

# Bristol Masonic Society

£5.00

Province of Bristol  
(Founded 1917)

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## CAROL SERVICE

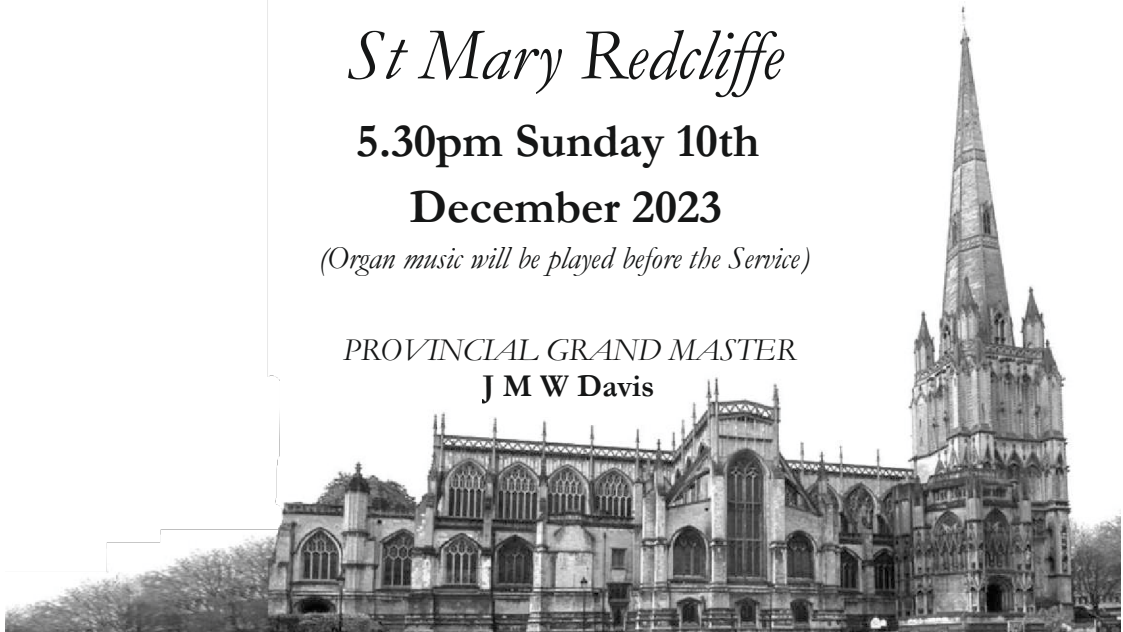
*St Mary Redcliffe*

**5.30pm Sunday 10th**

**December 2023**

*(Organ music will be played before the Service)*

*PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER*  
**J M W Davis**



### **SOME OF THE LINKS BETWEEN FREEMASONRY AND THE CHURCH OF ST MARY REDCLIFFE**

Links are believed to have existed between Freemasonry and the church of St. Mary Redcliffe since the earliest times. John Evans, in his *Chronological Outline of the History of Bristol (1824)*, states that William Canynge, the younger, the mayor in 1460, and a great patron of the church, rebuilt St. Mathyas's Chapel in Redcliffe Street and turned it into a Freemasons' Hall.

We know few details of the early associations until the 18th Century. Local newspapers record the burial at St. Mary Redcliffe of Brother Murch in January 1773, who was 'attended to the grave by a considerable number of the society [of Freemasons] dress'd in their proper habiliments.' The Provincial Grand Lodge of Bristol celebrated the festival of St. John the Baptist in 1785 by walking in regalia to St. Mary Redcliffe with the Provincial Grand Master, Thomas Dunckerley, to attend divine service.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Bristol Freemasons took an active part in raising monies for the restoration of the church. In 1846, the first stone of the restoration work was laid by the Mayor, assisted by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. William Done Bushell, in the presence of many Bristol Masons. The Province paid for the complete restoration of the Lady Chapel, and in 1861 a gathering of over 500 Freemasons saw the final stone of the north-east corner laid by W.Bro. Henry Shute, the Provincial Grand Master, assisted by his deputy, W.Bro. W.A.F. Powell, who was then one of the Church Wardens. The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Limerick, the Provincial Grand Master, and the Brethren celebrated the restoration of the vaulting of the Lady Chapel and the provision of an encaustic pavement, by holding a service of thanksgiving when they returned the beautified chapel to the charge of the Bishop in 1870. Throughout the 19th and 20th Centuries St. Mary Redcliffe was the natural place for Bristol Masons to meet, to give thanks and celebrate such important festivals as the centenary of the consecration of The Royal Clarence Lodge (No. 68) in 1907. The link was further strengthened when The Redcliffe Lodge (No. 4503) was consecrated in 1923.

A number of the church's organists were active Masons including the first Provincial Organist 1819-1837, Bro. Cornelius Bryan, the organist between 1818 and 1840, who died in 1840 as a result of falling through a trap-door in a theatre, and Bro. Joseph William Lawson (1844-1920), (WM of The Powell Lodge, No. 2257, in 1898), the organist between 1862 and 1906, composed a set of evening canticles and a *Nunc Dimittis*. He served as Provincial Grand Organist between 1873 and 1894 and was Provincial Junior Grand Warden in 1902. Bro. Ralph Thompson Morgan (1876-1949) of The Jerusalem Lodge (No. 686) was organist of the church from 1906 to 1949 and the civic organist for two decades; he formed a part of the vicar's extended family resident in Redcliffe Vicarage.

By the 1920s the stonework of the church was in urgent need of repair. The Canynges Society, which was formed in 1848 for collecting money for the restoration of the church, was re-formed with W.Bro. Arthur Cecil Powell (1868-1949) P.G.D., P.M. 187, 2076 (later Provincial Grand Master) as treasurer. W.Bro. Powell served as treasurer for twenty-three years and personally paid the whole cost of the restoration of the church's undercroft known as "Canynges Kitchen." W.Bro. Powell was an active church warden of St. Mary Redcliffe for many years.

The Rt. Revd. W.Bro. Dr. George Nickson (1864-1949), Bishop of Bristol between 1914 and 1933 (P.M. 686), preached the first annual sermon of the society. The Province of Bristol was a very generous benefactor to the work of restoration between 1927 and 1933, and the Vicar, from 1928-1936, Bro. The Revd. Canon Edward Lewis Augustine Hertslet (1878-1936), known as "Elah," a member of The Jerusalem Lodge (No. 686), held a special Masonic Service of Thanksgiving in 1934 to celebrate the completion of the work. Canon Hertslet's bust was carved in stone, and placed over the priest's door of the church to mark the vital rôle he played in its restoration. Until the 1960s it was customary for the verger to doff his hat every morning to the likeness of his old friend. It is believed that, at the time of the 1934 restoration, likenesses of W.Bro. A.C. Powell and Bro. R.T. Morgan were also carved and added to the fabric.

In more recent times W.Bro. The Revd. Canon Richard Fox Cartwright D.D. (1913-2009), who was Vicar of St. Mary Redcliffe from 1952-1972, and later Suffragan Bishop of Plymouth 1972-1981, was involved in Bristol Masonry. He was a member both of The Royal Sussex Lodge of Hospitality (No. 187), and The Jerusalem Lodge (No. 686). Under his *aegis* a Provincial service was held at St. Mary Redcliffe to mark the Coronation in June 1953, and services were held annually thereafter until 1957. The monies raised from these services was put towards the rebuilding of St. Mary Redcliffe Schools. The preacher in 1957 was W.Bro. The Revd. Canon J.E. Staley, P.A.G. Chaplain, and President of the Canynges Society, who was Chaplain of Redcliffe Lodge and Rector of Stapleton.

In 1961 the church was once again in need of restoration and Canon Cartwright began an extensive fund-raising campaign in Great Britain and America. When the work was completed in 1965, stonemasons carved his likeness which was placed on the tower.

The first Bristol Masonic Society carol service was held at the church of St. Thomas the Martyr on 9<sup>th</sup> December 1979. The idea was that of Bro. C.F. Wherlock of Brunel Lodge (No. 7356), one of the church wardens of St. Thomas's, who died in 1987. The annual service of December 1982 was the last held at St. Thomas the Martyr's, which was subsequently declared redundant. The first service at St. Mary Redcliffe, (the mother church of St. Thomas's) was held in 1983. This has cemented the close and longstanding association between the church and the Province. Since the time of Bro. The Revd. Benjamin Spry (1741-1806), of the Royal York Lodge and vicar between 1775 and 1806, until the present, vicars, curates, church wardens and parishioners have been actively involved in Bristol Freemasonry.

## PROCESSIONAL CAROL

### Once in Royal David's City

1. Once in Royal David's City Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby

*Solo: In a manger for His bed: Mary was that  
mother mild Jesus Christ her little Child.*

2. He came down to earth from Heaven Who is God  
and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable,

**All: And His cradle was a stall, With the poor and  
mean and lowly Lived on earth our Saviour  
holy.**

3. And through all His wondrous childhood He  
would honour and obey,  
Love and watch the lowly Maiden, **All: In whose  
gentle arms He lay: Christian children all must  
be Mild, obedient, good as He.**

4. For He is our childhood's pattern,  
Day by day like us He grew,  
He was little, weak and helpless

**All: Tears and smiles like us He knew:  
And He feeleth for our sadness, And he shareth in  
our gladness.**

5. And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own  
redeeming love,  
For that Child so dear and gentle

**All: Is our Lord in Heaven above:  
And He leads His children on To the place where  
He is gone.**

6. Not in that poor lowly stable,  
With the oxen standing by,  
We shall see Him: but in Heaven,

**All: Set at God's right hand on high;  
Where like stars His children crowned All in white  
shall wait around.**

## BIDDING PRAYER

**The Revd. Dan Tyndall**

### CAROL (1)

### Unto Us a Child is Born

Unto us a child is born,  
King of all creation:  
Came He to a world forlorn,  
The King of every nation.  
The King of every nation.

Cradled in a stall was He  
With sleepy cows and asses;  
But the very beasts could see  
That He all men surpasses.  
That He all men surpasses.

Now let Mary's Son, who came  
So long ago to love us,  
Lead us all with hearts aflame  
Unto the joys above us.  
Unto the joys above us.

Omega and Alpha He!  
Let the organ thunder,  
While the choir with peals of glee  
Doth rend the air asunder.  
Doth rend the air asunder.

## THE FIRST LESSON

**Isaiah Chapter 9 verses 2, 6-7**

**BMS Junior Vice President**

## CHOIR ANTHEM (1)

## THE SECOND LESSON

**St Luke Chapter 1 verses 26-35**

**Senior warden**

**CAROL (2)****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.

*Choir Only: 3. How silently, how  
 silently  
 The wondrous gift is given! So  
 God imparts to human hearts The  
 blessings of His Heaven.  
 No ear may hear His coming;  
 But in this world of sin,  
 Where meek souls will receive Him still  
 The dear Christ enters in.*

2. O morning stars together  
 Proclaim the holy birth!  
 And praises sing to God the King,  
 And peace to men on earth;  
 For Christ is born of Mary;  
 And gathered all above, While  
 mortals sleep, the Angels keep Their  
 watch of wondering love

4. 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.

**THE THIRD LESSON****St Luke Chapter 2 Verses 1-7****BMS Senior Vice President****CHOIR ANTHEM (2)****CAROL (3)****The First Nowell**

*During which the collection will be taken*

1. The First Noel the angel did say  
 Was to certain poor shepherds  
 in fields as they lay;  
 In fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,  
 On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
 Born is the King of Israel.

3. And by the light of that same star  
 Three wise men came from country far;  
 To seek for a king was their intent,  
 And to follow the star wherever it went.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
 Born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star  
 Shining in the east beyond them far,  
 And to the earth it gave great light,  
 And so it continued both day and night.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
 Born is the King of Israel.

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
 O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
 And there it did both stop and stay  
 Right over the place where Jesus lay.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
 Born is the King of Israel.

**THE FOURTH LESSON****St Luke Chapter 2 verses 8-20****BMS President****CHOIR ANTHEM (3)**

**CHOIR ANTHEM (4)**

**CAROL (4)**

**Hark the Herald Angels Sing**

1. Hark! the herald angels sing  
 "Glory to the new-born King!  
 Peace on earth and mercy mild  
 God and sinners reconciled"  
 Joyful, all ye nations rise  
 Join the triumph of the skies  
 With the angelic host proclaim:  
 "Christ is born in Bethlehem"

*Hark! The herald angels sing  
 "Glory to the new-born King!"*

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored  
 Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
 Late in time behold him come  
 Offspring of a Virgin's womb  
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see  
 Hail the incarnate Deity  
 Pleased as man with man to dwell  
 Jesus, our Emmanuel

*Hark! The herald angels sing  
 "Glory to the new-born King!"*

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
 Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
 Light and life to all he brings  
 Risen with healing in his wings  
 Mild he lays his glory by  
 Born that man no more may die  
 Born to raise the sons of earth  
 Born to give them second birth

*Hark! The herald angels sing  
 "Glory to the new-born King!"*

**PRAYER**

**The Revd. Steven Hawkins**

**BLESSING**

**The Revd. Dan Tyndal**

**RECESSIONAL CAROL**

**O Come All Ye Faithful**

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.*

God of God,  
 Light of Light,  
 Lo! He abhors not The Virgin's womb; Very God,  
 Begotten, not created:  
*O come, let us adore Him...*

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...*

Lo! Star-led chieftains, Magi Christ adoring; Offer  
 Him incense, Gold and myrrh:  
 We to the Christ Child Bring our hearts' oblations:  
*O come, let us adore Him...*

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...*