

Extract from the Albury Banner and Wodonga express 1926
CHRISTMAS AT ALBURY

That happy Christmas spirit was more, evident than it has been for quite a few seasons. The feeling of good fellowship was rife. On Christmas Day the streets were noticeably deserted, and the town was very quiet. Large numbers of happy picnic parties thronged the river banks, others went on fishing excursions and motor tours. The day was a real summer day. The three following days were ideal for outdoor pleasures, the river proving the greatest attraction. On Christmas night the Town Band gave a concert in the Botanical Gardens. During the day the - Mayor (Ald. Waugh) and Mrs. Waugh paid a visit to several of the pioneers of Albury who were unable to attend the pioneers' gathering on the anniversary of the Hume and Hovell centenary celebrations on November 17. The Mayor presented souvenirs of the occasion. The singing was led by a combined choir. AT THE HOSPITAL. The wards throughout the hospital were gaily decorated. The resident medical officer, Dr. A. Vickers, impersonated Santa Claus, and distributed toys to the fourteen little inmates. The entire staff did its best to make Christmas' Day a . memorable one for all the 'in patients. Toys and gifts were provided' by the hospital committee and by private donation.

'REFUGEE – Malcolm Guite—

We think of him as safe beneath the steeple,
 Or cosy in a crib beside the font,
 But he is with a million displaced people
 On the long road of weariness and want.
 For even as we sing our final carol
 His family is up and on that road,
 Fleeing the wrath of someone else's quarrel,
 Glancing behind and shouldering their load.
 Whilst Herod rages still from his dark tower
 Christ clings to Mary, fingers tightly curled,
 The lambs are slaughtered by the men of power,
 And death squads spread their curse across the world.
 But every Herod dies, and comes alone
 To stand before the Lamb upon the throne.

St Matthew's Albury

A Festival of

Carols, Lessons and Readings

*(with lessons read by community leaders
 and music by St Matthew's choir)*



'Goodwill and welcome toward all people'



*Offertory Collection to be shared with the NSW Rural Fire
 Service—Southern Border Team*

Auslan Interpreter—Kate O'Keefe

11 December 2016 at 5.00 pm

Peal of Bells

(Sussan Ley MP, Patron present)

Processional Congregational Carol—"Once in royal David's city"

Verse 1 Solo

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.

Verses 2-5 Choir and Congregation together

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.

3 And through all his wondrous childhood
Day by day like us he grew,
He was little, weak and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us he knew:
And he feeleth for our sadness,
And he shareth in our gladness.

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

MRS CF ALEXANDER 1818-95

4. Lo! star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;
We to the Christ child
Bring our heart's oblations:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

6. Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to god
In the Highest:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

LATIN 18TH CENTURY

TR FREDERICK OAKELY 1802-80

AND OTHERS

Organ Postlude

James Flores—*Toccata from Symphony No. 5 - CM Widor*
James is St Matthews Music Association Organ Scholar

ST MATTHEWS CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIME

CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00 pm Toddler Crib Service

6.00 pm Family Christmas Mass

10.30 pm Carols

11.00 pm Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

9.00 am Family Christmas Mass

ALL INVITED, ALL WELCOME

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven. And sharing your good will for all people. Amen

Sanija Epa playing piano 'Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy' from The Nutcracker—Tchaikovsky

A world wide favourite Christmas story about not judging things from the outside and gifts of goodness and kindness, sometimes hidden in unexpected places.

THE BLESSING

Reverend Bryn Jones, Trinity Anglican College Chaplain

Christmas Blessing

May the joy of the angels, the excitement of the shepherds, the eagerness of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you and those whom we love today and always. **Amen.**

Congregational Carol—"O come, all ye faithful" (sheet)

1. 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!*
3. 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,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

Welcome —Fr Peter

Including representatives of the Federal Government, Albury City, Ambulance, Nurses and NSW Rural Fire Service. Good news for the whole community and with thanks for all who serve.

Auntie Nancy Rooke and Bhutanese Children (first Peoples and new friends) light Candles on behalf of the Indigenous Community of 40,000 years of care of land and people.
(Didgeridoo played)

Bidding

Dear Friends, as we prepare for Christmas, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and with the Magi adore the Babe lying in his Mother's arms.

Therefore, let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days, unto the glorious Redemption brought all people by this Holy Child; and make us glad with our carols of praise.

But first let us pray for the needs of his whole world; —for peace and goodwill in every nation and faith over all the earth. To shared acts of justice, mercy and forgiveness. We remember with respect the ancient peoples of this land, praying that reconciliation will be born into the daily life of our nation.

And because this would rejoice his heart, let us remember in his name both friend and stranger, the poor and the helpless, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind, and them that mourn; the lonely, isolated and the unloved; those enjoying the warmth of home and the refugee, the aged and the little children; and all who experience not the loving kindness of God.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, and with, whom we for evermore, are one.

Choir Carol - People look east to see at last Hopes fulfilled from ages past

The First Lesson – Genesis Ch 3

Describes a break down in relationships between God and God's people

read by Dr Penny Vine, Refugee Advocate

Congregational Carol—"O little town of Bethlehem"

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.

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.

5 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.

PHILLIPS BROOKS 1835-93

The Second Lesson - Isaiah 9: 2-7

A new government is promised when the light of salvation will overcome the darkness

read by Deputy Mayor Dr Amanda Cohn

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 wheresoever it went:

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

5 Then entered in those Wise Men three,
Fell reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence
Both gold and myrrh and frankincense:

6 Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind hath bought:

TRADITIONAL

The Seventh Lesson—John 1: 1-18

St John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation: the 'word', the Christ has been with God since the beginning of time—the 'word' is the pattern of God which is in all of us—the oneness/allness of God.

read by Trinity Anglican College Principal Susan Shaw

Choir Carol—"Torches, torches, run with torches all the way to Bethlehem

POEM—Christmas Prayer (From Robert Louis Stevenson)

read by Gary Hayward, Buddha Shop Albury & Yackandandah and Equality Advocate

"Loving Father, Help us share in the song of angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Verses 2-3 Choir and Congregation together

Silent night, holy night:
shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing, 'Alleluia!
Christ, the Saviour is born,
Christ, the Saviour is born.'

Silent night, holy night:
Wondrous star, lend your light;
With angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King;
Christ our Saviour is born,
Christ our Saviour is born.

JOSSEPH MOHR 1792—1848

TR. JOHN FREEMAN YOUNG 1820-85 ALT.

The Sixth Lesson— Matthew 2: 1-12

*Wise Men, following a star pay homage to the child who will be saviour for
all people*

read by Fr Kevin Flanagan, Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Choir Carol—One star shone across the eastern sky

Jan Skinner—with a play 'Star Fantasy performed by

Starcia McNulty; Zoey Ong and Jovian Ong.

(First prize of Albury Eisteddfod 2016—Speech and Drama Section)

Offertory Congregational Carol “The first Nowell the angel did say”

(Collection—to be shared with the NSW Rural Fire Service)

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

Choir Carol - O holy night the stars are brightly shining

Congregational Carol—“Hark! the herald angels sing”

1. Hark the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn 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 newborn 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 newborn 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 newborn King!"*

CHARLES WESLEY 1707-88 and others

The Third Lesson—Luke 1: 26-38 (NRSV)

***The Angel Gabriel broadcasts the Good news to Mary
read by Gaye Pattison, ABC Radio Broadcaster***

Choir Carol - The mother of Jesus gave birth to her Lord

READING—Qur'an Sura al-Imran

**read by Yakub U Mohammed, representing the Albury Wodonga
Islamic Association**

The angels said, "O Mary, indeed Allah gives you good tidings of Him, whose name will be the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary - remembered with honour among those brought near to Allah.

He will speak to those in the cradle and in maturity and will be of the righteous. Mary said, "My Lord, how will I have a child when no man has touched me?" The angel said, "Such is Allah; He creates what He wills. All things are established by His word.

Congregational Carol—"Away in a manger, no crib for a bed"

Verse 1 Dianne Robinson accompanied by St Matthews Trebles

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.

Verses 2-3 Choir and Congregation together

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Closer by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

ANONYMOUS, PHILADELPHIA 1883

The Fourth Lesson—Luke 2: 1-20

*Mary and Joseph make their way to Bethlehem in response to a
government decree*

**read by The Hon. Sussan Ley MP, Federal Minister for Health and
Member for Farrer**

Solo—Lisette Bolton—'Joy to the World'

Words are by English hymn writer Isaac Watts, based on the second half of Psalm 98 in the Bible .

Lisette was awarded the inaugural St Matthews Music Association Inc for the Margaret Kennedy Memorial Vocal Scholarship

Congregational Carol—"The North Wind"

The north wind is tossing the leaves,
The red dust is over the town,
The sparrows are under the eaves
And the grass in the paddock is brown,
As we lift up our voices and sing
To the Christ-child, the heavenly King.

The tree ferns in green gullies sway,
The cool stream flows silently by,
The joy-bells are greeting the day,
And the chimes are adrift in the sky,
As we lift up our voices and sing,
To the Christ-child, the heavenly King

JOHN WHEELER 1901—1984

WILLIAM GARNET JAMES 1895—1977

The Fifth Lesson – Luke Ch 2

*The shepherds looking after their sheep are the first to be told of
the Holy Birth*

**read by Vicki Gray, local farmer, farmers wife and local Farmers
Market Representative**

Choir Carol - Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing?

Congregational Carol—"Silent night! Holy night!"

Verse 1 Andrina Dixen accompanied by Reverend Bryn Jones on guitar

Silent night, holy night:
All is calm, all is bright
Round the virgin mother and child
holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace