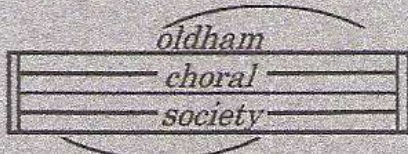
OLDHAM PARISH CHURCH

Traditional Family Christmas Concert

FRIDAY

20th December

7.30 pm



Founded 1884

Registered Charity 518255



This year we are joining more than 50 other choirs in performing a new carol, Ring the Bells, which was commissioned by the London Philharmonic Choir and has been formally adopted by Crisis in support of their plan to end homelessness. The composer Paul Fincham is donating his royalties to Crisis and, by purchasing the score and performing the carol, Oldham Choral Society is supporting Crisis.

LPO are encouraging choirs performing Ring the Bells to have retiring collections at their concerts in aid of Crisis or, where there is not a Crisis Skylight centre nearby, to support other homeless charities or shelters in their communities. We will be supporting Real Change Oldham. Real Change covers essential costs that help people who are homeless or at risk in our area build lives away from the streets. This evening, there will be a retiring collection in aid of Real Change Oldham. We hope you will give generously. Thank you.

Programme

- Please join us to sing 'O come all ye faithful'

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: *O come let us...etc*

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of Heaven above; Glory to God in the highest.
O come let us...etc

- CHOIR

Hail smiling morn (Reginald Spofforth)
Nativity carol (John Rutter)

- ASHTON BAND

Festive Overture (Dimitri Shostakovich)
Away in a Manger (Flugelhorn solo, Rachel Dine)



- Please join us to sing 'O little town of Bethlehem'

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.

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 wond'ring love;
How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n,
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his Heav'n;
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

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
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel.



• **CHOIR**

Sans Day Carol (Trad. Arr. J Rutter)

What sweeter music (John Rutter)

• **ASHTON BAND**

It's the most wonderful time of the year (Pola & Wyle. Arr Lawless)

Troika (Sergei Prokofiev Arr. Farr)

• **Please join us to sing 'While Shepherds Watched' (G Jackson)**

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'

'All glory be to God on high and to the earth be peace;

Goodwill henceforth from Heav'n to men, begin and never cease'.

• **CHOIR**

Ring the Bells (Paul Fincham): The Carol for the Homeless.

O Jesulein süß (Samuel Scheidt Arr. JS Bach)

Ding dong merrily on high (Trad. Arr. Charles Wood)

• **Please join us to sing 'The First Nowell'**

The first Nowell the angel did say

Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;

In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,

On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.



They looked up and saw a star,
Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night. *Nowell, Nowell..etc*

And by the light of that same star,
Three Wise Men came from country far,
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went. *Nowell, Nowell...etc*

Then let us all with one accord,
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
And with his blood, mankind hath bought. *Nowell, Nowell...etc*

- **ASHTON BAND**

The Snowman - Walking in the air (Howard Blake)
Christmas Finale (Lovatt-Cooper)

- **CHOIR**

Sir Christèmas (William Mathias)

Hallelujah Chorus ('Messiah' George Frideric Handel)



- **Please join us to sing 'Hark the herald angels sing'**

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.
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 man to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark, the herald angels sing 'Glory to the New-born King,

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 man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark, the herald angels sing 'Glory to the New-born King'.

THANK YOU FOR GENEROUSLY SUPPORTING OUR