

St Nicholas Sevenoaks

A warm welcome to St Nicholas Church!

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

with Eynsford Concert Band

Conductor: Mike Smith



7pm, Sunday 6th December 2015

Welcome: The Revd. Canon Angus MacLeay, Rector

Congregational Carol: arr. Wilcocks

1. **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.*
2. God of God,
Light of Light,
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God,
begotten not created:
O come...

3. See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with
lowly fear;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps:
O come...
4. Lo, star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
offer him incense, gold and myrrh;
we to the Christ-child
bring our hearts' oblations:
O come...
5. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
glory to God
in the highest:
O come...

Words and Music: John Francis Wade, trans. Frederick Oakeley & Others

Concert Band: *Emmanuel Variants* - Foster

Lady Boswell's School Choir: *'Holy Child, In the Darkness'* - Anon

Church Music Group – Helen Greig, Peter Harlow:

'A Strange Way to Save the World'

A strange way to save the world
I'm sure he must have been surprised
At where this road had taken him,
'Cause never in a million lives
Would he have dreamed of Bethlehem;
And, standing at the manger,
He saw with his own eyes
The message from the angel
Come to life - and Joseph said:

*Why me, I'm just a simple man of trade?
Why Him, with all the rulers in the world?
Why here, inside this stable filled with hay?
Why her, she's just an ordinary girl?
Now, I'm not one to second-guess what angels have
to say;
But this is such a strange way to save the world.*

To think of how it could have been
If Jesus had come as He deserved!
There would have been no Bethlehem,
No lowly shepherds at His birth,
But Joseph knew the reason
Love had to reach so far;
And, as he held the Saviour in his arms,
He must have thought:

Why me ...

© Mark Harris, Don Koch, Dave Clark 1993

Concert Band: *Fairy Doll* – Wiffin

Congregational Carol:

1. **Unto us a Boy is born!**
King of all creation,
Came He to a world forlorn
The Lord of every nation,
The Lord of every nation.
2. Cradled in a stall was He
With sleepy cows and asses;
But the very beasts could see
That He all men surpasses,
That He all men surpasses.
3. Herod then with fear was filled:
'A prince,' he said, 'in Jewry!'
All the little boys he killed
At Beth'lem in his fury,
At Beth'lem in his fury.
4. Now may Mary's Son, who came
So long ago to love us,
Lead us all with hearts aflame
Unto the joys above us,
Unto the joys above us.
5. Alpha and Omega He!
Let the organ thunder,
While the choir with peals of glee
Doth rend the air asunder!
Doth rend the air asunder!

German (15th C.) tr. Percy Dearmer d.1936
From the Oxford Book of Carols, OUP.

Concert Band: *Jazz Waltz No. 2* – Shostakovich

Lady Boswell's School Choir: *'Comes the Light'* - Arbel Billingham

Solo from Handel's Messiah – Anna Harvey: *'Behold, a virgin shall conceive'* (recit)
'O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion' (aria)

Recitative:

Behold! a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Emmanuel: God with us.

(Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23)

Aria:

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain.
O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid;
say unto the cities of Judah: behold your God!
Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

(Isaiah 40:9 and 60:1)

Congregational Carol:

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| 1. While shepherds watched their
flocks by night
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down
and glory shone around. | 4. "The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands
and in a manger laid." |
| 2. "Fear not," said he – for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind –
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind. | 5. Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song: |
| 3. "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: | 6. "All glory be to God on high,
and on the earth be peace!
goodwill henceforth from heaven to earth
begin and never cease." |

N Tate (1652-1715)

Concert Band: A Most Wonderful Christmas (arr. Sheldon)

Solo from Handel's Messiah – Anna Harvey: 'How beautiful are the feet' (aria)

How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace,
and bring glad tidings of good things.

(Isaiah 52:7; Romans 10:15)

Bible Reading: Luke 2:1-14

¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to his own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests."

Drama: Christmas At Uppity Abbey

Christmas Message: The Revd. Dr. Gavin McGrath, Associate Rector

Congregational Carol: arr. Wilcocks

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| 1. 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.'
<i>Hark, the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.</i> | 2. 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 us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
<i>Hark, the herald...</i> |
| 3. 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 we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
<i>Hark, the herald...</i> | |

C. Wesley (1707-1788) and others

The Blessing: The Revd. Canon Angus MacLeay, Rector



EYNSFORD CONCERT BAND

EYNSFORD CONCERT BAND is a symphonic wind ensemble that has been based in the small Kentish village of Eynsford since 1972.

The band has 50 playing members from all over the South East of England that aspire to attain the highest standards of musicianship within a social and friendly environment. Eynsford Concert Band has gained an international reputation having toured Austria, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Ireland, Netherlands, Malta, Spain and Belgium as well as playing aboard cruise ships in the Fjords of Norway and the Mediterranean where we provided the on-board entertainment.

The band enjoys performing a wide range of concert band repertoire from popular music arrangements and orchestral transcriptions to classic and modern wind band works. We have recorded three CDs, proudly releasing Heritage in January 2010, featuring a Suite by Nigel Clarke written especially for the band.

In July 2014 the band had the honour of being crowned National Champion Concert Band following their performance at the National Concert Band Symposium (NCBS) held in Canterbury.

The band is firmly rooted in its community and every year raises substantial amounts for local charities, recently helping raise much needed funds for both SSAFA (the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association) and King's College Hospital Critical Care Unit.

For many years we have been honoured to support the Remembrance Sunday Service each November at the Sevenoaks Vine War Memorial and to perform as part of St Nicholas' Christmas celebrations.

The band performs several concerts locally throughout the year. If you would like to find out more, please visit our website www.eynsfordconcertband.co.uk

MIKE SMITH

Michael Smith BA(Mus) LRSM was born in Warwickshire and joined the Army as a clarinettist, serving in England, Northern Ireland and Cyprus before being selected to attend the three year Bandmaster Course at The Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall. He graduated in 1996 winning the Commandant's Prize and the coveted Worshipful Company of Musicians' Medal for best all-round Student Bandmaster of the year whilst completing his Bachelor of Arts Degree and gaining his Licentiate of the Royal School of Music in Conducting.

In April 2008 Michael was selected for a commission into the Corps of Army Music and was appointed Director of Music the Band of The Royal Irish Regiment (TA) based in Hollywood, Northern Ireland.

In October 2010 he was appointed Director of Music The Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers in Chatham, Kent. After just 8 months with the Engineers Band he was asked to take up the much coveted appointment of Director of Music the Band of the Grenadier Guards in June 2011.

It was at this time that he also took up the Musical Directorship of Eynsford Concert Band, in their 40th Anniversary year, and led the band on a short celebration cruise to Belgium.

In July 2013 Michael left the Band of the Grenadier Guards to return to Headquarters Corps of Army Music in a staff officer post and also taking on the role of Corps Secretary, Corps of Army Music. In April 2015 he was appointed Chief Instructor at The Royal Military School of Music where he is responsible for the training of Army Bandmasters and Musicians.



LADY BOSWELL'S SCHOOL CHOIR

The Lady Boswell's School Choir is excited and delighted to be here tonight. Our choir has been growing in strength over the last few years and we now have a remarkable 52 strong singers. Tonight we would like to perform for you 'Holy Child, In the Darkness' by Anon, and 'Comes the Light' composed by Arbel Billingham, a member of St. Nicholas church. Miss Gjeshaj is privileged to be leading the young voices of Lady Boswell's School tonight.



**Please join us at St. Nicholas
for any of our Christmas events**

Wednesday, 9th December

10.30am Children's Carol Service
with Mum & Co. and Babies Club

Sunday, 13th December

9.15am Children's Carol Services
11am Christingle Service

10am Grace Church All Age Christmas Service at Lady Boswell's School
4 O'Clock Church All Age Christmas Service at Walthamstow Hall
School

Sunday, 20th December

Sunday@3 Christingle Service at Lady Boswell's School
6.30pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
followed by mince pies

Christmas Eve

2.30pm (less crowded) & 4pm Family Carols by Candlelight
11.15pm Midnight Holy Communion

Christmas Day

8am Holy Communion
10am Christmas Family Celebration
(followed by Holy Communion)
10am Christmas All Age Service at Walthamstow Hall School



Rectory and Church Car Park

Please remember!! If your car is blocking anyone else in,
please be available to move it **PROMPTLY** after the service.

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