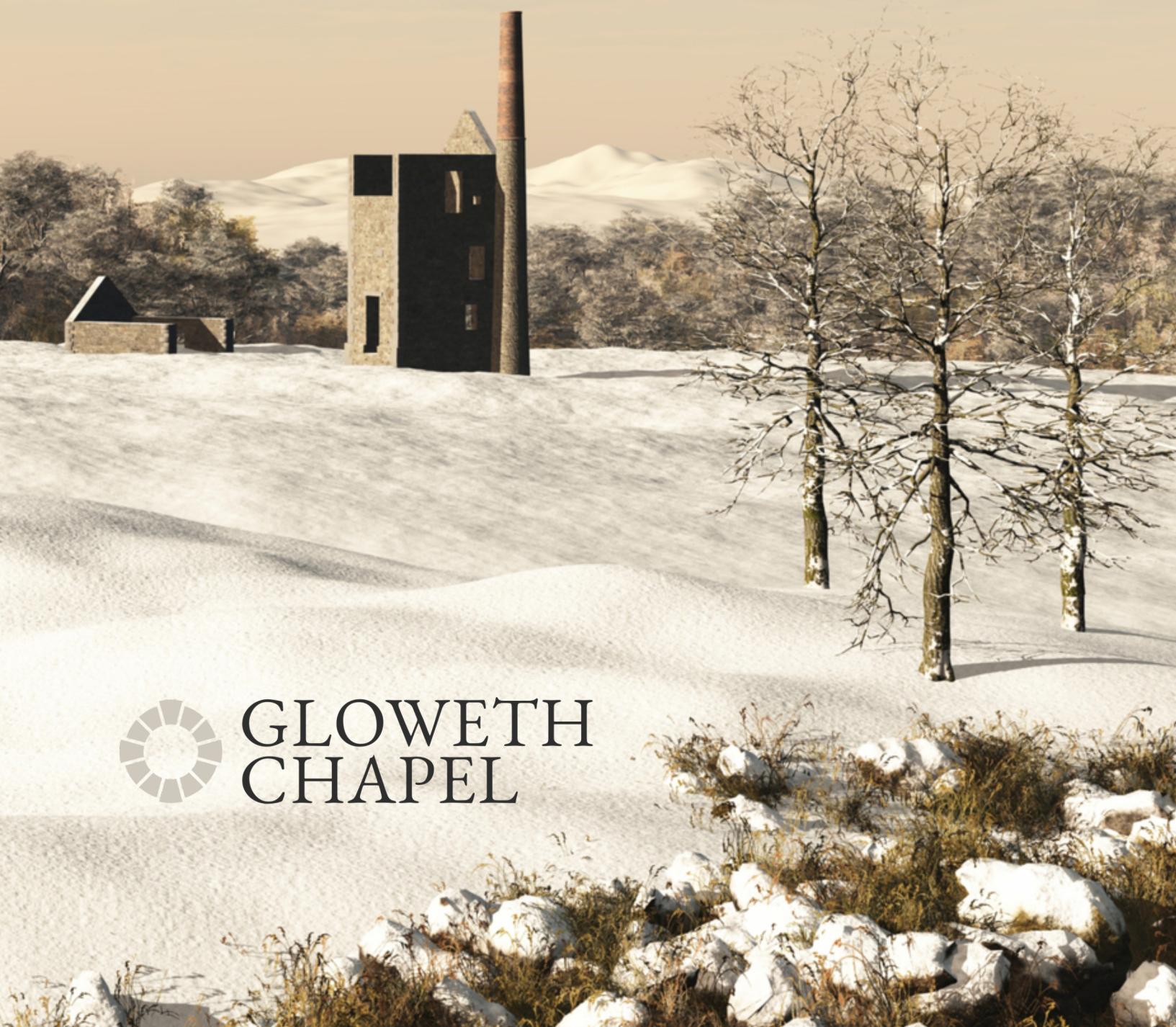


# Cornish Carols



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

1  
In - Thy won - drous 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 the Christ child wing our minds to Bethl'em's inn.  
5  
By - Thy gra - cious con - de - scen - sion God to man is now re - vealed.  
East - ern star now con - 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.  
9  
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 - lestial glare?  
Shall we bring a gift less wor - thy than the sa - ges free - ly gave?  
13  
Son of Ma - King glo - ry, deigns to pre - grace a hum - ble home.  
tra - vel far a - cross the our moun - tains to the pre - sent Lord their who hum - ble home.  
Let us now pre - sent sent 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 mighty dread had seized their troub-led mind, had  
 'To you in Da-vid's town this day is born of Da-vid's line, is  
 'The heaven-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 great joy came down, I bring  
 seized their troub-led mind, 'Glad tid-ings of the Lord, I bring  
 born of Da-vid's line, a Sav-iour who is Christ the Lord, I bring  
 hu-man view dis-played; all mean-ly wrapped in swadd-ling bands, who thus  
 ap-peared a shin-ing throng, of an-gels prais-ing God from heaven to men  
 to the earth be peace! Good-will hence-forth

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

19  
 and glo-ry shone a-round, and glo-ry shone a-  
 to you and all man-kind, to you and all man-  
 and this shall be the sign, and this shall be the  
 and in a man-ger laid, and in a man-ger laid,  
 ad-dressed their joy-ful song, ad-dressed their joy-ful  
 be-gin and ne-ver cease, be-gin and ne-ver cease,

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

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

# Hark the Glad Sound

Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)

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

Hark the glad sound, the Saviour comes, the Saviour promised long, the Saviour  
He comes the prisoners to release, in Satan's bondage held; the gates of brass before Him burst,  
He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure; and with the treasures of His grace  
Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim; and heaven's eternal arches ring,  
the Saviour promised long, let every heart prepare a throne, let every heart prepare 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 set - er - nal arch - es ring, and heaven's set - er - nal arch - es ring,

**Hark the glad sound, the Saviour comes;**

the Saviour promised long,  
let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song!

He comes, the prisoners to release,  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before Him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure;  
and with the treasures of His grace  
to enrich the humble poor.

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

18 and ev - ery voice a song, and ev - ery voice a song,  
the ir - on fet - ters yield, the ir - on fet - ters yield,  
to\_en - rich the hum - ble poor, the hum - ble poor,  
with Thy be - lov - ed name, with Thy be - lov - ed name,  
and ev - ery voice a song, and ev - ery voice a song,  
the ir - on fet - ters yield, the ir - on fet - ters yield,  
to\_en - rich the hum - ble poor, the hum - ble poor,  
with Thy be - lov - ed name, with Thy be - lov - ed name,  
and ev - ery voice a song, and ev - ery voice a song,  
the ir - on fet - ters yield, the ir - on fet - ters yield,  
to\_en - rich the hum - ble poor, the hum - ble poor,  
with Thy be - lov - ed name, with Thy be - lov - ed name,  
and ev - ery voice a song, and ev - ery voice a song,  
the ir - on fet - ters yield, the ir - on fet - ters yield,  
to\_en - rich the hum - ble poor, the hum - ble poor,  
with Thy be - lov - ed name, with Thy be - lov - ed name,  
23 ev - ery voice a song! ev - ery voice a song!  
ir - on fet - ters yield. ir - on fet - ters yield.  
rich the hum - ble poor. rich the hum - ble poor.  
Thy be - lov - ed name. Thy be - lov - ed name.

Lo! He Comes an Infant Stranger

Richard Mant (1776-1848)

Thomas Merritt (1863-1908)  
INFANT STRANGER, 8.7.8.7.4.7

11

Lo! He comes an infant stranger, of a lowly mother born, of a lowly  
Lo! He comes, by man unfriend-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 unfriend-ed,  
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! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu-jah! Praise ye Jes - se's ten - der  
liv - ing Lord! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu-jah! Praise ye Him, the liv - ing

40

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

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

James Montgomery (1771-1854)

Thomas Merritt (1863-1908)

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;  
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

**p**

1 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

13 were a - bid - ing, lo, the shep-herds were a -  
chords were ring - ing, as the sac - red chords were

20 with lo, their flocks on Beth-lehem's plains, with lo, their flocks on Beth-lehem's  
an heaven - ly voice did cry, an heaven - ly voice did

27 bid - ing with their flocks ring - ing, lo, an heaven - ly voice did cry,  
joy - ful tid - ings sung peace

**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!"

"Glory to God in the Highest,  
And on earth, be peace."

**2**  
33 Sung "Peace in to sweet an - gel - ic strains. high."  
Sung "Peace in sweet an - gel - ic strains. high."  
Sung "Peace in sweet an - gel - ic strains. high."  
Sung "Peace in sweet an - gel - ic strains. high."  
Sung "Peace in to

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

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

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

## The Star of Jacob

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

**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

17

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

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

di -  
 for -  
 re -

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

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.



## Awake Ye Nations (Wakey, Wakey)

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

7 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

13 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

18 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.

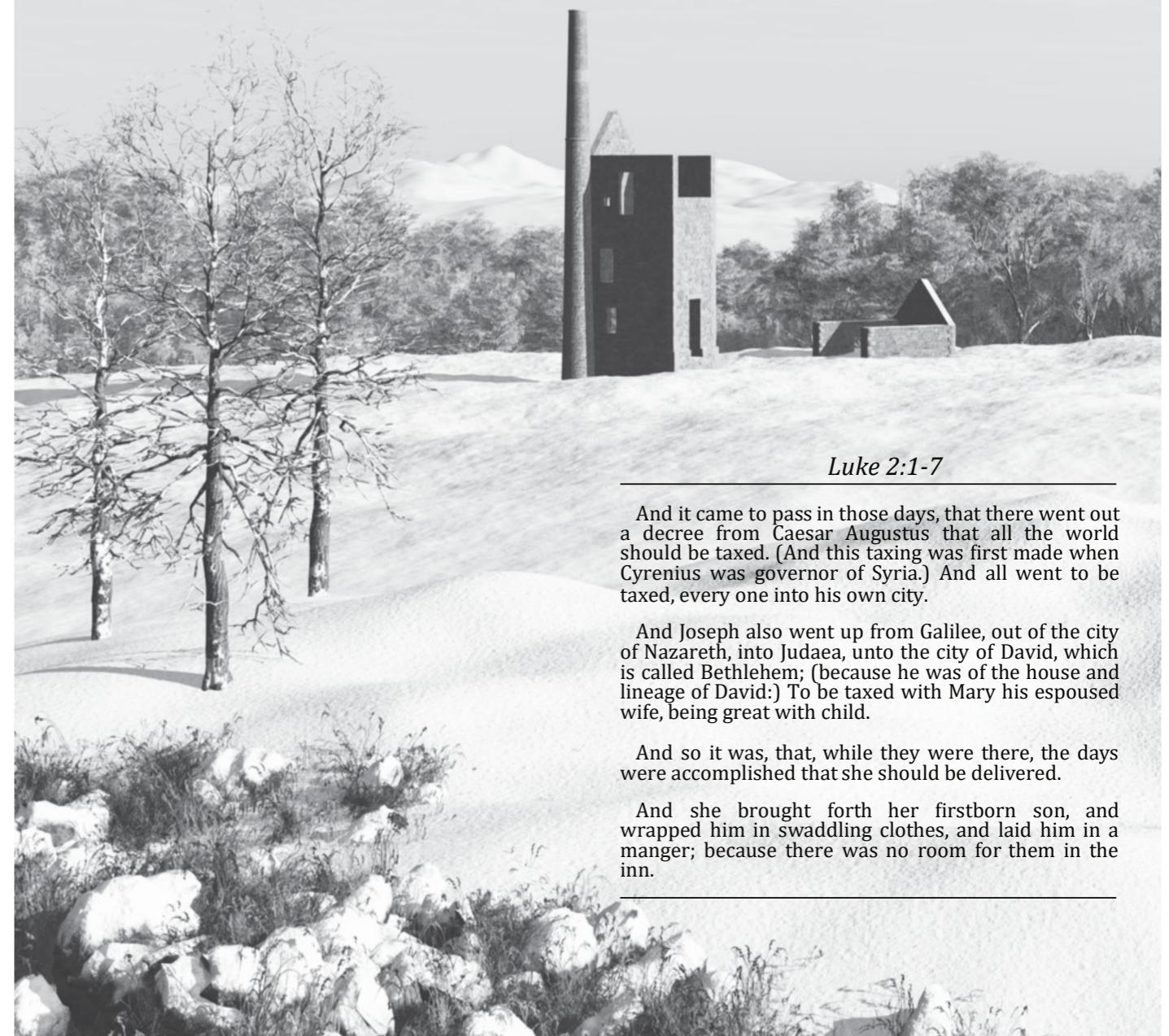
The heavenly choir around did sing,  
"This day is born the Saviour King!"  
They swell their notes of praise again:  
"Glory to God, goodwill to men!"

## 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!"

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 maid servant 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.