



**THE WORSHIPFUL  
COMPANY OF  
ARBITRATORS**

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER



**THE WORSHIPFUL  
COMPANY OF SOLICITORS  
OF THE CITY OF LONDON**

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER



**THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY  
OF INTERNATIONAL BANKERS**

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER

**Christmas Carol Service**

St Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, London EC2  
**Wednesday 8th December 2021 at 6.30pm**

The Revd George Bush  
Chaplain to the Arbitrators' Company,  
Honorary Chaplain to the International Bankers,  
Rector

The Choir of St Mary-le-Bow  
Thomas Allery, Organist & Director of Music

*Please wear face-coverings according to your own judgement or the prevailing guidance.*

*If in doubt, do ask the Verger.*

## ST MARY-LE-BOW CHURCH

The Norman church of St Mary-le-Bow was completely destroyed in the Great Fire of London and rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren between 1670-83. It was the most important Wren church after St Paul's Cathedral. The church was almost completely destroyed again during the Blitz in 1941 when the historic bells came crashing to the ground and the steeple, one of Wren's loveliest creations, was taken down and restored over a number of years.

On the 20th of December 1961 the recast bells of St Mary-le-Bow rang out to mark the start of re-building by Lawrence King, after being inaugurated by HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. The church was re-consecrated by the Bishop of London in the presence of The Queen Mother on the 11th June 1964.

The original features in the 11th-century church were among the first Romanesque arches in a church in London. The 'le-Bow' in the church's name derives from those arches, and the Latin name Sancta Maria-de-Arcubus bears further witness to the importance of this. The arches are still visible in the crypt.

The ringing of the famous Bow Bells in 1961 for the first time since the war, allowed a new generation of Cockneys – those born within the sound of Bow Bells – to reclaim their allegiance to London, the City and the East End. These bells were the successors to that earlier bell which had called Dick Whittington back to London in the late 14th century when he paused at Highgate Hill, as he fled London disappointed. On hearing the sound of Bow Bell, he turned back for London where he rose to become three times Lord Mayor of London as Sir Richard Whittington.



A personal loop is available for those with impaired hearing.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

*All stand to sing the Hymn, during which the Beadle, Clerks, Wardens,  
Masters and Chaplain process into the church*

*Solo: 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.*

*All: 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.*

*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.*

*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.*

*Tune 'Irby' by H.J. Gauntlett (1805–76) revised by A.H. Mann (1850–1929)  
and editors, words by Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–95)*

*Remain standing*  
**THE BIDDING PRAYER**

*All join in saying*  
**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. 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.**

*All sit*  
**READING**

Annunciation by John Donne (1572–1631)  
*read by Mr John Bennett CC, MBE, Master elect International Bankers*

Salvation to all that will is nigh;  
That All, which always is all everywhere,  
Which cannot sin, and yet all sins must bear,  
Which cannot die, yet cannot choose but die,  
Lo, faithful virgin, yields Himself to lie  
In prison, in thy womb; and though He there  
Can take no sin, nor thou give, yet He will wear,  
Taken from thence, flesh, which death's force may try.  
Ere by the spheres time was created, thou  
Wast in His mind, who is thy Son and Brother;  
Whom thou conceivst, conceived; yea thou art now  
Thy Maker's maker, and thy Father's mother;  
Thou hast light in dark, and shutst in little room,  
Immensity cloistered in thy dear womb.

*Remain seated*

**CHOIR CAROL**

‘Adam lay y bounden’

*words English 15th-century, music by Boris Ord (1897–1961)*

*Remain seated*

**READING**

Philippians 2: 3-11

*read by Mr Simon Underwood, Junior Warden Arbitrators*

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

*All stand to sing*

**HYMN**

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

*Tune ‘Winchester Old’ first published in Thomas Este’s Whole Book of Psalmes (1592),  
arr. William Henry Monk (1823–89) Words by Nahum Tate (1652–1715)*

*All sit*

**READING**

Divine Image by William Blake (1757–1827)  
*read by Mr Tony King, Senior Warden Solicitors*

To Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love  
All pray in their distress;  
And to these virtues of delight  
Return their thankfulness.

For Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love  
Is God, our father dear,  
And Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love  
Is Man, his child and care.

For Mercy has a human heart,  
Pity a human face,  
And Love, the human form divine,  
And Peace, the human dress.

Then every man, of every clime,  
That prays in his distress,  
Prays to the human form divine,  
Love, Mercy, Pity, Peace.

And all must love the human form,  
In heathen, Turk, or Jew;  
Where Mercy, Love, and Pity dwell  
There God is dwelling too.

*Remain seated*

**'CHOIR CAROL**

'O little one sweet '

*set to an old German melody, harmonized by J.S. Bach (1685–1750)*

*Remain seated*

**READING**

Luke 2: 8-20

*read by Deputy Robert Merrett, Master International Banker*

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*Remain seated*

**CHOIR CAROL**

'Bethlehem Down'

*Music by Peter Warlock (1894-1930), lyrics by Bruce Blunt (1899-1957)*



*Remain seated*

**READING**

verses from 'Christmas' by Sir John Betjeman (1906–84)

*read by Mr Martyn Bradish, Master Arbitrator*

1. The bells of waiting Advent ring,  
The Tortoise stove is lit again  
And lamp-oil light across the night  
Has caught the streaks of winter rain  
In many a stained-glass window sheen  
From Crimson Lake to Hookers Green.

2. The holly in the windy hedge  
And round the Manor House the yew  
Will soon be stripped to deck the ledge,  
The altar, font and arch and pew,  
So that the villagers can say  
'The church looks nice' on Christmas Day.

3. And London shops on Christmas Eve  
Are strung with silver bells and flowers  
As hurrying clerks the City leave  
To pigeon-haunted classic towers,  
And marbled clouds go scudding by  
The many-steeped London sky.

4. And is it true,  
This most tremendous tale of all,  
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,  
A Baby in an ox's stall?  
The Maker of the stars and sea  
Become a Child on earth for me?

5. And is it true? For if it is,  
No loving fingers tying strings  
Around those tissued fripperies,  
The sweet and silly Christmas things,  
Bath salts and inexpensive scent  
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

6. No love that in a family dwells,  
No carolling in frosty air,  
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells  
Can with this single Truth compare –  
That God was man in Palestine  
And lives today in Bread and Wine.

*All stand to sing*

**HYMN**

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, good will to men,  
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 heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering 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 man at war with man hears not  
The love-song which they bring;  
O hush the noise ye men of strife  
And hear the angels sing!

For lo! The days are hastening on,  
By prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever-circling years  
Comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendours fling,  
And the whole world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

*Tune 'Noel' a traditional English melody adapted by Sir Arthur Sullivan (1842–1900)*

*Words by Edmund Sears (1810–76)*

*Remain standing*

**READING**

The Christmas Gospel, John 1: 1–14  
*read by Mr Robert Bell, Master Solicitor*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*All sit*

**CHOIR CAROL**

'Sing Gloria!'

*Music by W.G. James (1895-1977), words by J.H. Wheeler (1901-84)*

*Remain seated*

**HOMILY**

The Revd George Bush, Rector

*All stand to sing the hymn, during which a collection is taken for the work of St Mary-le-Bow. If you are a UK tax payer, it is tax-efficient to use and complete the gift aid envelope. A QR code is available at the end of the Order of Service for scanning, and a card reader is available at the north (font) door.*

*All stand to sing*

**HYMN**

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:

See how the shepherds,  
Summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:

Child, for us sinners  
Poor and in the manger,  
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;  
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?

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

*Tune 'Adeste Fidelis', melody probably by W.F. Wade (1711–86)  
Words 18th-century Latin translated by Frederick Oakeley (1802–80) and others*

*Remain standing*

**THE BLESSING**

*Please remain standing as the Beadle, Chaplain, Masters, Wardens  
and Clerks process out of the church*

**ORGAN POSTLUDE**  
'Noel Suisse'  
*by Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)*

To donate to the work of St Mary-le-Bow please scan the QR code.



**The Cheapside Chorus**

Do you enjoy singing? The Cheapside chorus will be forming again in spring next year. The choir, directed by Thomas Allery, is open to all, and is especially geared to those wishing to rekindle a love of making music together, who might not have the time to commit to weekly rehearsals yet would like to perform as part of the church's LIVE in the Churchyard Festival in June. Anyone can register interest by emailing [music@stmarylebow.org.uk](mailto:music@stmarylebow.org.uk)





