



Crisis

Carol Service 2023

Crisis Skylight Oxford

University Church of St Mary
the Virgin, Oxford

Wednesday 13 December
2023, 6.30pm

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

Crisis is the national charity for people experiencing homelessness. We help people directly out of homelessness and campaign for the changes needed to solve it altogether. We know that together we can end it.

During the carol service, please ensure that mobile phones are silent. Photography and recording 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. There are also donation buckets and contactless card readers as you exit. Thank you.

We hope you enjoy the service.

Welcome

Dr Sarah Mortimer, Licensed Lay Minister

Please stand and sing.

Congregational Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem

Words: Phillips Brooks;

Music: trad arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

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 mortals 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 Heaven.
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 to-day.
We hear the Christmas angels,
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

Please sit

Speech

Matt Downie, Crisis CEO

Jericho Singers

Masters in This Hall – Words: William Morris;
Music Trad. French, arr. Anna Tabbush

White Shepherd – Words and music: Mike
O'Connor arr. Graham Pratt

White Winter Hymnal – Words and music:
Fleet Foxes

Volunteer's story

Please stand and sing

Congregational Carol: See Amid the Winter Snow

Words: Edward Caswall; Music: John Goss

See, amid the winter's snow,
Born for us on Earth below,
See, the tender Lamb appears,
Promised from eternal years.

Hail, thou ever blessed morn,
Hail redemption's happy dawn,
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the starry skies;
He who, throned in height sublime,
Sits among the cherubim.
Hail...

Say, ye holy shepherds, say,
What your joyful news today;
Wherefore have ye left your sheep
On the lonely mountain steep?
Hail...

"As we watched at dead of night,
Lo, we saw a wondrous light:
Angels singing 'Peace on Earth'
Told us of the Saviour's birth."
Hail...

Sacred Infant, all divine,
What a tender love was Thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss
Down to such a world as this.
Hail...

Teach, O teach us, Holy Child,
By Thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble Thee,
In Thy sweet humility.
Hail...

Virgin Mother, Mary blest
By the joys that fill thy breast,
Pray for us, that we may prove
Worthy of the Saviour's love.
Hail...

Please sit

Member's contribution

Please stand and sing

Congregational Carol: Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Words: Charles Wesley and others;
Music: Felix Mendelssohn, adapted

Hark! The herald-angels sing
"Glory to the newborn 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"
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 a Virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with man to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! The herald-angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King"

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 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

Reading and Reflection – Luke chapter 2 verses 1–20

Dr Sarah Mortimer

The birth of Jesus

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem (because he was of the house and lineage of David) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, “Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.” And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Jericho Singers & collection

We will take a collection for Crisis’s work while the Jericho Singers perform. To claim Gift Aid on your donation please use the envelopes provided. There will also be a card machine for donations after the service.

Away in a Manger – Words: anon; Music: trad Normandy tune arr. Reginald Jacques

Love Came Down at Christmas – Words: Cristina Rosetti; Music: Craig McLeish

Nieida Yoik – Words and music: traditional Sámi

Please stand and sing

Congregational Carol: We Wish you a Merry Christmas

Music: traditional arr. Edward L Stauff

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 bring some out here
 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.

And we won’t go until we’ve got some
We won’t go until we’ve got some
We won’t go until we’ve got some
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.

Please sit

Closing prayer

Dr Sarah Mortimer

Please join us for mince pies and refreshments after the service.

Piano

Tim Laphorn



A special thank you to:

Dr Sarah Mortimer
University Church of St Mary the Virgin
The Jericho Singers
Crisis Skylight Oxford Members
Crisis Skylight Oxford Volunteers

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

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 Oxford

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www.crisis.org.uk/oxford

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