



Crisis

**Carol
Service
2023**

Southwark Cathedral

Saturday 9 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



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.

There will be collection during the service to help raise funds for Crisis' vital work to end homelessness. You will also find a gift aid envelope on your seat and information at the back of the order of service. Thank you for your support.

Organ Music

Welcome

Canon Kathryn Fleming, Precentor, Southwark Cathedral

Please stand and sing

Congregational carol - Once in royal David's city

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
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.

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.

Cecil Frances Alexander (1848)

Please remain standing

Bidding prayer and Lord's prayer

Canon Kathryn Fleming, Precentor, Southwark Cathedral

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.

Please sit

Reading: Mark 1: 1-3 – John the Baptist prepares the way by a Crisis member

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way' –

'a voice of one calling in the wilderness,

"Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him."

Merbecke Choir – Es ist ein Ros entsprungen

Michael Praetorius (1571–1621)

Reflections by a Crisis member

Please stand and sing

Congregational carol – It came upon a midnight clear

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.
Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains,
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.
And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing!
For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

Edmund H. Sears (1849)

Please sit

Reading: John 1:1-9 - The Word became flesh by Tristia Harrison, Crisis Chair

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

Merbecke Choir – In Dulci Jubilo

Hieronymus Praetorius

Address by Matt Downie MBE, Chief Executive, Crisis

Crisis Choir – Christmas medley

Luke 1: 26-35 – The birth of Jesus foretold by Jonathan Pryce

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.'

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants for ever; his kingdom will never end.'

'How will this be,' Mary asked the angel, 'since I am a virgin?'

The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.'

Merbecke Choir – The Shepherd's Carol

Bob Chilcott

Reflections by a Crisis member

Please stand and sing

During this next hymn a collection will be taken for the work of Crisis. Please place your donation in the envelopes provided, completing your details if appropriate to allow us to claim Gift Aid. You may also make a cashless donation at the back of this order of service.

Congregational carol – Hark the Herald Angels Sing

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 th'angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.
[Refrain]

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. [Refrain]

Charles Wesley (1739); Alterer: George Whitefield

Thought for Christmas followed by The Blessing

Canon Kathryn Fleming, Precentor, Southwark Cathedral

Please sit

Crisis Choir Finale – I believe in Father Christmas

Please stand whilst the Choir and Clergy depart

Organ Music

Please note there is no public reception taking place after the service.

We wish you all a very merry Christmas!



A special thank you to...

The Chapter of Southwark Cathedral
The Merbecke Choir
Emily Elias, Director of Music, Merbecke Choir
Jonathan Pryce CBE, Actor and Crisis Ambassador
The Crisis Members' Choir
Lesley Cox, Leader of Crisis Choir
Varia Doletskaya, Crisis Choir Pianist
Paula Lonergan, Crisis London Skylight

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas!



The Dean's Christmas Message 2023

It is a real joy that one of the first things I do as the new Dean of Southwark is to welcome you to the Cathedral as we celebrate Christmas together. We really are delighted you are here at such a special time of the year.

This Cathedral wants to be a supportive friend to our locality, to our many neighbours and partners, and to the people of wider London too. We seek to build on shared values and always support, in whatever way we can, those who are finding life hard or who are somehow being made to feel inferior or unwanted. I feel incredibly privileged to be the Dean of a place that unapologetically upholds human dignity in all its wonderful diversity. I'm looking forward to meeting as many of you as I can over the coming weeks and months, and hope that some of you will join us in our worship and work, or might feel able to support us in some way. Please do come up and say 'hello' if you see me around. I'll probably be looking cheerful but also a bit dazed for a while!

What we see at Christmas takes us to the heartland of Christian belief. God gives us all a great gift – our being - and we can offer back a gift in return for it – our 'becoming', who we become in the time given to us. Because of this, our faith is not so much about information as about human formation, living lives that respond to, and shape themselves around, truth, honesty, beauty, and justice. In Christ, God takes off the mask of invisibility to show an authentic human face, as well as the courage and cost of a life lived with deep love for creation and humanity. Jesus Christ is, at it were, God's body-language. Although difficult, and sometimes done badly, Christians seek to be formed in his likeness for the good of our world. It is my prayer that this Cathedral will always be a resource for those who are making this adventurous journey, as well as an encourager to those exploring faith in the face of honest doubts.

I wish you, and those you love, a peaceful Christmas, hopefully with some time to rest and discern the people and things that matter most to you. I hope you will find yourself here again before too long and if you'd like to hear about all that is happening here over the coming year, please sign up to receive our e-newsletter at: www.southwarkcathedral.org.uk

Wishing you a very happy and blessed Christmas,

Mark Oakley
Dean of Southwark



The Merbecke Choir

The Merbecke Choir is Southwark Cathedral's chamber choir, made up mostly of singers with prior choral experience and rehearsing weekly. The choir is named after the Tudor composer, John Merbecke (1510–1585), who set the Book of Common Prayer to music and was tried for heresy at Southwark Cathedral in 1543. He was released by then Bishop Stephen Gardiner because, being a mere musician, Merbecke 'knew no better'. Formed in 2003, the Merbecke Choir is a regular contributor to the liturgy at the cathedral and performs concerts usually once a term. The choir's regular conductor is Emily Elias.

The Cathedral and Church of St Saviour and St Mary Overie, Southwark

Welcome to Southwark Cathedral. Set on the south bank of the River Thames in one of the most vibrant and diverse communities in London, this building has been a constant witness in a place of change.

The first church was built on this site around the year 606. First a convent, then a monastery, it became in 1106 the Augustinian Priory of St Mary Overie. With Westminster Abbey and St Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield it is one of the three remaining great monastic churches of London. At the Reformation the Priory became a parish church and it remains so for the people of Bankside. In 1905, as south London was rapidly expanding, the church was consecrated as the cathedral for the new Diocese of Southwark.

As well as a place of constant witness to our faith in Jesus Christ, this church has a momentous and proud history and has had links with many famous and influential characters including St Thomas Becket, Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare and Charles Dickens.

In the 20th century this cathedral was at the heart of the new movement in theology termed 'South Bank Religion'. This movement asked challenging questions of people about faith in the modern age which continue to be explored at Southwark Cathedral which describes itself as 'inclusive: faithful: radical'.

Whatever has brought you here today, you are most welcome. Become part of the life here if you can; it will change your life as you encounter with us our living God.

Southwark Cathedral

London Bridge
London SE1 9DA
+44 (0)20 7367 6700
southwarkcathedral.org.uk

SOUTHWARK
◆ CATHEDRAL ◆

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 London

50–52 Commercial Street
London E1 6LT
020 7426 5650

www.crisis.org.uk

Copyright Crisis 2023

Crisis UK (trading as Crisis)
Registered Charity Numbers:
E&W1082947, SC040094
Company Number: 4024938

