

# St Margaret's Church Rainham : Christmas Tree Festival 2016

## Rochester Choral Society Chamber Choir

### Programme

In Dulci Jubilo ( <i>BWV729</i> ) Organ	Bach
Welcome, Yule!	Parry
O Christmas Tree	Jenkins
The Boar's Head Carol	Sargent
Gaudete—Piae Cantiones	arr Hoyle

### Carol **O little Town of Bethlehem**

Es ist ein' Ros'entsprungen Organ	Brahms
Adam Lay ye bounden	Ord
The Virgin Mary had a baby boy	arr Blackwell
Jesus Christ the Apple Tree	Poston

### Carol **The First Nowell / Mary's Child**

Little Jesus, sweetly sleep	Bush
I saw three ships	Humphris
Deck the Hall	arr Jenkins

### Carol **Good King Wenceslas**

<i>Prelude on 'God rest you merry, gentlemen' Organ</i>	Rutter
Christmas is coming	Davies
Ding Dong merrily on high	Llewellyn
Jingle bells	Pierpoint

### Carol **God rest you merry gentlemen**

Candlelight Carol	Mold
This little babe	Britten
Twelve days of Christmas	Humphris
We wish you a merry Christmas	arr Warrell

**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.*

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:  
*O tidings ...*

God bless the ruler of this house,  
And long on may he reign,  
And many happy Christmasses  
He live to see again.  
God bless our generation,  
That live both far and near  
*And God send you a happy new year,  
Happy new year,  
And God send you a happy new year.*

*Choir and organ ending!*

*Choir only*

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:

*All*

*O tidings ...*

*Men*

But when to Bethlehem they came,  
Whereat this infant lay,  
They found him in a manger,  
Where oxen feed on hay;  
His mother Mary kneeling,  
Unto the Lord did pray:

*All*

*O tidings ...*



**Rochester Choral Society  
CHAMBER CHOIR**

Experienced choral singers for:

- Weddings
- Birthdays
- Christening
- Corporate and Public events
- Private Parties
- Funerals
- Christmas and special occasions

Contact us:  
Tel: Roz- 0781 6867299  
Email: [rscchamberchoir@gmail.com](mailto:rscchamberchoir@gmail.com)

**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 mortal sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is given!  
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 tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel.

---

**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 if Israel!*

**CC – Mary's Child verse 1**

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...*

**CC – Mary's Child verse 2**

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...*

This star drew nigh to the north-west;  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay  
Right over the place where Jesus lay:  
*Nowell...*

**CC – Mary's Child verse 3**

Then entered in those wise men three,  
Full rev'rently upon their knee,  
And offered there in his presence  
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense:  
*Nowell...*

**CC – Mary's Child verse 4**

Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,  
That hath made heav'n and earth of  
nought,  
And with his blood man kind hath bought:  
*after a short fanfare...*  
*Nowell... Amen*

**Good King Wenceslas look'd out**

on the feast of Stephen,  
When the snow lay round about,  
Deep, and crisp, and even:  
Brightly shone the moon that night,  
Though the frost was cruel,  
When a poor man came in sight,  
Gath'ring winter fuel.

*Male voices*

'Hither, page, and stand by me,  
If thou know'st it, telling,  
Yonder peasant, who is he?  
Where and what his dwelling?'

*Female voices*

'Sire, he lives a good league hence,  
Underneath the mountain,  
Right against the forest fence,  
By Saint Agnes' fountain.'

*Male voices*

'Bring me flesh, and bring me wine,  
Bring me pine-logs hither:  
Thou and I will see him dine,  
When we bear them thither.'

*All*

Page and monarch, forth they went,  
Forth they went together;  
Through the rude wind's wild lament  
And the bitter weather.

*Female voices – slower*

'Sire, the night is darker now,  
And the wind blows stronger;  
Fails my heart, I know not how;  
I can go no longer.'

*Male voices – normal speed*

'Mark my footsteps, good my page;  
Tread thou in them boldly:  
Thou shalt find the winter's rage  
Freeze thy blood less coldly.'

*All*

In his master's steps he trod,  
Where the snow lay dinted;  
Heat was in the very sod  
Which the Saint had printed.  
Therefore, Christian men, be sure,  
Wealth or rank possessing,  
Ye who now will bless the poor,  
Shall your-selves find blessing