



ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

PROGRAMME





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On behalf of CAFOD, the international development agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, I am pleased to welcome you all to this service.

One of the key images of the Advent season is that of a candle – a light in the darkness. In the darkness of our world, the solidarity shown through CAFOD offers a light of hope to so many. For too many people in our world, the challenges of conflict, hunger, poverty and environmental destruction is very real in places like Gaza, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Colombia and Ukraine. Yet I know that support from CAFOD makes a real difference. It offers hope and joy.

This is CAFOD's mission. Inspired by Gospel values, and as part of the Catholic community of England and Wales, we come together in partnership with others, locally and globally to reach those in greatest need. We support and enable people to be the artisans of their own destiny, and to challenge the structures and behaviours that drive poverty, injustice and exclusion and that harm the natural world.

As we wait to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, we remember all those who wait for peace and justice and commit ourselves to stand with them.

I want to thank all those who have gifted their time and skills tonight in this beautiful church and to Father Dominic and the whole community at Farm Street. We are grateful for their commitment to CAFOD. Thank you to all the musicians and readers who have gifted their time and talents to make this service so joyful.

Thanks to all of you for being here. I hope that you leave feeling uplifted and inspired to act in solidarity with the whole CAFOD family.

Best wishes

Christine Allen, CAFOD Director

Please stand to sing *O Come O Come Emmanuel*, accompanied by Bobby Chen:

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear:

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight:

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in her ways to go.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height
in ancient times, didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe:

O come, desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind;
bid every sad division cease,
and be thyself our Prince of peace:

*From the "Great O Antiphons" (12th-13th C),
tr. J.M Neale (1818-66).*

Remain standing for the welcome and opening prayer from Father Dominic Robinson SJ, parish priest of Farm Street.

Please sit to listen to *Peace on Earth*, performed by St Anne's Gospel Choir, conducted by Marsha Morrison and accompanied by Vaughan Larmond on the piano.

Please sit for the reading: Luke 1: 26-38, read for us by Bobby Seagull.

Reading: *Luke 1: 26-38*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favoured one, the Lord is with you!". But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come

upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy – the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Please remain seated to listen to *O Holy Night*, performed by Adeniké Adewale and accompanied by Bobby Chen on the piano and Aanu Sodipe on the violin.

Please sit for the reading: Luke 1: 39-56, read for us by Julie Etchingham.

Reading: *Luke 1: 39-56*

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.” And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

Please stand to sing *The angel Gabriel from heaven came*, accompanied by Bobby Chen:

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
“All hail”, said he, “thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady.” Gloria!

“For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold;
most highly favoured lady.” Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
“To me be as it pleaseth God”, she said,
“My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.”
Most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,
“Most highly favoured lady.” Gloria!

*Basque carol, paraphrased by Sabine Baring-Gould
(1834-1924). Arrangement, C. Edgar Pettman (1866 – 1943).*

Please sit for the performance of *Silent Night* performed
by Talia Dean, accompanied by Bobby Chen.

Please remain seated to listen to a reflection on hope
written by Bianca Albu, who is Project Coordinator for our
partner Jesuit Refugee Service Romania (JRS Romania),
working with Ukrainian refugees in Romania. Bianca’s
words are read for us by Alex Macqueen.

Please remain seated to listen to *Hark* performed by
St Anne’s Gospel Choir, followed by;

Tidings performed by At Anne’s Gospel Choir, Adeniké
Adewale and Talia Dean, conducted by Marsha Morrison
and accompanied by Vaughan Larmond on the piano.

Closing words: Christine Allen, Director of CAFOD.

Please stand for our final carol *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:

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



Readers



Julie Etchingham

Julie Etchingham is a TV journalist and news anchor with over three decades of experience across the BBC, Sky News and ITV.

Since 2008, she has anchored *News at Ten* on ITV, as well as fronting the channel's coverage of major national and international events, including the *Coronation* in 2023.

She has interviewed five prime ministers and leading figures such as Pope Francis, and has chaired all of ITV's election debates since 2015. Julie is a practising Catholic and is married with two sons.



Alex Macqueen

Alex Macqueen is a BAFTA nominated actor, best known for his role as Neil's Dad in the Channel 4 comedy *The Inbetweeners*, and Julius Nicholson in the BBC's *The Thick of It*.

He studied English at Durham University and International Relations at Pembroke College, Cambridge, before qualifying as a Barrister at the Middle Temple in London. In 2018 he was elected by the Inn as a Master of The Bench. In 2002 he began acting full time and has starred opposite Michael Caine in Paulo Sorrentino's *Youth*, Kenneth Branagh in Sony Classic's *All Is True*, Will Ferrell in Fox Searchlight's *Downhill* and Hugh Bonneville in the *Downton Abbey* movie. This Christmas he will star in Richard Curtis' new animated movie *That Christmas* for Netflix and next year a new adaptation of Agatha Christie's *The Seven Dials Mystery* alongside Martin Freeman and Helena Bonham-Carter.



Bobby Seagull

Bobby Seagull is a teacher, broadcaster, and writer. After a career as an investment banker at Lehman Brothers, Bobby switched trajectories and became a teacher, a passion that started with a scholarship to Eton College. He writes regularly for the Financial Times and has published two books: *Monkman and Seagull Quiz Book* and *The Life-Changing Magic of Numbers*.

In 2016-17, Bobby captained the Emmanuel College team on *University Challenge* where he met his future broadcasting partner Eric Monkman as a member of the rival Wolfson College team. Bobby went on to co-host *Monkman and Seagull's Genius Guides* for BBC Two in 2018 and *Monkman and Seagull's Genius Adventures* in 2020. In 2023 he appeared in BBC Two's *Pilgrimage* and regularly appears on *Sunday Morning Live* and *Good Morning Britain*.



Musicians

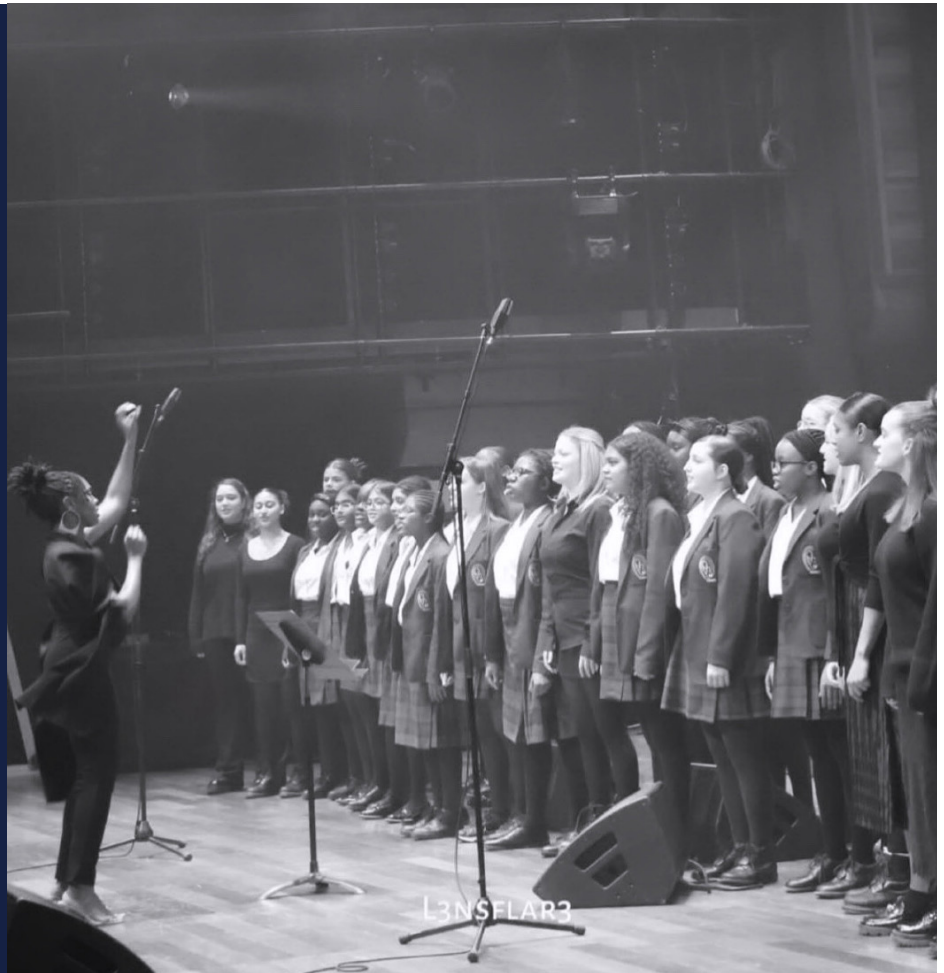
Adeniké Adewale

Adeniké is a singer-songwriter from London. She was a contestant on *The Voice* (2020), under the mentorship of coach and musician WILL.I.AM, where she wowed the coaches with a rendition of 'Get Here' by Oleta Adams. She successfully reached the semi-finals of the show and is currently touring the country as *Whitney: Queen of the Night*. Adeniké is also a passionate youth leader at her local parish and a member of the Catholic Youth Ministry Federation and has appeared as a singer and speaker at the *Flame Congress* held at Wembley Arena.



St Anne's Gospel Choir

St Anne's Gospel Choir is an integral part of St. Anne's Catholic High School for Girls in Enfield and is made up of 80+ young singers aged 11-18, who all share a passion for music and are dedicated and committed to sharing the Good News. They were finalists in the *BBC Songs of Praise Young Choir of the Year* in 2018 and members of the Choir performed at the Royal British Legion's *Royal Festival of Remembrance* in 2019 in the presence of The Royal Family and broadcast on the BBC. They also participated in series 14 of *Britain's Got Talent* where they performed their version of Emeli Sandé's 'Shine'. Huge thanks go to conductor Marsha Morrison and pianist Vaughan Larmond who work with the choir each week and play a key role in building students' confidence and developing their talents.



Talia Dean

Talia Dean is a singer-songwriter and former *X-Factor* finalist, known for her captivating voice and huge stage presence. She went solo in 2021 and released two singles both going straight to number one on the iTunes blues chart. Originally from Hounslow, her latest single '*You Made Your Bed*' was released on 8 November – a collaboration with Sir Brian May, her long-time friend and mentor.



Bobby Chen

Bobby Chen is a Concert Pianist and studied at the Yehudi Menuhin School and the Royal Academy of Music. He burst onto the scene playing Beethoven's Triple Concerto in a British tour with Lord Yehudi Menuhin and the Warsaw Sinfonia. Bobby has performed several charity concerts at Farm Street Church.



Thank you

Our thanks to our sponsors CCLA who have made this evening possible through their generous support.

Our heartfelt gratitude to St Anne's Gospel Choir, Adeniké Adewale, Talia Dean and Bobby Chen who have shared their incredible talents and in the weeks leading up to this joyful service and our guest readers Alex Macqueen, Julie Etchingham and Bobby Seagull who have given up their precious time this evening.

We thank Father Patrick van der Vorst, Luisa Rodriguez and all the artists who have contributed their works to the art exhibition which is on display until 16 December and available to view and purchase on the CAFOD website.

Thank you to Father Dominic and all the community here at Farm Street for your welcome and support this evening.

Thank you all for being here and for your support of the CAFOD family around the world.

Please join us for mince pies and mulled wine and a chance to see and purchase artworks from our exhibition.



There will be a retiring collection for CAFOD if you are able to contribute. If you would prefer to donate online you can do so at cafod.org.uk/give or by scanning this code.

The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) is the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and part of Caritas International. Registered charity number 1160384. Company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales number 09387398.

Bible readings taken from the English Standard Version (ESV).

Photos: Adeniké Adewale, Bobby Chen, Julie Etchingham, Alex Macqueen, Bobby Seagull, CAFOD, St Anne's Gospel Choir.

About CAFOD

CAFOD is the official Catholic aid agency for England and Wales, and part of Caritas International. We bring people together to build a better world. The world God intended: where no one has their life limited by injustice or poverty.

Across the world we share hope and compassion with poor communities, standing side by side with them to end poverty and injustice.

Stand with us in hope and love for our global family through a regular monthly gift, a gift in your will or by taking part in the *Big Lent Walk*.

CCLA

GOOD INVESTMENT

Let's work together for a better world

How we invest has an impact on people and planet, hopefully for the good... and not just to increase the abundance of those who have much but ensuring those who have too little have enough.

ccla.co.uk

