



BOLTON
SCHOOL
GIRLS' DIVISION

Ceremony of Carols

Thursday 18 December 2025

Girls' Division Great Hall

The Chamber Choir will process in to

Hodie

Words: Medieval Latin, Music: B. Britten

The congregation should stand to sing

Once in Royal David's City

Words: C. F. Alexander, Music: H. J. Gauntlett, Descant: D. Willcocks

Verse 1: Solo – Tullah Maher Y8

1. *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.*

Verse 2: Choir only

2. *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 mean and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.*

Verse 3-5: Congregation

3. *And through all his wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden,
In whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as he.*
4. *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.*
5. *Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars his children crowned,
All in white shall wait around.*

The congregation should remain standing

Welcome and Bidding Prayer

Mrs Lynne Kyle, Head of Girls' Division

The congregation should remain standing to sing

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night

Words: N. Tate, Music: Este's Psalter, Descant: D. Willcocks

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 heaven to men
Begin and never cease.'

The congregation should now be seated

Reading

St Luke Chapter 2:8-14

Read by Madeleine Eccleshare Hornby, Head Girl

The Lower School Choir will sing

I See a Star

Words and Music: G. Gilpin

Reading

'Christmas Star' by Sofia Macari

Read by Sofia Macari, Y12, Poet Laureate

The Accidentals will sing

Silent Night

Words: J. Mohr, Music: F. Gruber, arr. A. Lapwood & Pembroke College Girls' Choir

The congregation should stand to sing

Hark! The Herald-Angels Sing

Words: C. Wesley, Music: F. Mendelssohn, Fanfare and Descant: D. Willcocks

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| 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 Sun 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. | |

The congregation should now be seated

Reading

'This Christmas Life' by Wendy Cope

Read by Olivia Ejeagwu, Y7

The Chamber Choir will sing

My Lord Has Come

Words and Music: W. Todd

Reading

An Extract from *Letters to Father Christmas* by JRR Tolkien

Read by Isabelle Tunstall, Y8 and Autumn Gibbins, Y9

The congregation should stand to sing

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Words: P. Brooks, Music: English traditional, arr. R. Vaughan Williams, Descant: T. Armstrong

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| 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 to-night. | 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. |
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Verse 3: Solo – Eleanor Holland Y13

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| 3. <i>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.</i> | 4. O holy child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in;
Be born in us to-day!
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel! |
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The congregation should now be seated

Reading

‘little tree’ by ee cummings

Read by Grace Shawcross, Y10 and Anshika Goyal, Y11

The Senior Choir will sing

The Seal Lullaby

Words: R. Kipling, Music: E. Whitacre

Reading

‘Christmas Eve’ by Carol Ann Duffy

Read by Emily Sorrigan, Y12 and Harshini Madhu Shankar, Y13

The Accidentals will sing

Gaudete

Words and Music: 16th Century traditional, arr. A. Lapwood & Pembroke College Girls’ Choir

The congregation should stand to sing

Joy to the World

Words: I. Watts, Music: L. Mason

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| 1. Joy to the world! The Lord is 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. | 2. Joy to the world the Saviour reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, Repeat, the sounding joy. |
| 3. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love. | |

The congregation should now be seated

The Chamber Choir Girls will sing

Three Kings from Persian Lands Afar

Words and Music: P. Cornelius, arr. E. Hugh-Jones, tr. H. Bate

The Chamber Choir will sing

A Child Is Born in Bethlehem

Words: 14th Century Latin Hymn, Music: P. Stopford

Reading

‘The Waits’ by Margaret Deland

Read by Mrs Lynne Kyle, Head of Girls’ Division

The Senior Choir will sing

A Christmas Blessing

Words: Church of Ireland Book of Common Prayer, Music: P. Stopford

The congregation should now stand for the reading

Reading

St John Chapter I

Read by Mr Philip Britton, Head of Foundation

All should remain standing to sing

Adeste Fideles

Words: J Wade, Melody: J Wade, arr. Willcocks, Descant: D Willcocks

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| 1. Adeste Fideles,
Laeti triumphantes
Venite, venite in Bethlehem;
Natum videte regem angelorum:
Venite adoremus, venite adoremus,
Venite adoremus Dominum. | 2. Deum de Deo,
Lumen de lumine,
Parturit virgo mater:
Deum verum, genitum, non factum:
Venite adoremus, venite adoremus,
Venite adoremus Dominum. |
| 3. Cantet nunc hymnos
Chorus angelorum:
Cantet nunc aula Caelestium:
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Venite adoremus, venite adoremus,
Venite adoremus Dominum. | |

The congregation should now be seated

The Chamber Choir will process out to

Hodie

Words: Medieval Latin, Music: B. Britten



There will be a retiring collection in aid of



**RAINBOW
HUB**

Rainbow Hub supports children and young people with physical disabilities and neurological conditions, offering therapeutic services, early-years support and rehabilitation to help them reach their full potential. Based in Mawdesley, Lancashire, the charity combines specialist therapy, conductive education, mobility training and inclusive social programmes to boost children's physical, social and emotional well-being — while also giving vital support to families.