

The Faringdon Singers
St. Mary's Church, Longworth
Friday 20th December 2002 at 7.30pm

Conductor: Terence Carter
Organist: Roy Woodhams

1. Christmas Oratorio- Bach

Chorus Christians, be joyful
Recit See now the bridegroom
Air Prepare thyself, Zion
Chorale How shall I fitly meet Thee?
Recit And she brought forth her first-born Son
Recit/Chorale For us to earth He cometh poor
Air Mighty Lord and King all glorious
Chorale Ah!dearest Jesus, Holy Child
Symphony
Recit And there were shepherds
Chorale Break forth, O beauteous, heavenly light
Recit And the Angel said to them
Recit And this is the sign to you
Chorale Within yon gloomy manger lies
Air Slumber, beloved
Recit And suddenly there was with the Angel
Chorus Glory to God in the highest
Recit 'Tis right that Angels thus should sing
Chorale With all thy hosts

2. Organ Music

**3. CHOIR AND AUDIENCE:
It came upon the midnight clear**

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| 1. 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, goodwill to men,
From heav'n's all gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing | 3. For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When, with the ever circling years
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing. |
| 2. Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing. | |

4. **CHOIR:**
A Christmas Carol Kodaly

5. **CHOIR AND AUDIENCE:**
Away in a manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes,
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

6. **CHOIR:**
The Blessed Son of God Vaughan Williams
No Sad Thought His Soul Affright Vaughan Williams

7. **CHOIR AND AUDIENCE:**
While Shepherds watched their flocks

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

2. 'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind);
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.

3. '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:

4. 'The heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid.'

5. Thus spake the Seraph; and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:

6. 'All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from heav'n to men
Begin and never cease.'

8. **CHOIR:**
Quem Pastores Laudavere arr. Rutter
Nowell, Sing Nowell arr. Rutter

**9. CHOIR AND AUDIENCE:
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.

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

**10. CHOIR:
The Lamb**

Tavener

**11. CHOIR AND AUDIENCE:
O come, all ye faithful**

1. 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!

3. Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God
In the highest:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

2. See how the shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

There will be a retiring collection in aid of the Vale Youthworker Bus Project.