



Crisis

Carol Service 2023

Crisis Skylight Merseyside

Liverpool Parish Church
(Our Lady and Saint Nicholas)

4th December 2023,
6pm–7pm

Crisis patron, The Princess Royal



A season centred around quality time with families and loved ones, Christmas is a celebrated occasion for many.

For people experiencing homelessness, it can be centred around insecurity and loneliness, and fuelled with apprehension and uncertainty.

Year round, Crisis helps to build a life beyond homelessness by supporting individuals to secure safe and sustainable housing, education, and employment. These vital services, ran by thousands of staff, volunteers, and supporters, deliver life changing results for people across Britain, allowing them to leave homelessness behind.

As Patron of Crisis, I continue to be proud of the tireless work carried out towards an end to homelessness. I hope you have an enjoyable evening and I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE
LONDON SW1A 1AA

Photo credit: Hugo Burnand.

A message to Crisis supporters



It is a pleasure to welcome you to this carol service, whether you are a member of staff, volunteer, member or supporter. This evening provides us with the opportunity to come together and look back on the year in word and song.

Over the past year we have again seen an increase in the rates of homelessness across the UK. As a result of soaring rents and a lack of affordable housing, more people are trapped in temporary or emergency accommodation, sofa surfing, or sleeping rough.

Homelessness is not inevitable, and we know here at Crisis that it can be ended. Throughout the year, our skylight centres in England, Scotland and Wales have provided specialist one-to-one support so that people can end their homelessness for good. Winter brings

increased challenge and insecurity to the most vulnerable people in our society, so every year at Christmas and into January, Crisis helps thousands of people facing homelessness. Our skylights, day centres and hotels offer safe spaces and accommodation, healthcare, advice, food and companionship to those who otherwise would not have access to it.

We would be unable to deliver these life changing services without the tireless dedication of our staff, supporters, and the thousands of people who volunteer across the Christmas period, with such joy, warmth and compassion. Thank you for everything you continue to do, and with your support, this Christmas can be the beginning of life beyond homelessness.

I hope you have a wonderful evening and a Happy Christmas.

Matt Downie
Chief Executive, Crisis



During the carol service, please ensure that mobile phones are on silent or switched off.

There may be a photographer at this evening's service to capture the choirs' performances, and the congregation may appear in some of the photos. If you have any concerns, please speak to a member of the Crisis team.

If you would like to make a donation there will be a variety of ways to do so during the evening.

We hope you enjoy the service.

Welcome

The Revd Bill Addy, Liverpool Parish Church
(Our Lady and St Nicholas)

Two songs by The Choir With No Name

Speech

Matt Downie, Crisis CEO

Please stand and sing.

Congregational carol – The First Noel

The First Noel the Angels 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

Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

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

Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

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

Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

This star drew nigh to the northwest
O'er Bethlehem it took it's rest
And there it did both Pause and stay
Right o'er the place where Jesus lay

Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

Please sit.

Prayer

The Revd Bill Addy, Liverpool Parish Church
(Our Lady and St Nicholas)

Readings

Christmas (Unknown)

David Gill, Homelessness Partner Adviser, DWP

Every time a hand reaches out
To help another, that is Christmas
Every time someone puts anger aside
And strives for understanding
That is Christmas
Every time people forget their differences
And realize their love for each other
That is Christmas
May this Christmas bring us
Closer to the spirit of human understanding
Closer to the blessing of peace!

Falling Snow (Unknown)

Christine Clark, Community Liaison
Coordinator, John Lewis

See the pretty snowflakes
Falling from the sky;
On the walk and housetops
Soft and thick they lie.
On the window-ledges
On the branches bare;
Now how fast they gather,
Filling all the air.
Look into the garden,
Where the grass was green;
Covered by the snowflakes,
Not a blade is seen.
Now the bare black bushes
All look soft and white.
Every twig is laden-
What a pretty sight!

Please stand and sing.

Congregational 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

O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
All glory in the highest
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord!

Please sit.

Christmas Carol - Silent Night (Cicha Noc)

performed by Piotr Bubel

Reading

Luke Chapter 2, 1-20

Juliet Mountford, Executive Director of Client Services, Crisis

The Birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

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.

Please stand and sing.

Ding Dong Merrily on High – Congregation

Ding-dong! Merrily on high
in heaven the bells are ringing.
Ding-dong! Verily the sky
is riven with angels singing:
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so, here below, below,
let steeple bells be swungen;
and i-o, i-o, i-o,
by priest and people sungen!
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime
your matin chime, you ringers;
may you beautifully rhyme
your evetime song, you singers:
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

Please sit.

Reading

Katy Wafer, Integrated Care Team Coordinator,
Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust

Smells of Christmas By Bernard Howe

I love the smell of Christmas,
along with all the lights.
Log fires in the fireplace,
on those cold winter nights.
The smell of Christmas goodies,
that are baked with tender care.
The smell is just the greatest,
there's nothing to compare.
The evergreen's so fragrant,
the smell of Christmas season.
Like the hanging of mistletoe,
that's done for a good reason.
The red berries of the holly,
in that arrangement on the table.
Which I'm sure is much better,
then Christmas in that stable.

Poinsettia's all around,
to balance off the garland.
Music boxes everyplace,
bought by my sweet darlin'.
Cinnamon and Peppermint,
fills the air that's in our house.
And what is stirring in the night,
is not the Christmas mouse.
Those pies that make me drool,
just sitting there on that shelf.
Is as if they were made special,
for that jolly old Christmas elf.

Song

performed by Ben Djamson

Please stand and sing.

We Wish You a Merry Christmas: - Congregation

We wish you a merry Christmas,
we wish you a merry Christmas,
we wish you a merry Christmas
and a happy New Year.
Good tidings we bring
to you and your kin;
we wish you a merry Christmas
and a happy New Year.

Now bring us some figgy pudding,
now bring us some figgy pudding,
now bring us some figgy pudding,
and a cup of good cheer.

Good tidings we bring
to you and your kin;
we wish you a merry Christmas
and a happy New Year.
For we all like figgy pudding,
we all like figgy pudding,
we all like figgy pudding,
so, bring some out here!
Good tidings we bring
to you and your kin;
we wish you a merry Christmas
and a happy New Year.

We won't go until we get some,
we won't go until we get some,
we won't go until we get some,
so, bring it right here!
Good tidings we bring
to you and your kin;
we wish you a merry Christmas
and a happy New Year.

Prayer and Blessing

The Revd Bill Addy, Liverpool Parish Church
(Our Lady and St Nicolas)

A shared message from all the members of The Choir With No Name

A special thank you to...

The Revd Bill Addy
Liverpool Parish Church
The Choir With No Name
John and Rachel String Duo
David Gill
Christine Clark
Piotr Bubel
Kathy Wafer
Ben Djamson
Crisis Staff, Members, and Volunteers

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

Please join us for mince pies and refreshments and a selection
of Christmas songs from John and Rachel String Duo.

This Christmas, your donation can help start someone's life beyond homelessness.

Your gift of £29.73 could help provide:

- hot meals and a Christmas lunch
- help with a safe place to stay
- hotel accommodation for those most in need
- a long-term personal lead worker
- year-round support, including training and education
- advice on housing, employment, welfare and benefits
- companionship from volunteers
- health and wellbeing programmes
- support to leave homelessness behind for good.

Scan the QR code to donate



Whether online or in-store, by buying from our wide range of unique gifting products, pre-loved items or donations from well-known brands, you are helping to make a life beyond homelessness a reality for someone.



Help build a life beyond homelessness. Shop here.



We are the national charity for people experiencing homelessness.
We know that homelessness is not inevitable.
We know that together we can end it.

Crisis Skylight Merseyside

96 Kent Street
Liverpool
L1 5BD
0151 218 7000

www.crisis.org.uk

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Registered Charity Numbers:
E&W1082947, SC040094
Company Number: 4024938

