



Crisis

Carol Service 2023

Crisis Skylight Edinburgh

Canongate Kirk, Edinburgh

Thursday 14 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 mobiles phones are on silent or switched off. You are also reminded that photography and recordings are not allowed in the absence of prior arrangements.

There will be a collection this evening and you will find a Gift Aid envelope on your seat should you wish to make a donation, or a QR code should you wish to give online.

We hope you enjoy the service.

Brass Band:

Salvation Band of City Corps, Edinburgh

Welcome

Rev Neil Gardner

Please stand and sing.

Congregational carol – O little town of Bethlehem

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.
For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.
How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
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!

Please sit

Reflection on this year

Mark Kennedy, Director of Crisis Skylight
Edinburgh

Please stand and sing.

Congregational carol – Silent Night

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Saviour, is born!
Christ, the Saviour, is born!

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Please sit.

My Story / Reflection

Crisis Skylight Edinburgh Member

Please stand and sing.

Congregational carol – Ding Dong! Merrily on high

Ding dong, merrily on high!
In heav'n the bells are ringing;
ding dong, verily the sky
is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

E'en so here below,
let steeple bells be swungen,
And io, io, io,
by priest and people sungen.
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

Pray ye dutifully prime
your matin chime, ye ringers;
may ye beautifully rhyme
your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

Please sit.

MSP Speaker

Paul McLennan - Minster for Housing

Please stand and sing.

Congregational carol – We Three Kings of Orient Are

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star. [Refrain]:
O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. [Refrain]

Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high. [Refrain]

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [Refrain]
Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]

Please sit.

Address

Matt Downie, Chief Executive, Crisis

Please stand and sing.

Congregational carol – Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

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 th' angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the new-born King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored:
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of the favoured one.
Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see;
Hail, th' incarnate Deity:
Pleased, as man, with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the new-born King!

Hail! the heaven-born
Prince of peace!
Hail! the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die:
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the new-born King!

Please sit.

Closing thanks and blessing

Rev Neil Gardner

Please stand and sing.

We Wish You a Merry Christmas!

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**

Please join us for festive refreshments at our
Crisis Skylight after the service.
Please make your way to Cranston House, 271
Canongate, Edinburgh, EH8 8BQ.



A special thank you to...

Salvation Band of City Corps, Edinburgh
Reverend Neil Gardner, Canongate Kirk
Matt Downie, Chief Executive Crisis
Mark Kennedy, Director, Crisis Skylight Edinburgh
The Crisis members who played a part in the concert this evening

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

Please join us for mince pies and refreshments.

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 Edinburgh

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www.crisis.org.uk/edinburg

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