

The background of the entire page is a soft-focus photograph of three golden bells hanging from green beaded strings. The bells are positioned in the upper half of the frame, and the background is filled with out-of-focus light spots in shades of white, yellow, and blue, creating a festive and warm atmosphere.

THE NEW CHAMBER CHOIR

Welcome Yule!

Music and readings for Advent and Christmas

The Priory Church of St. Mary and St. Martin, Blyth

Saturday December 15th 2018 at 7pm

For more information about The New Chamber Choir,
including details of future concerts, visit our website at
www.newchamberchoir.co.uk

‘Welcome Yule’

Music and Readings for Christmas Saturday, December 15th 2018

Reading: Minstrels
by William Wordsworth (1770-1850)

Choir: “Remember, O thou man”
music by Thomas Ravenscroft (1592-1633)

Reading: An Atrocious Institution
by George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950)

Choir: “Tomorrow shall be my dancing day”
English traditional carol, arranged by David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Reading: The Nativity Play
by John Betjeman (part of a 1956 BBC talk)

Choir: “Three kings from Persian lands afar”
music by Peter Cornelius (1856), using the hymn tune
‘How Brightly Shines’ by Philipp Nicolai (1597)

Choir: “I cannot tell”
Irish tune from County Derry: ”The Londonderry Air”
arranged by Percy Grainger (1822-1961)

Reading: A Visit from St. Nicholas
attributed to Clement Clarke Moore (1837)

Choir: O Nata Lux de Lumine
music by Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

Choir: Donkey Carol
words and music by John Rutter (b. 1945)

All: Good King Wenceslas (words overleaf)

Reading: Wenceslas: the Inside Story
by Oliver Pritchett

Choir: “Here is the little door”
Carol-anthem by Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Choir: ‘Lo, how a rose e’er blooming’
original chorale by Michael Praetorius (1571-1621),
adapted and arranged by Justin E. Lehman (b. 1986)

Reading: The Boy Who Laughed at Santa Claus
by Ogden Nash (1902-1971)

Choir: In Dulci Jubilo
14th century German carol, arr. Robert de Pearsall (1795-1856)

Choir: “Sure on this shining night”
poem by James Agee (1968)
music by Morton Lauridsen (2005)

Reading: Goodwill To Men - Give Us Your Money
by Pam Ayres (b. 1947)

Choir: A Merry Christmas
traditional West Country carol, arr. by Arthur Warrell (1935)

All: Sweet Christmas Bells (words overleaf)
Yorkshire traditional tune



All: **Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen,**
When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even.
Brightly shone the moon that night, though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight, gathering winter fuel.

Men: "Hither, page, and stand by me, if you know it, telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?"

Women: "Sire, he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence, by Saint Agnes' fountain."

Men: "Bring me food and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hither,
You and I will see him dine, when we bear them thither."

All: Page and monarch, forth they went, forth they went together,
Through the cold wind's wild lament and the bitter weather.

Women: "Sire, the night is darker now, and the wind blows stronger,
Fails my heart, I know not how; I can go no longer."

Men: "Mark my footsteps, my good page, tread now in them boldly,
You shall find the winter's rage freeze your blood less coldly."

All: In his master's steps he trod, where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men, be sure, wealth or rank possessing,
You who now will bless the poor shall yourselves find blessing.

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

Sweet bells, sweet chiming Christmas bells (twice)

They cheer us on our heav'nly way, sweet Christmas bells (twice)

"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind;
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind. *Sweet bells*.....

"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: *Sweet bells*.....

"The heavenly Babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands, and in a manger laid." *Sweet bells*.....

Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song: *Sweet bells*.....

"All glory be to God on high and to the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to men begin and never cease." *Sweet bells*.....