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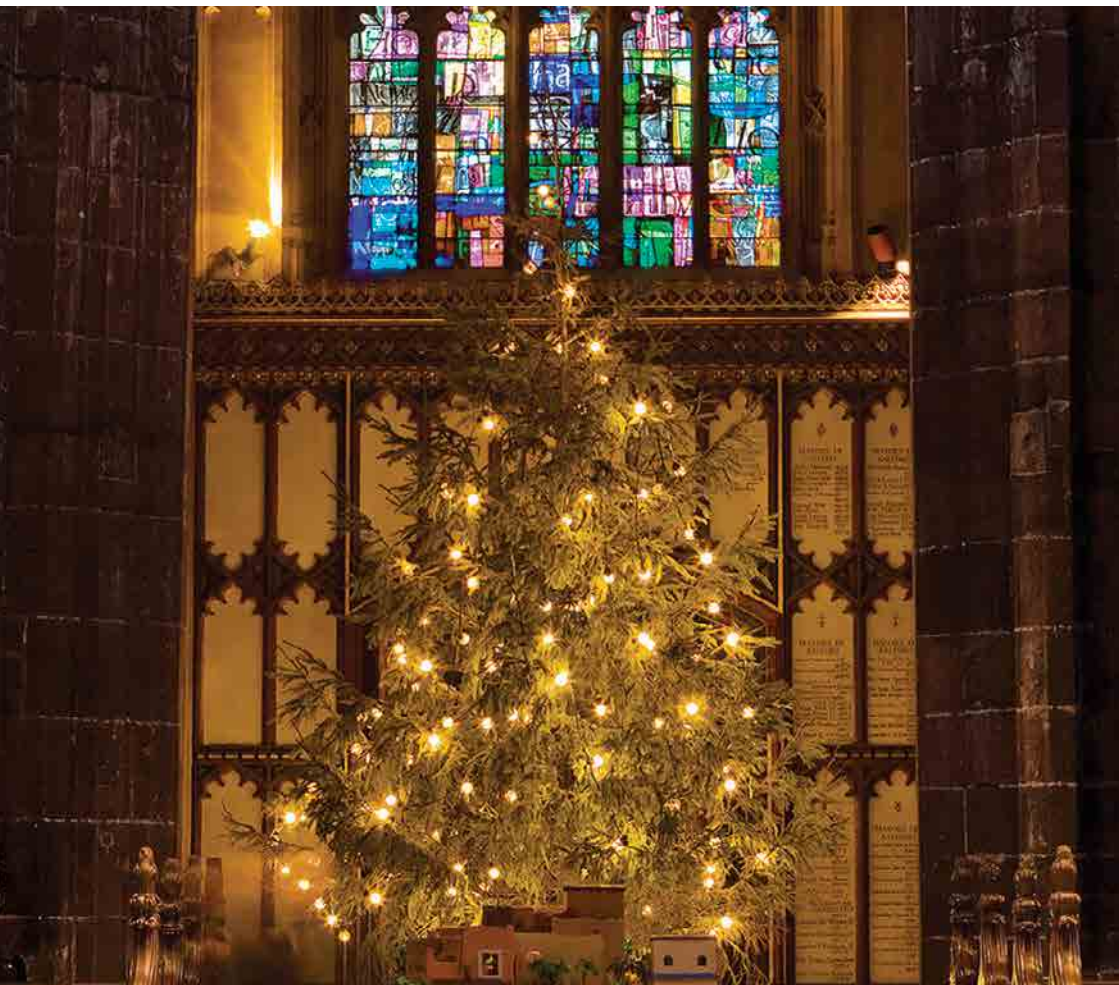
News

www.manchestercathedral.org

Dec 2015 - Jan 2016



Prayer / Worship / Music / Arts / Education / Heritage / Welcoming



Good host or good guest?

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Wassail, wassail, all over the town!

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The Jesus Movement

By The Dean



On All Saint's Day I had the immense privilege of attending the installation service for Bishop Michael Curry as the 27th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopalian (Anglican) Church of America. The service was held in Washington National Cathedral and what an amazing service it was.

The new Presiding Bishop preached with an enthusiasm and energy that I have not seen in any preacher in a very long time. His message was a very simple one based on the experience of the followers of Jesus in the New Testament: we are the Jesus Movement, and through this movement God has transformed the world, and will continue to do so in our day. The Holy Spirit working through us in the wonderful love of God will turn the world upside-down. Or, in fact, will turn the world 'right side up'.

I truly pray that each one of us will see ourselves as part of the Jesus Movement! And that God may transform the world around us through God's amazing love, bringing new life, forgiveness, new hope, justice and peace and joy to the world!

Merry Christmas and a peace-filled and joyous New Year to you!

In Christ,

Rogers Govender

Cathedral News Survey

Cathedral News has been one of the main forms of communication for Manchester Cathedral for many years. We are currently re-evaluating its purpose. To do this we would like to have a better understanding of those who read it. To help us with this, please could you complete our simple online survey at www.manchestercathedral.org/cathedral-news-survey

Good host or good guest?

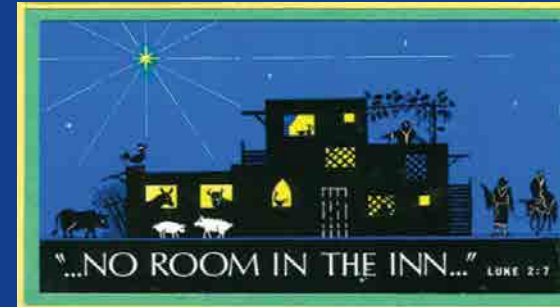
By The Venerable Mark Ashcroft

One of the joys of the Advent and Christmas season is being in touch with friends and family, sending and receiving cards and exchanging presents and hospitality.

I wonder if you prefer going somewhere else for Christmas and enjoying being looked after, or whether you prefer to be in your own home, do things your way and enjoy looking after others? At different stages of life, different approaches probably make more sense from a practical point of view, but I guess that most of us prefer to be in our own homes! In other words, we prefer to be the host rather than the guest.

One of the strange and remarkable things about the Gospels is that there are almost no stories about people coming to Jesus' home. When Jesus was born, it was away from the family home in Bethlehem, because of the census. Later on in life, we don't hear about him throwing a big party at home and inviting everyone round for a meal and a good chat about God. No, Jesus is always on the road, on the mountains, being invited into other people's houses and homes.

Jesus spent his time in being a guest. Not always a comfortable guest, but a good guest, nonetheless. Think of Jesus coming to the house of Zacchaeus and insisting that he comes to his home to spend time with him.



That theme of being a good guest runs deeper than the many occasions on which Jesus visited other people at home and chose not to be on his own territory. The whole principle of what Christians call the Incarnation, God becoming a human being, relates to the gift of being a guest. For God in Christ chose not to stay in the glory of heaven but stooped down, became one of us and lived amongst us as a human being in order to redeem us.

Every Christmas we are invited afresh to allow Jesus to be the special guest in our lives and homes as we reflect on the scripture message that there was no room for him in the inn. But perhaps, too, we can learn how to be both good hosts and good guests—guests who develop the art of enjoying being on other people's territory rather than our own. Happy guesting!

Cash for Kids

Mission Christmas 2015

Manchester has the fourth highest levels of child poverty in the UK, with one in three children going to bed in the evening without a hot meal, or living in a house without central heating.

For this reason, we are really excited to be supporting Key 103's Mission Christmas appeal to do something about this. *We are asking all who can to buy an unwrapped gift for a child of any age up to eighteen years to donate to the Mission Christmas appeal.*

Manchester Cathedral will be one of the city centre drop-off points for the appeal and gifts can be dropped off here during our usual opening hours. The last date for collection will be Wednesday 16 December.

Mission Christmas will not change the poverty statistics, but by supporting the Mission Christmas campaign you will be helping to bring the magic of Christmas to more children this Christmas Day.



Cathedral Christmas Card

The Cathedral Christmas card is now available to order via our new online shop www.manchestercathedralonlineshop.co.uk which can be accessed via a button on the homepage of the Cathedral website or via St Denys' Bookshop.

The cards are £3.99 for a pack of 10.

To mark the launch of the new shop, there are a number of items on special offer.



NOW ON SALE!

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL PRESENTS

CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHTS



THE MUPPET CHRISTMAS CAROL
FRIDAY 4 DECEMBER
6.30PM / £10 ADULTS, £5 conc

ELF (PG)
FRIDAY 4 DECEMBER
8.30PM / £10 ADULTS, £5 conc

THE SNOWMAN / FROZEN
DOUBLE BILL
SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER
7.30PM / £14 ADULTS, £10 conc

FAMILY TICKETS AVAILABLE - £28
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Wassail, wassail, all over the town!

By Christopher Stokes
Organist & Master of the Choristers

Carols were first sung in Europe thousands of years ago: these were pagan songs, sung at the Winter Solstice celebrations as people danced around stone circles. The word carol actually means a dance or song of praise, possibly derived from the French "carole" or the Latin "carula" meaning a circular dance.

The first known Christmas hymns can be traced to fourth century Rome. *Corde natus ex Parentis (Of the Father's love begotten)* by the Spanish poet Prudentius (d. 413) is regularly sung nowadays in most churches.

In the thirteenth century, in France, Germany, and particularly, Italy, under the influence of Francis of Assisi a strong tradition of popular Christmas songs in the native language developed.

The earliest known carol dates from 1410 – sadly, only a small fragment still exists. Most carols from this time and the Elizabethan period are very loosely based on the Christmas story and were seen as entertaining rather than religious songs, composed often for the home rather than for churches. Troubadours would also travel around the country often changing words for different locations. One such piece was 'I saw three ships come sailing in.'

Christmas carols in English first appear in a 1426 work of John Awdlay, Shropshire chaplain, who lists twenty five "caroles of Cristemas", probably sung by groups of 'wassailers', who went from house to house. The songs we know specifically as carols were originally communal songs sung during celebrations like harvest as well as Christmas. It was only later that carols begun to be sung in church, and to be specifically associated with Christmas.

When Cromwell came to power in 1647, Christmas was stopped but carols were still sung in secret and therefore survived. Numerous carols developed during the eighteenth century, but it was the Victorians who put the carol firmly on the musical map and composers such as Arthur Sullivan and John Stainer did much to popularise the genre.

For the Cathedral Choir, Christmas is a very special time indeed with eagerness, anticipation and excitement burgeoning as soon as rehearsals begin for the great Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, which takes place on Tuesday, 22 December. On that same day, the

Choristers will sing carols at the St James' Club, in King Street, for the members' annual Christmas lunch – always a very jolly affair! They will then be taken to Proper Tea before going into the final rehearsal for the service at 7.30pm, which will contain wonderful music, both old and new, appealing to all ages and tastes. The Choir will then have three more major services to sing before a well-earned break: the Crib service at 12noon on Christmas Eve: a touching Nativity service for children. Then Midnight Mass and the Christmas morning Eucharist with capacity congregations.

The Cathedral Voluntary Choir's lead up to the Christmas season will begin on Sunday 29 November with the Advent Procession. This is always a very special occasion: the service opens in darkness with the choir in the distance, gradually and symbolically moving towards the East end of the Cathedral. At this service, it will perform a piece which will involve the choir singing from the Quire stalls, and a soprano underneath the West Tower, which will have an enchanting effect.

After this there are two more Sunday evensongs of term left, featuring music by Orlando Gibbons, Percy Whitlock, and Michael Wise.

The Christmas term for the Voluntary Choir culminates with the Family Carols concert on Saturday 19 December at 7.30pm. There will be some 'old favourites' for the audience to join in with, including *Once in royal David's city* and *Hark! the herald angels sing*. The Choir will also sing a slightly 'groovy' version of *Ding dong! Merrily on high*.



Have an Epiphany!

The Feast of Epiphany (6th January) is the day when the church remembers the Visit of the Magi, the Three Kings or Wise Men. What they did is what makes the feast special. The Bible tells us they offered three gifts, Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. The significance of their gifts is very important to us, for it reveals who Jesus is. The word epiphany means a revelation, a showing. So, gold is a gift for a king, frankincense is a sort of incense

used in worship to show the real presence of God and myrrh is a precious ointment used to anoint the bodies of those who had died.

So put all that together and we have an Epiphany! Who is Jesus? He is Christ the King, he is the Son of God, God's real presence in a human body and yet this Jesus, the King and Son of God, is destined to die on the cross for each one of us. Three gifts, one huge Epiphany!

But there's more. The Epiphany season continues until the Feast of Candlemass (the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, on 2 February). Throughout this whole season our readings from the Bible show us each day who Jesus is and call us afresh each year to never forget the precious gift of Jesus to the world.

By Canon Philip Barratt

Campaign Corner

New Cathedral Artwork: The Icon Paintings

On 29 November, a new set of five icons were dedicated during the Sung Eucharist.



This beautiful installation has been realised by Kameliya Konstantinova and Yordan Yordanov, who are members of the Transfiguration Art Group, a community art group established by iconographers from Bulgaria, Romania and England.

Manchester Cathedral commissioned the artwork, depicting:

- The Holy Trinity (according the design of Rublev's icon which depicts the three angels who visited Abraham at the Oak of Mamre as foreshadowing the Christian understanding of God as Trinity)
- Jesus Christ Pantocrator ('ruler of all')
- The Theotokos Hodegetria (an icon depicting the Virgin Mary as 'God bearer' and 'Our Lady of the Way')
- St George
- St Denis

Thus the five icons represent the Trinity, Jesus Christ and the three patron saints of Manchester Cathedral.

Kamelia writes:

The tradition of icon painting begins with the legend of King Abgar of Edessa, who is said to have written to Jesus during an illness asking for his help. Jesus was unable to go to him but sent a letter instead, and, according to later versions of the story, a piece of cloth bearing the imprint of his likeness. This divine image holds a place in icon tradition as the prototype, an image 'not made by human hands'. St Luke is sometimes credited with painting the first icons of Christ and Mary the blessed Virgin.

In the Orthodox Church, an icon is a sacred image, a window into heaven. The icon is part of another reality. More than art, an icon has an important spiritual role. The iconographer has to prepare for the task of 'writing' an icon by disciplined fasting and prayer. During the process of creating an icon, the iconographer is a servant of God, through whose hands God creates the image.

The primary purpose of the icon is to aid worship. The image uses a technique called 'reverse perspective', making background objects larger, as though the 'vanishing points' were somewhere in the space in front of the painting. This significance of this style in icon painting is to suggest that we are the image and that heaven is the reality. Thus, the icon looks 'back at us' in this reverse perspective.

We hope that these new icons will encourage visitors to spend a while looking at them, using them as an aid to prayer.

We are very grateful for all the generous donations to this project. Our special thanks goes to Pickled Walnut, Harvey Nichols, the Reverend Arthur W. Newall, Sing Live Ltd and Florence Jones.

By Anthony O'Connor



GREAT FOOD DESERVES THE GRANDEST OF SETTINGS

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The Cathedral Team and Volunteer Programme

Join the Booth Centre Sleep Out

By Andrea Swales

Every year, Manchester Cathedral supports The Booth Centre in their annual Sleep Out where people are invited to raise money for the centre by sleeping rough in the Cathedral Grounds. Jo Hooper, Communications & Marketing Officer for the Cathedral, is the leading figure in rallying the troops to support the cause and this year, managed to entice me and Helen Jones, to join them! Needless to say, as Sleep Out novices, we were somewhat dubious about the event having never participated before, but decided that we would join our colleagues and even managed to rope in Emma Cooke, Operations Manager from City Co., Lucy Baldwin, Group Financial Accountant from Daisy Group and a team from the Volunteer Programme partner employers, NCP!

On the day of the Sleep Out we were looking out of the window at the constant rain and exchanging glances at each other as we all thought the same thing; 'Is this rain ever going to stop?!' Thankfully, as the day went on it did and by the time the sleep out started the rain had dried up and the wind had died down. As we bedded down for then night still quite unsure what to expect all of us said the same thing "can you imagine

if we had to do this every night?" we all knew only too well that if we did, we wouldn't have had the luxury of being able to get a hot drink whenever we wanted, and being able to go into the Cathedral if the weather got too bad.... Which is what most homeless people face night after night. It was around that point that the reality of homelessness hit and we realised that we should be thankful for everything that we have.

The night went extremely well and Manchester Cathedral raised a whopping total of **£2776!!** Even the rain held off for everyone until 5 am when we were woken up to Helen's screams as big splodges of rain hit us in the face! It was great to be involved in such a worthwhile experience to help raise money for the Booth Centre and who knows... maybe we'll do it again next year?!



Chorister Recruitment Officer



We are pleased to announce that Charlie Corkin has been appointed as our new Chorister Recruitment Officer. The purpose of this new post is 'to establish a robust and effective marketing campaign that reimagines the chorister brand image.' Charlie will be responsible for supporting the delivery of a new musical outreach programme across the region by acting as a musical animateur and by setting up singing groups within schools. Charlie will also take responsibility for the establishment of a new children's choir in the Cathedral for children aged 6 to 11 years.

Christopher Stokes, Cathedral Organist and Master of the Choristers says, 'His role will be pivotal in rethinking the whole subject of recruitment of choristers in 21st century Manchester and promoting our wonderful, centuries-old tradition of choral music. I look forward to working with Charlie to develop these new strategies'.

About his appointment, Charlie writes, 'I'm thrilled to be joining the music department at Manchester Cathedral to lead the Chorister Recruitment Programme. The coming journey is going to be a challenging, but rewarding one. I'm really looking forward to helping develop, strengthen and renew the Choir and Music Department in line with the Cathedral Development Plan through building strong relationships with families, schools, teachers and pupils from all areas of the Diocese'.

Charlie takes up his new post in December.



A Saint for the Month
December 17th

O Sapientia

This month's commemoration is not a saint! *O Sapientia* is the first of the seven ancient antiphons traditionally used in the western church during the last seven days of Advent. They were omitted from the *Book of Common Prayer* in 1549 but restored in 1661 when they were transferred from December 16th to the 17th. And from there we get *O Sapientia's* listing in *Common Worship*.

The Latin, *O Sapientia*, means 'Wisdom' and is one of the titles of Jesus, the Christ, or Messiah. In other words, Jesus is also known as the Wisdom of God.

It's possible that a little hidden wordplay expands the meaning here, in that if the first letters of the seven titles are read backwards, they spell out an acrostic, *Ero Cras*, which can mean, *Tomorrow I will come*, which is the meaning of Advent! These ancient 'O' antiphons are taken up in the Advent Hymn, *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*.

In the 1690s, the French composer, Marc-Antoine Charpentier, wrote a setting for the antiphons, Ralph Vaughan Williams composed a Plainsong setting and, more recently, the Estonian composer, Arvo Pärt, set the words, in German translation, for an unaccompanied choir.

However, in the absence of a choir, how is the day best observed in an ordinary parish church? Perhaps by meditating on that important but neglected word, *Wisdom*.

In a world that's changing as rapidly as ours wisdom was never more urgently needed, not only by politicians but by us all as we struggle with social, intellectual and technological transitions more radical than any the world has ever known before. Yet, when it comes to wisdom, theologians and philosophers have surprisingly little to say about the subject. Why is this, especially when a number of books in the Bible are classified as Wisdom Literature: for example, Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes? And Jesus, as well as being a prophet and a rabbi, was also known to be a teacher of wisdom.

It's time that the Church began thinking again what we've lost by abandoning interest in wisdom. For a start, it has impoverished our understanding of Jesus. But also: what's wise in regard to climate change for example, or the growing use of robots and artificial intelligence? *O Sapientia* is an important reminder of our need for wisdom as we face all such urgent questions.

By Albert Radcliffe

The Diary December

- Tuesday 1 December**
12.30 pm Julian Prayer Group
6.15 pm Christmas Tree Lights switch on
7.30 pm MedEquip4Kids Annual Christmas Sing-a-long
- Wednesday 2 December**
7.30 pm Action for Children Christmas Carol Concert
- Thursday 3 December**
1.10 pm Chetham's School of Music Lunchtime Concert
7.30 pm The Children's Society's 'Sing for Christmas' Service for School choirs
- Friday 4 December**
6.30 pm Christmas Movie: The Muppet Christmas Carol
8.30 pm Christmas Movie: Elf
- Saturday 5 December**
10.30 am Christian Meditation session
7.30 pm Christmas Movies: The Snowman and Frozen
- Sunday 6 December**
1.00 pm, 2.30 pm & 4.00 pm St Ann's Hospice Light up a Life services

- Tuesday 8 December**
7.00 pm The Christie Christmas Concert
- Wednesday 9 December**
12.45 pm Turning of the Leaves
7.00 pm A Night of Hope—Greater Manchester Churches Together Refugee Crisis Event
- Thursday 10 December**
7.00 pm Henshaws Carols by Candlelight Concert
- Friday 11 December**
7.00 pm Genesis Christmas Celebration
- Sunday 13 December**
3.00 pm St John Ambulance Carol Service
- Monday 14 December**
7.30 pm Royal Manchester Children's Hospital Christmas Carols in the City concert.
- Tuesday 15 December**
11.30 am Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce Carol Concert
- Thursday 17 December**
12.00 noon Joint Staff Christmas Eucharist
- Saturday 19 December**
12.00 noon Cathedral Christmas Sing along
7.30 pm Family Carols concert

- Tuesday 22 December**
12.30 pm Julian Prayer Group
4.30 pm Evening Prayer
7.30 pm A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
- Wednesday 23 December**
12.45 pm Turning of the Leaves
4.30 pm Evening Prayer
- Thursday 24 December**
12.00 noon Blessing of the Crib and Children's Nativity
4.30 pm Evening Prayer
11.30 pm Midnight Mass
- Friday 25 December**
10.30 am Christmas Day Eucharist. Incense will be used.
12.00 noon Evening Prayer (No 1.10pm Holy Communion)
- Saturday 26 December**
11.00 am Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
4.30 pm Evening Prayer
- Sunday 27 December**
4.30 pm Evening Prayer
- Monday 28—Thursday 31 December**
9.00 am Morning Prayer & Holy Communion (No 1.10pm Holy Communion)
4.30 pm Evening Prayer

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Looking ahead

January

Friday 1 January

7.30 pm *Viennese Christmas*
by Candlelight

Sunday 3 January

10.30 am *Epiphany Eucharist*

Tuesday 5 January

12.30 pm *Julian Prayer Group*

Wednesday 6 January

12.45 pm *Turning of the Leaves*

Thursday 14 January

12.00 noon *Mothers' Union*
Thursday Prayer

Wednesday 20 January

12.45 pm *Turning of the Leaves*

Thursday 21 January

1.10 pm *Chetham's School of Music*
Lunchtime Concert

Saturday 23 January

11.00 am *Coffee Concert*

Tuesday 26 January

12.30 pm *Julian Prayer Group*

Sunday 31 January

10.30 am *Cathedral Kids' Club*

Looking further ahead

February

Wednesday 3 February

12.45 pm *Turning of the Leaves*

Saturday 6 February

10.30 am *Christian Meditation session*

Thursday 11 February

12.00 noon *Mothers' Union*
Thursday Prayer

1.10 pm *Chetham's School of Music*
Lunchtime Concert

Friday 12 February

7.00 pm *Opening night of*
Quietus Exhibition

Saturday 13 February

11.00 am *Coffee Concert*
2.15 pm *Be A Chorister For A Day*
4.30 pm *Evening Prayer (No 5.30 pm*
Evensong)
5.00 pm *Be A Chorister For A Day—*
Act of Worship

Tuesday 16 February

12.30 pm *Julian Prayer Group*
7.30 pm *Chetham's Sinfonia and*
Ensembles concert

Wednesday 17 February

12.45 pm *Turning of the Leaves*

Friday 19 February

7.30 pm *Chetham's Symphony Orchestra*

Tuesday 23 February

7.00 pm *Imagining God - theological*
lecture by F. Gerald Downing

Friday 26 February

7.00 pm *Fun Lovin' Criminals (Come Find*
Yourself 20th Anniversary Tour)



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Service Times - Midweek Services

Morning Prayer	9.00am	Mon-Fri
Holy Communion	1.10pm	Mon-Fri
Evensong	5.30pm	Tues-Thurs*
Evening Prayer	4.30pm	Mon & Fri

Saturday Services

Morning Prayer & Holy Communion	9.00am
Evensong	5.30pm*

Sunday Services

Matins	8.45am
Holy Communion (1662)	9.00am
Sung Eucharist	10.30am
Evensong	5.30pm*

*Please note: Services will be said from 26 December to 2 January. All said services are at 4.30 pm. Variations to the schedule for special dates and services will be listed here whenever possible.

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The Revd Peter Bellamy-Knights

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Christmas at Manchester Cathedral

Manchester
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Christmas Carol Sing-along

Saturday 19 December, 12 noon to 1.30pm
(informal - just turn up and stay as long as you like)

Family Carols Concert

Saturday 19 December, 7.30pm
www.family-carols.eventbrite.co.uk
Tickets £10 (£8)

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Tuesday 22 December, 7.30pm

Blessing of the Crib with Children's Nativity

Christmas Eve, 12 noon

The First Communion of Christmas

Christmas Eve, 11.30pm

Christmas Day Sung Eucharist

Christmas Day, 10.30am
(incense will be used at this service)



Victoria Street, Manchester, M3 1SX
0161 833 2220, www.manchestercathedral.org



Family Carols

Manchester
Cathedral

Saturday 19 December 2015

7.30pm

Manchester Cathedral Voluntary Choir
Christopher Stokes and
Aaron Shilson, Organ

Geoffrey Woollatt, Director

Tickets £10 (£8)
available from <http://family-carols.eventbrite.co.uk>

includes a glass of wine & mince pie



Victoria Street,
Manchester, M3 1SX
0161 833 2220
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