

Sing Christmas 2008



Venue Host

What you will need:

Take a good look at the programme to see what happens during the broadcast. Pippa Quelch from BBC Radio Devon will be guiding you through everything, but you need to ensure you have everything ready to ensure things run smoothly. Be imaginative with the interactive sections. For example - if your venue doesn't allow candles, or you are meeting outside, use light sticks, or torches, or gradually light up sections of your Christmas tree.

Before the event:

Posters and invitations are available to download from this BBC website, or from singchristmas@gmail.com

Register your event using the form at the bottom of the webpage.

Tune in to BBC Radio Devon, Cornwall, Jersey or Guernsey or use the live webcast online to join in the celebrations.

For the event itself:

Carol sheets – download or from email

An advent ring:
or four red candles and one white.
Choose beforehand who will light the candles during the readings.

Two gifts:
They are for the oldest and youngest people present, so choose something appropriate.

Crackers
A cracker for everyone – they don't need to be expensive.
If you have a massive crowd you may want just to choose the children, or the oldest members.

Gift tags and pens:
People are going to be invited to write their hopes/ prayers for their community on a tag. Think about where you might hang these. You could use a Christmas tree (ask permission if there is already one in the place you are using), or lay them near a crib scene, or by the advent ring. If it is the latter, be careful if children are going near the lit candles.

The Toast:
If it is possible, ensure everyone has a drink – it could be tea!
But don't worry, Pippa will also be asking people to greet each other with a handshake or a hug –whichever is appropriate.

Before you go:

This is a great opportunity to invite people to your local Christmas service, so take along invitations to hand out afterwards.
Most importantly, this event focuses on the story of the coming of Jesus. People may have questions about this, so take along simple leaflets explaining more about the Christian faith.

SING CHRISTMAS '08

Monday 22 December 2008 - 8pm

Live on BBC Radios Devon, Cornwall, Jersey and Guernsey

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

- Welcome and introduction by Pippa Quelch

Carol 1

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 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.

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 Immanuel!

- **The Nativity:** Mary & Joseph's Story

Someone lights the first candle on the Advent Ring as this is being read.

□ **Activity** – *during the next carol find the oldest and the youngest person present and give them a small gift.*

Carol 2

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 meek and lowly
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all His wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly mother
In whose gentle arms He lay.
Christian children all should be
Mild, obedient, good as He.

And our eyes at last shall see Him
Through His own redeeming love;
For that child, so dear and gentle,
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

- **The Nativity:** The birth of Jesus
The second Advent candle is lit as this is being read.

(The broadcast crosses over to Plymouth City Centre – at the big screen)

- **Interview:**

Carol 3

JOY TO THE WORLD! the Lord has come;
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing!

Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns;
Your sweetest songs employ.
While fields and streams and hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
The wonders of His love,
The wonders of His love,
The wonders, the wonders of His love.

- **Interview:**

□ **Activity** – *tell someone your best and worst Christmas present during the next carol*

Carol 4 : Jesus, God's righteousness revealed

This carol is performed by the band during the activity.

- **The Nativity:** The Shepherd's Story
The third Advent candle is lit during the reading.

Carol 5 : *Hand out crackers during this carol*

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 You, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

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

- **Activity** – Pull the crackers – *Pippa will introduce this with a 'count down'*

• **Interview:**
Carol 6

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 you 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 on the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.'

- **The Nativity:** The Wise Men's Story
The fourth Advent candle is lit during this reading.

- **Interview:**

Carol 7

SILENT NIGHT, holy night!
Sleeps the world; hid from sight,
Mary and Joseph in stable bare
Watch o'er the Child beloved and fair,
Sleeping in heavenly rest,
Sleeping in heavenly rest.
Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds first saw the light,
Heard resounding clear and long,
Far and near, the angel-song:
'Christ the Redeemer is here,
Christ the Redeemer is here.'

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, O how bright
Love is smiling from Thy face!
Strikes for us now the hour of grace,
Saviour, since Thou art born,
Saviour, since Thou art born.

- **Interview**

- Introduction to the activity** – *have gift tags and pens ready*
- Activity** – write 'Hopes' (prayers) on gift tags and hang on Christmas tree

Carol 8 : Midnight *the children's choir will sing this during the activity.*

- **Prayer** – Bishop Bob Evens (Bishop of Crediton)

Carol 9

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!'

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 Immanuel.

Hark! the herald angels sing:
'Glory to the new-born King.'

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 men 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.'

• **Christmas Blessing** – Rev Steve Wild (Chair of the Cornwall Methodist District)

□ **Activity** - Drink a toast, greet your neighbour

Finale :

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

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We Wish You a Merry Christmas

And a Happy New Year

Good tidings we bring of Jesus your King
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

***Thanks to everyone who has made this possible.
The Sing Christmas coordinators, BBC local Radio
and the local organisers.***

Have a wonderful Christmas