



We are delighted that you have joined us today for this joyful celebration of Christmas, and Age UK Somerset's 75th Anniversary!

Christmas

CAROL SERVICE

Wednesday 13th December, 11am
at Wells Cathedral



by kind invitation of The Chapter of Wells
Led by Reverend Mary Lewis, Priest Vicar

Featuring:

Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir led by Musical Director, Nick Thomas
and Age UK Somerset's Volunteer 'Choir of Agels' led by Michelle Ridings

Make sure your phone is switched off and please, no cameras or recording equipment to be used during the service. Thank you.

A collection plate will be passed around during the service with proceeds going to Age UK Somerset. Please give generously.
If you aren't carrying cash but would like to make a donation, there is a contactless "tap and give" donation point at the rear of the Cathedral.
All money raised will be spent to improve later life locally.

The service will proceed unannounced
You may remain seated throughout the service if you wish

Welcome by the Reverend Mary Lewis, Priest Vicar

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,
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 be seated

The BIDDING: by the Reverend Mary Lewis

The Lord's Prayer, said by all

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen

The Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir will sing The Boars Head, Hallelujah and Mary's Boy Child

THE FIRST READING - The birth of Jesus is foretold

Isaiah 9 verses 2, 6 and 7

Read by Pat Pike, one of the Charity's 'Ageing Well' Volunteers

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,
Heavenly 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.

Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
'Alleluia' to our King:
Christ the Saviour is born! Christ the Saviour is born!

THE SECOND READING - The birth of Jesus Christ

St Matthew 1 verses 18 - 25

Read by Jan Fitzgerald - an Age UK Somerset Information & Advice Volunteer

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 wondering 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 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 to us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel

THE THIRD READING - The Shepherds go to the Manger

St Luke 2 verses 8 - 20

Read by Tricia List an Age UK Somerset 'Walk & Talk' Volunteer

A plate collection for Age UK Somerset will take place during this carol.

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down
and glory shone around.

“Fear not,” said he – for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind –
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind:

“To you in David’s town this day
is born of David’s line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.
And this shall be the sign:

“The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands
and in a manger laid.”

Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

“All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
goodwill henceforth from highest heaven
begin and never cease!”

THE FOURTH READING - Wise Men visit the Christ Child

St Matthew 2 verses 1 – 12

Read by Wanda Sterlini and June Ridout, Wellbeing Friends Volunteers

The Choir of Angels will sing Jubilate Deo, Deck the Halls and Come Light the Solstice Fire

Please stand for the fifth reading

THE FIFTH READING

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation

St John 1 verses 1 – 14

Read by Steve Holt and Gill Blackshaw, Volunteer Charity Trustees

**The Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir will sing Every time I feel the Spirit,
The Oxen, and When the Saints come marching in**

Once in Royal David’s city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all His wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden,
In whose gentle arms He lay:
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as He.

For he is our childhood's pattern;
Day by day, like us He grew;
He was little, weak and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feeleth for our sadness,
And He shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above,
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars His children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

Please sit or kneel

Prayers: *Led by the Reverend Mary Lewis*

Ding Dong! merrily on high
In heav'n the bells are ringing
Ding, dong! verily the sky
Is riv'n with angel 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 be sungen
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis

Pray ye dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers
May ye beautifully rime
Your evetime song, ye singers
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis

The Blessing: *the Reverend Mary Lewis*

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 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 with us in flesh 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 Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"

We wish you a Merry Christmas!

Age UK Somerset is celebrating 75 years!



In 1948 the Somerset Older People's Welfare Committee met for the first time with the aim of improving life for older people in Somerset. Since then there have been name changes - to Age Concern Somerset in 1971 to Age UK Somerset in 2010 - but for 75 years our aim has remained the same.

In the early years there were group holidays, bulk purchases of Marmite, lending out heaters to prevent hyperthermia and a chiropody service. Today the holidays and marmite orders have gone, but we still give grants to help with heating bills and we provide a Toenail Cutting service. We also offer a multi-strand Wellbeing Service to help anyone effected by loneliness; a free Information & Advice service and Benefits Claims support; weekly groups and support for people living with Dementia; a dedicated Falls Prevention service with sessions to improve strength and balance; and we run more than 75 Ageing Well exercise sessions across the area each week to bring people together for fun and gentle exercise!

If you need any help, we are only a phone call away!

Call **01823 345610** or visit our website: www.ageuksomerset.org.uk

Please can you help?

If you have a spare hour and want to put it to good use, we need you!

Our Volunteers are at the heart of our celebration today because they have always been at the heart of our charity and we could not survive without them! We treasure our volunteers and we want to say a BIG THANK YOU!

We need more Volunteers across all of Somerset and North Somerset, so if you'd like to learn more about making Friendly Phone Calls; visiting an older person who lives alone as a Wellbeing Friend; going out Walking and Talking; helping older people with their benefit claims as an Info & Advice Volunteer; or getting people moving and smiling as an Ageing Well Volunteer, please do get in touch! No experience is necessary, and you'll be in good company!

We joyfully accept donations of any size!

We are an independent local charity (a different charity to the national Age UK), and all money we raise is spent locally. Donations enable us to give people the opportunity to age well and enjoy their later years. We would be very grateful if you are able to make a donation, however large or small, and you would be helping to make life better, and happier, for older people in Somerset and North Somerset. Thank you.

Thanks to Somerset Care for supporting today's event

Somerset Care is a not-for-profit care provider committed to supporting people to live the life they choose. They chose to sponsor today's event because *"we know how important it is for people to feel part of the community in which they live, and the huge benefits of singing on health and wellbeing. Along with our residents and customers, we're really looking forward to raising the roof of Wells Cathedral in festive song and lifting our spirits in the process!"*

Find out more by visiting www.somersetcare.co.uk or calling **0800 817 4990**.

