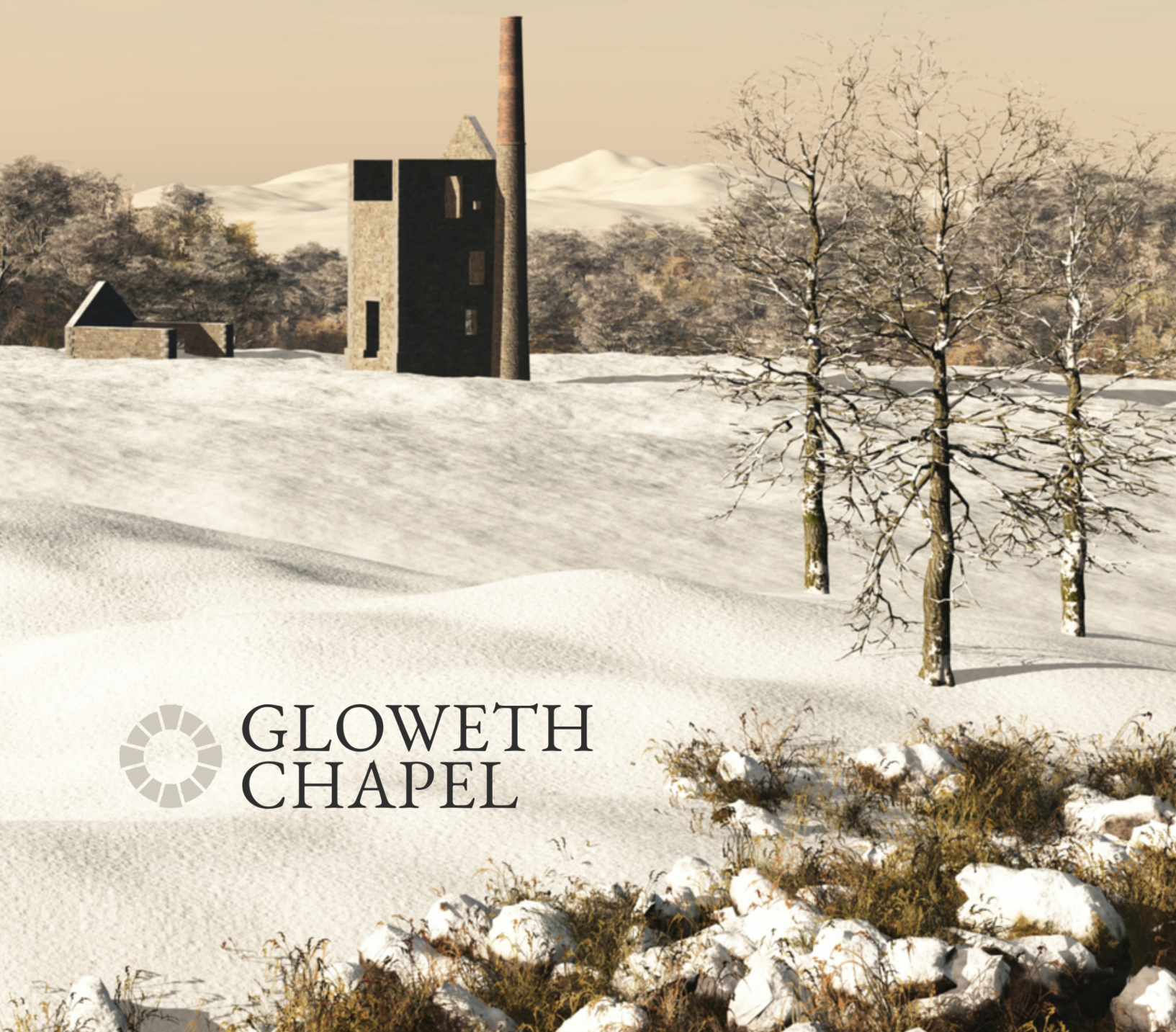


Cornish Carols



GLOWETH
CHAPEL

Welcome to our Cornish Carols Event

What are we doing at this event?

Welcome to our annual Cornish Carols event at Gloweth Chapel. During our time together we'll enjoy learning and singing some traditional Cornish carols. This is a workshop—not a service—and it is relaxed and informal. You do not need to read music or have any previous musical experience; everything can be learned by ear.

Cornish carols are a phenomenon and a thriving tradition across Cornwall, sung in a wide range of contexts beyond chapel walls. You do not have to be a Christian to sing and enjoy this music—we are delighted to welcome you simply because you want to take part. We hope you enjoy the music, the words, and the whole experience.

Why is this happening at Gloweth Chapel?

Gloweth Chapel has hosted special events at Christmas for many years. A Cornish Carols event has become a regular annual activity because many people in Cornwall value this heritage and enjoy taking part in it. As a small Christian church in Truro, in the middle of Cornwall, we are enthusiastic about meeting together, about singing, and about the message of the Christian faith, which we believe is enduringly relevant to all people everywhere.

What is this music about?

We'll be learning three or four of these glorious carols in full four-part harmony. Every year, we're amazed at how wonderful they sound after just a short time of practice. We take a light-hearted, non-technical approach—we are not aiming for choral perfection. In fact, we're not treating this as choral performance music at all.

Cornish carols are about singing together as a community. In the nonconformist tradition the singing is vigorous, heartfelt, and loud. This music was composed for joyful congregations. As we learn it together, we'll find that fussy tuning and precise elocution have no part to play. Timing and dynamics take a back seat to the biblical goal of making a loud and joyful noise.

Why was this music written?

The words prompted the music. The profoundly moving and skilfully crafted poetry of Christian hymn-writers inspired the musicians in their creative work. Writing at a time when Methodist, evangelical Christianity was the majority faith in Cornwall, Thomas Merritt and composers like him penned musical settings that have proved enduring.

Their vigorous, community-style pieces are composed in the “west gallery” tradition of Christian music, where stirring harmony emerges from melodic part-writing. Their music has carried the words of the carols across more than a century. Geographically, these compositions have inspired not only Christians in their local churches but, beyond Cornwall, the worldwide Cornish diaspora have also made these carols their own..

What are the words about?

These are Christmas carols. Though full of spiritual content, they are earthy. They tell of a baby born in a stable in Bethlehem (a town still on the map), in the Roman province of Judea, during the reign of Augustus Caesar, to a Jewish couple, Mary and Joseph. His birth two millennia ago—and his subsequent life, death, and resurrection—mark the turning point of all history and convey God's message to all people.

In the words of the angel whose sudden appearance once terrified a group of unsuspecting shepherds: “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.”

In Thy Wondrous Incarnation (Sapphire Throne)

Donald F Broad (1957)
SAPPHIRE THRONE, 8787D

In Thy wondrous in - car - na - tion thus we see God's love un - veiled.
An - gel hosts dec - lare Thy com - ing to the shep - herds with their flocks.
We who wor - ship now the Christ child wing our minds to Beth - l'em's inn.

By Thy gra - cious con - de - scen - sion God to man is now re - veiled.
East - ern star now west - ward roam - ing sheds its beams o'er hills and rocks.
And a - cross the pa - no - ra - ma stream the myr - iads lov - ing Him.

Sta - ble bare be - comes a tem - ple, cat - tle stall a sapph - ire throne;
Wise men seek - ing now the rea - son for this strange ce - le - stial glare
Shall we bring a gift less wor - thy than the sa - ges free - ly gave?

Son of Ma - ry, King of glo - ry, deigns to grace a hum - ble home.
tra - vel far a - cross the moun - tains to pre - sent their gifts so rare.
Let us now pre - sent our prai - ses to the Lord who came to save.

In Thy wondrous incarnation
thus we see God's love unveiled.
By Thy gracious condescension
God to man is now revealed.
Stable bare becomes a temple,
cattle stall a sapphire throne;
Son of Mary, King of glory
deigns to grace a humble home.

We who worship now the Christ child
wing our minds to Bethl'em's inn,
and across the panorama
stream the myriads loving Him.
Shall we bring a gift less worthy
than the sages freely gave?
Let us now present our praises
to the Lord who came to save.

Angel hosts declare Thy coming
to the shepherds with their flocks.
Eastern star now westward roaming
sheds its beams o'er hills and rocks.
Wise men seeking now the reason
for this strange celestial glare
travel far across the mountains
to present their gifts so rare.

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night

Nahum Tate (1652-1715)

Thomas Jarman (1776-1861)
LYNGHAM, CM

While shep-herds watched their flocks by night, all seat-ed on the ground, all
'Fear not!' said he, for might-y dread had seized their trou-b-led mind, had
'To you in Da-vid's town this day is born of Da-vid's line, is
'The heav-en-ly babe ye there shall find to hu-man view dis-played, to
Thus spake the se-raph, and forth-with ap-peared a shin-ing throng, ap-
'All glo-ry be to God on high, and to the earth be peace, and

7

seat-ed on the ground, the an-gel of the Lord came down,
seized their trou-b-led mind, Glad tid-ings of great joy I bring
born of Da-vid's line a Sav-iour who is Christ the Lord,
hu-man view dis-played; all mean-ly wrapped in swadd-ling bands,
-peared a shin-ing throng of an-gels prais-ing God who thus
to the earth be peace! Good-will hence-forth from heaven to men

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 ye there shall find
to human view displayed;
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,
and in a manger laid.”

Thus spake 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 heaven to men
begin and never cease.”

and glo-ry shone a-round, and glo-ry shone a-round,
to you and all man-kind, to you and all man-kind,
and this shall be the sign, and this shall be the sign,
and in a man-ger laid, and in a man-ger laid,
ad-dressed their joy-ful song, ad-dressed their joy-ful song,
be-gin and ne-ver cease, be-gin and ne-ver cease,

and glo-ry shone a-round, and glo-ry shone a-round, and
to you and all man-kind, to you and all man-kind, to
and this shall be the sign, and this shall be the sign, and
and in a man-ger laid, and in a man-ger laid, and
ad-dressed their joy-ful song, ad-dressed their joy-ful song, ad-
be-gin and ne-ver cease, be-gin and ne-ver cease, be-

19

-round, and glo-ry shone a-round.
-kind, to you and all man-kind.
sign, and this shall be the sign.
laid, and in a man-ger laid.
song, ad-dressed their joy-ful song:
cease, be-gin and ne-ver cease.

glo-ry shone a-round, and glo-ry shone a-round.
you and all man-kind, to you and all man-kind.
this shall be the sign, and this shall be the sign.
in a man-ger laid, and in a man-ger laid.
-dressed their joy-ful song, ad-dressed their joy-ful song:
-gin and ne-ver cease, be-gin and ne-ver cease.

Thomas Merritt (1863-1908)
HARK THE GLAD SOUND, CM

8

pro - mised long, let ev - ery heart pre-pare a throne, let ev - ery heart pre-pare a throne,
bon - dage held; the gates of brass be - fore Him burst, the gates of brass be - fore Him burst,
soul to cure; and with the trea-sures of His grace, and with the trea - sures of His grace
shall pro - claim; and heaven's et - er - nal arch - es ring, and heaven's et - er - nal arch-es ring,

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring,
with Thy belovèd name.

23

ev - ery voice a song!
ir - on the fet ters yield.
 -rich the hum - ble poor.
Thy be lov - ed name.

ev - ery voice a song!
ir - on the fet ters yield.
 -rich the hum - ble poor.
Thy be lov - ed name.

ev - ery voice a song!
ir - on the fet ters yield.
 -rich the hum - ble poor.
Thy be lov - ed name.

song, And ev - ery voice a song!
yield, the ir - on the fet ters yield.
 poor, to_en rich - on the hum - ble poor.
name, with Thy be lov - ed name.

Lo! He Comes an Infant Stranger

Thomas Merritt (1863-1908)
INFANT STRANGER, 8.7.8.7.4.7

Richard Mant (1776-1848)

Lo! He comes an in - fant stran-ger, of a low - ly mo - ther born, of a low - ly
Lo! He comes, by man un-friend-ed, fain with sta - ble beasts to rest: fain with sta - ble
Son of the et - er - nal Fa-ther, who a - gain in power shall come; who a - gain in

mo - ther born, swathed and crad - led in a man-ger, of His pris - tine glo - ry shorn!
beasts to rest: shep - herds who their night - fold tend-ed, hailed a - lone the new-born guest!
power shall come; che - rub, se - raph hosts a - dorn-ing swell His state and loud - ly cry:

Lo! He comes an infant stranger,
of a lowly mother born,
swathed and cradled in a manger,
of His pristine glory shorn!
Hallelujah!
Praise ye God's incarnate Word!

Lo! He comes by man unfriended,
fain with stable beasts to rest,
shepherds who their nightfold tended
hailed alone the newborn guest!
Hallelujah!
Praise ye Jesse's tender Rod!

Son of the eternal Father,
who again in power shall come,
cherub, seraph hosts adorning,
swell His state and loudly cry:
Hallelujah!
Praise ye Him, the living Lord!

21

Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu-jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu-jah! Praise ye God's in -
Praise ye Jes - se's
Praise ye Him, the

31

-car - nate Word! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu-jah! Praise ye God's in - car - nate
ten - der Rod! Praise ye Jes - se's ten - der
liv - ing Lord! Praise ye Him, the liv - ing

40

Word! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu-jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu-jah!
Rod! Hal - le - lu-jah!Hal-le - lu-jah!
Lord!

49

Praise ye God's in - carn - ate Word! Praise ye God's in - car - nate Word!
Praise ye Jes - se's ten - der Rod! Praise ye Jes - se's ten - der Rod!
Praise ye Him, the liv - ing Lord! Praise ye Him, the liv - ing Lord!

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Thomas Merritt (1863-1908)

James Montgomery (1771-1854)

ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY, 8.7.8.7 plus chorus

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er
all the earth; wing your flight o'er all the earth;
earth; ye who sang creation's story, now pro-
claim Mes-si-ah's birth: Come and wor-ship, Come and wor-ship,
wor-ship Christ the new-born King,
Come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ

wor-ship Christ the new-born King,
wor-ship Christ the new-born King, wor-ship Christ the
wor-ship Christ the new-born King, come and wor-ship Christ
wor-ship Christ the new-born King, come and wor-ship Christ
new-born King. Come and wor-ship, Come and wor-ship, wor-ship
Christ the new-born King, wor-ship Christ the new-born King.
come and wor-ship Christ

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born King.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light:

Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations,
ye have seen his natal star:

Sinners, wrung with true repentance,
doomed for guilt to endless pains,
justice now revokes the sentence,
mercy calls you—break your chains:

Though an infant now we view him,
He shall fill his Father's throne,
gather all the nations to him;
every knee shall then bow down:

Lo, the Shepherds were Abiding (HELLESVEOR)

C Williams, St Ives (1908)
HELLESVEOR, 8.7.8.7 plus coda

1
p
Lo, the shep - herds were a - bid - ing with their flocks on
As the sac - red chords were ring - ing, lo an heaven - ly

7
ff con spirito
Beth-lehem's plains. Lo, the shep-herds were a - bid - ing
voice did cry. As the sac - red chords were ring - ing
were a - bid-ing, lo, the shep-herds were a -
chords were ring-ing, as the sac - red chords were

13
with their flocks on Beth-lehem's plains, with their flocks on Beth-lehem's
lo, an heaven - ly voice did cry, lo, an heaven - ly voice did
-bid - ing with their flocks on Beth-lehem's plains,
ring-ing, lo, an heaven - ly voice did cry,

20
p
plains. When they heard the joy - ful tid - ings, when they heard the
cry, "Fear not mor - tals we are bring - ing, fear not, mor - tals,
joy - ful are tid - ings sung in sweet an - gel - ic strains.
we are bring - ing peace to earth from heaven most high."

27
f
joy - ful are tid - ings sung in sweet an - gel - ic strains.
we are bring - ing peace to earth from heaven most high."

Lo, the shepherds were abiding
with their flocks on Bethl'em's plains,
when they heard the joyful tidings,
Sung in sweet angelic strains.

As the sacred chords were ringing,
lo, an heavenly voice did cry:
"Fear not, mortals, we are bringing
peace to earth from heaven most high!"

2
33 Sung in sweet an - gel - ic strains.
"Peace to earth from heaven most high."
Sung insweet an - gel - ic strains.
"Peace to earth from heaven most high."
Sung insweet an - gel - ic strains.
"Peace to earth from heaven most high."
Sung in to

37 Sung insweet an - gel - ic strains. When they heard the joy - ful
"Peace to earth from heaven most high." "Fear not, mor-tals, we are
sweet earth an - gel - ic strains. When they heard the joy - ful tid-ings sung in
earth from heaven most high." "Fear not, mor-tals, we arebring-ing peace to

43 D.C.
tid - ings sung in to sweet an - gel - ic strains.
bring - ing peace to earth from heaven most high."
sweet an - gel - ic strains. sung in sweet an - gel - ic strains.
earth from heaven most high, peace to earth from heaven most high."

48
ff rit.
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est and on earth be peace.
p

The Star of Jacob

Steven Nicholas (1865-1927)
STAR OF JACOB, 10.10.10.10

A - wake, my harp, my lute and cheer - ful voice; ye peo - ple
He comes the ty-rant's king-dom to des - troy, to pub - lish
Break forth a - loud, and swell the lof - ty song: to man be -

ye
to
to

6

all in songs of praise re - joice: on this glad morn, to chase the gloom of
peace and un - i - ver - sal joy. From pole to pole, o'er all the vast do -
loved the lof - tystrains be - long. While end - less a - ges in their cir - cles

peo - ple all in songs of praise re - joice:
pub - lish peaceand un - i - ver - sal joy.
man be-loved the lof - tystrains be - long.

12

night, on this glad morn, to chase the gloom of night,
-main, from pole to pole, o'er all the vast do - main,
move, while end - less a - ges in their cir - cles move,

Awake, my harp, my lute and cheerful voice;
ye people all in songs of praise rejoice:
on this glad morn, to chase the gloom of night,
the Star of Jacob rose divinely bright.

He comes, the tyrant's kingdom to destroy,
to publish peace and universal joy.
From pole to pole, o'er all the vast domain,
the King of Salem shall forever reign.

Break forth aloud, and swell the lofty song:
to man beloved the lofty strains belong.
While endless ages in their circles move,
enraptured saints shall sing redeeming love.

2

the Star of Ja - cob rose
the King of Sa - lem shall
en - rapt-uredsaintsshall sing

17

the Star of Ja - cob rose di - vine - ly bright.
the King of Sa - lem shall for - ev - er reign.
en - rapt-uredsaintsshall sing re - deem-ing love.

the Star of Ja - cob rose di - vine - ly bright. The Star of Ja - cob
the King of Sa - lem shall for - ev - er reign. The King of Sa - lem
en - rapt-uredsaintsshall sing re - deem - ing love. En - rapt-uredsaintsshall

23

- vine - ly bright. The Star of Ja - cob rose di - vine - ly bright.
- ev - er reign. The King of Sa - lem shall for - ev - er reign.
- deem - ing love. En - rapt - ured saints shall sing re - deem-ing love.

rose di - vine - ly bright.
shall for - ev - er reign.
sing re - deem-ing love.

Come Let Us All With One Accord

Thomas Merritt (1863-1908)
COME LET US ALL WITH ONE ACCORD, CM

the Prince of
on this blest own

8

-dore; the Prince, the Prince of Life a - dore; hail Him! Tri - um - phant -
morn; on this, on this blest hap - py morn; let all His prais - ses
light, in His, in His own realms of light, and sing the chor - us

15

-ly a - scend, hail Him! Tri - um - phant - ly a - scend,
loud be sung, let all His prais - es loud be sung,
of His love, and sing the chor - us of His love

and
and
a -

Come let us all with one accord
the Prince of Life adore!
Hail Him! Triumphantly ascend
and praise Him evermore!

Come to the Prince of Glory, come
on this blest happy morn!
Let all His praises loud be sung
and join all heart and tongue!

Come let us laud the Prince of Life
in His own realms of light,
and sing the chorus of His love
around His throne above.

Come then to hear our songs of love
around the throne above,
with all the heavenly choirs to sing.
And crown the Prince our King,

Come let us join the choirs above
to chant the Saviour's love,
where all the angels chant their songs,
and join all human tongues.

Come let us strike our harps of gold,
to chant the love untold,
with all our instruments below,
the Christmas songs we know.

2

and praise Him ev - er - more, and
and join all heart and tongue, and
a - round His throne a - bove, a -

21

and praise Him ev - er - more, and praise Him
and join all heart and tongue, and join all
a - round His throne a - bove, a - round His

and praise Him ev - er - more, and praise Him
and join all heart and tongue, and join all
a - round His throne a - bove, a - round His

praise Him ev - er - more, and praise Him
join all heart and tongue, and join all
-round His throne a - bove, a - round His

praise Him ev - er - more, and praise Him
join all heart and tongue, and join all
-round His throne a - bove, a - round His

26

ev - er and more, and praise Him ev - er and more.
heart and tongue, and join all heart and tongue.
throne a - bove, a - round His throne a - bove.
praise Him ev - er more, more,
join all heart and tongue, tongue,
-round His throne a - bove, a - round His

praise Him ev - er - more,
join all heart and tongue,
-round His throne a - bove,

Awake Ye Nations (Wakey, Wakey)

Thomas Broad (?-1848)
WAKEY, WAKEY, CM

7

13

18

A - wake ye na - tions of the earth, and ce - le - brate the Sav - iour's birth, and

ce - le - brate the Sav - iour's birth. With grate - ful hearts sa - lute the

On which the Sav - iour Christ was born, on which the Sav - iour Christ was

morn On which the Sav - iour Christ was born, on which the Sav - iour

On which the Sav - iour Christ was

On which the Sav - iour Christ was

born,

Christ was born, on which the Sav - iour Christ was born.

born,

born,

Awake, ye nations of the earth,
and celebrate the Saviour's birth!
with grateful hearts salute the morn
on which the Saviour, Christ, was born.

The shining hosts on wings of love
flew swiftly from the courts above
with acclamations from the skies,
and seized the shepherds with surprise.

The heavenly choir around did sing,
"This day is born the Saviour King!"
They swell their notes of praise again:
"Glory to God, goodwill to men!"

Luke 1:26-38 (nkjv)

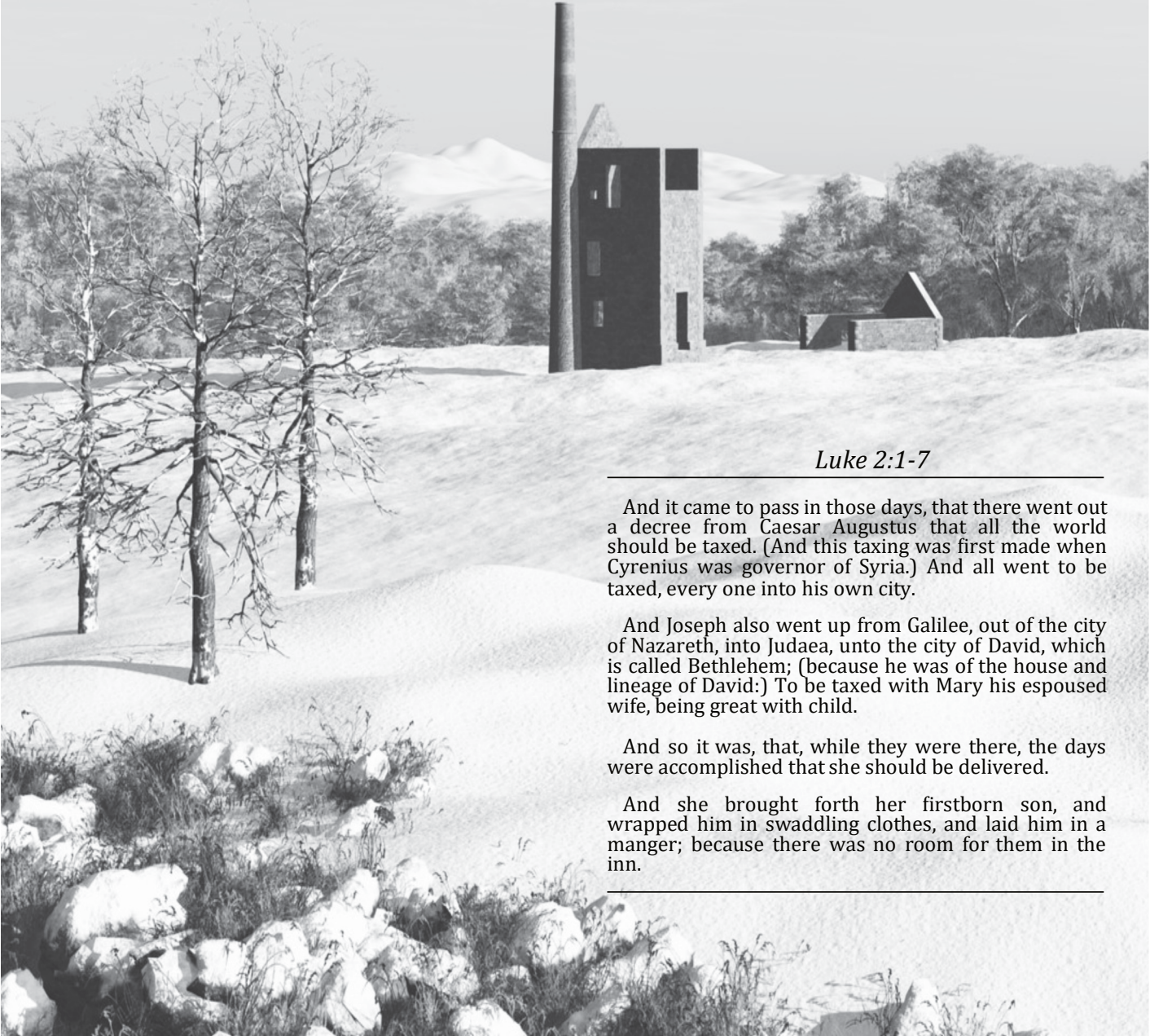
Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favoured one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible."

Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.



Luke 2:1-7

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.

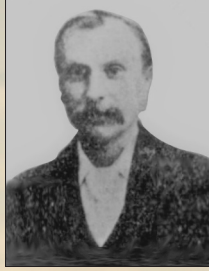
And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Thank You for Attending our Cornish Carols Event...

Thomas Merritt

Thomas Merritt was the most prominent of a group of Cornish composers, who wrote music in the 'West Gallery' style, of tuneful harmonies and overlapping (fuguing) melodies. His carol tunes are particularly well known.

Thomas Merritt was born in 1863. His father, also named Thomas Merritt, was a tin miner. He died when Thomas was 11 years old, and Thomas immediately followed in his footsteps, working as a tin miner at the Carn Brea mine, and at the nearby tin streams at Tolvaddon.



He evidently developed a love of music, and from his older teen years onwards taught music privately to local children in their homes. Around 1889 Thomas became the Organist and Choirmaster of the United Methodist Free Church in Illogan Highway, holding this appointment for 12 years. Thomas died in 1908 aged 46.

He composed and conducted his own music, and is particularly famous in Cornwall for his carols. These have grown in popularity over the years, and are now sung widely across Cornwall, and in the worldwide Cornish diaspora.

The Message of the Non-Conformist Carol Singing Tradition:

Glad Tidings of Great Joy

The words of the Cornish carols represent a deeply heartfelt and personal expression of Christian faith. They focus on Jesus Christ, and express great joy at the thought of Jesus coming into the world as the long-promised Saviour. Full of the rich language and imagery of the Holy Bible, they put into verse the Christian faith: the overwhelming good news that God has come to the rescue of the human race.

We need the Saviour because of sin. By nature we are cut off from fellowship with God because of sin, and we deserve God's fair judgement. But God is kind and merciful, and He sent His Son to save us. When Jesus died on the cross, He was a substitute. He took God's judgement for sin in the place of sinners, so that we may go free. God now commands all people everywhere to turn away from their sins, and to trust in Jesus.

Because of the Son of God, born to Mary in Bethlehem, God forgives the sins of every person who puts their faith in Him. Jesus also came back to life, giving us a sure hope that death is not the end. Whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.

At Gloweth Chapel, this is our simple Christian faith. We are pleased to share it with you in this workshop, through the words and music of these popular and well-loved Cornish carols.