

Press Release

Celebrate Christmas at St Paul's

London (16th September 2011)



This festive season, St Paul's is holding a wide variety of services, as well as interactive trails and Christmas craft workshops for all the family to enjoy.

The Advent season begins on 27th and 28th November with the **Advent Procession** (6pm). One of the year's most dramatic services; the procession moves from darkness to light whilst words and music focus on the Advent themes of life and death, time and eternity, judgement and healing.

The **Sankta Lucia Carol Service** with the Swedish Church is another dramatic service not to be missed (9th December, 6.30pm). A candlelight procession with traditional British, Swedish and international carols is dedicated to St Lucia, a symbol of light in darkness. During the service, Lucia appears, dressed in a white gown, wearing a crown of candles.

A popular event is the **Celebration of Christmas** (15th December, 6.30pm). Carols for the congregation and choir as well as celebrity readers make this a wonderful evening.

Other Christmas services include a **Ceremony of Carols** by Benjamin Britten (10th December, 5pm), **Family Carols** service (17th December, 1pm) and the **Barts and the London Charity Carol Service** (20th December, 7.30pm).

The Christmas Carol Services (23rd and 24th December, 4pm) **and the Christmas Eve Midnight Eucharist** (11.30pm) are also popular ways to begin Christmas with well-loved carols sung by the Cathedral Choir.

Visitors with children can explore St Paul's and learn more about this special time of year by downloading the free Christmas trail from www.stpauls.co.uk/christmas/christmas

School, parish and community groups can take part in a special interactive trail and craft workshop during November and December. During *The Christmas Journey* children will meet Mary, Joseph and the shepherds as they make their way to Bethlehem. To book a place on *The Christmas Journey* (£2.50 plus VAT per child) call 020 7246 8353 or email jean@stpaulscathedral.org.uk

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For more information or images please contact Hannah Talbot, Press & Communications Officer, St Paul's Cathedral on 0207 246 8321 or email hannah@stpaulscathedral.org.uk

Notes to editors:

- St Paul's is the cathedral church of the diocese of London, which it has served for over 1,400 years. The current building has become a potent symbol of the life of a nation and is also one of the world's most beautiful buildings. Designed by Sir Christopher Wren in the late seventeenth century, its stones have absorbed the hopes, fears, sorrows and joys of generations and stand as an enduring symbol of our communion with those gone before and those still to come. Each year nearly two million people flock to the Cathedral for services, concerts, debates, educational events, performing arts and sightseeing. All are most welcome.
- Visitors are encouraged to arrive early to services on the afternoon of Christmas Eve, to the Midnight Eucharist, and to all services on Christmas Day.
- **Listings information**

Event: **The Advent Procession**
Dates: Sunday 27th November & Monday 28th November
Times: 6pm
Address: St Paul's Cathedral, St Paul's Churchyard, EC4M 8AD
Nearest tube: St Paul's
Phone number: 0207 236 4128
Web: www.stpauls.co.uk/christmas
Prices: Free and un-ticketed. All welcome.
Details: One of the year's most dramatic services as the procession moves from darkness to light. Words and music focus on the Advent theme of light in darkness, hope in despair, and a new relationship with God in Christ.

Event: **Messiah by Georg Frederick Handel, supported by Fidelity International**
Dates: Wednesday 7th December, 6.30pm
Time: 6.30pm
Address: St Paul's Cathedral, St Paul's Churchyard, EC4M 8AD
Nearest tube: St Paul's
Phone number: 0207 236 4128
Web: www.stpauls.co.uk/christmas
Prices: Free and ticketed

Details: To apply for free tickets, please send a SAE to Messiah Tickets, The Chapter House, London EC4M 8AD. Tickets are allocated on a first come, first served basis

Event: **Sankta Lucia**
Dates: Friday 9th December
Time: 6.30pm
Address: St Paul's Cathedral, St Paul's Churchyard, EC4M 8AD
Nearest tube: St Paul's
Phone number: 0207 236 4128
Web: www.stpauls.co.uk/christmas
Prices: Free and ticketed
Details: With the Swedish Church in London. Candlelight procession with traditional British, Swedish and international carols. Sung by the Cathedral Choir and the Ulrika Eleonora Church Choir. Tickets available from www.swedish-church.org.uk

Event: **'Ceremony of Carols' by Benjamin Britten**
Dates: Saturday 10th December
Time: 5pm
Address: St Paul's Cathedral, St Paul's Churchyard, EC4M 8AD
Nearest tube: St Paul's
Phone number: 0207 236 4128
Web: www.stpauls.co.uk/christmas
Prices: Free and un-ticketed. All welcome.
Details: The ever popular work for boys' voice and harp, performed by the choristers of St Paul's and Sioned Williams, with motets sung by the Vicars Choral.

Event: **A Celebration of Christmas**, sponsored by Lloyds Banking Group
Dates: Thursday 15th December
Time: 6.30pm
Address: St Paul's Cathedral, St Paul's Churchyard, EC4M 8AD
Nearest tube: St Paul's
Phone number: 0207 236 4128
Web: www.stpauls.co.uk/christmas
Prices: Free and un-ticketed. All welcome.
Details: With the Cathedral Choir and City of London Sinfonia conducted by Andrew Carwood and celebrity readers.

Event: **Family Carols**
Dates: Saturday 17th December
Time: 1pm
Address: St Paul's Cathedral, St Paul's Churchyard, EC4M 8AD
Nearest tube: St Paul's
Phone number: 0207 236 4128
Web: www.stpauls.co.uk/christmas
Prices: Free and un-ticketed
Details: Enjoy Christmas favourites in a service lasting 45 minutes. Children especially welcome.

Event: **La Nativité du Seigneur by Olivier Messiaen**
Dates: Sunday 18th December
Time: 6pm
Address: St Paul's Cathedral, St Paul's Churchyard, EC4M 8AD
Nearest tube: St Paul's
Phone number: 0207 236 4128

Web: www.stpauls.co.uk/christmas
Prices: Free and un-ticketed. All welcome.
Details: Messiaen's organ meditation on the mystery of the birth of Christ
Performed by Simon Johnson and including readings and prayers.

Event: **Barts and the London Charity Service**
Dates: Tuesday 20th December
Time: 7.30pm
Address: St Paul's Cathedral, St Paul's Churchyard, EC4M 8AD
Nearest tube: St Paul's
Phone number: 0207 236 4128
Web: www.stpauls.co.uk/christmas
Details: Attended by the Lord Mayor of London to launch his Appeal.
Includes carols and prayers.
Prices: Entry is free and ticketed. All welcome.
Details: Email fundraising@bartsandthelondon.nhs.uk to reserve up to 5 tickets per person.

Event: **Christmas Carol Service**
Date: Friday 23rd December
Time: 4pm
Address: St Paul's Cathedral, St Paul's Churchyard, EC4M 8AD
Nearest tube: St Paul's
Phone number: 0207 236 4128
Web: www.stpauls.co.uk/christmas
Prices: Free and unticketed. All welcome.
Details: Visitors are encouraged to arrive early.

Event: **Christmas Eve Carol Service**
Date: Saturday 24th December
Address: St Paul's Cathedral, St Paul's Churchyard, EC4M 8AD
Nearest tube: St Paul's
Phone number: 0207 236 4128
Web: www.stpauls.co.uk/christmas
Time: 4pm
Prices: Free and unticketed. All welcome.
Details: Visitors are encouraged to arrive early

Event: **Midnight Eucharist**
Date: Saturday 24th December
Time: 11.30pm
Address: St Paul's Cathedral, St Paul's Churchyard, EC4M 8AD
Nearest tube: St Paul's
Phone number: 0207 236 4128
Web: www.stpauls.co.uk/christmas
Details: Well-loved carols and seasonal music by the Cathedral Choir.
Prices: Free and un- ticketed. All welcome.

Event: **Holy Communion**
Date: Sunday 25th December
Time: 8am
Address: St Paul's Cathedral, St Paul's Churchyard, EC4M 8AD
Nearest tube: St Paul's
Phone number: 0207 236 4128
Web: www.stpauls.co.uk/christmas
Prices: Free and un-ticketed. All welcome.

Event: **Sung Eucharist**
Date: Sunday 25th December
Time: 11am
Address: St Paul's Cathedral, St Paul's Churchyard, EC4M 8AD
Nearest tube: St Paul's
Phone number: 0207 236 4128
Web: www.stpauls.co.uk/christmas
Details: Popular carols with festive Christmas music sung by the Cathedral Choir.
Prices: Free and un-ticketed. All welcome.

Event: **Festal Evensong**
Date: Sunday 25th December
Time: 3.15pm
Address: St Paul's Cathedral, St Paul's Churchyard, EC4M 8AD
Nearest tube: St Paul's
Phone number: 0207 236 4128
Web: www.stpauls.co.uk/christmas
Prices: Free and un-ticketed. All welcome.

Event: **Music and Readings for Christmas**
Date: Monday 26th December and Tuesday 27th December
Time: 5pm
Address: St Paul's Cathedral, St Paul's Churchyard, EC4M 8AD
Nearest tube: St Paul's
Phone number: 0207 236 4128
Web: www.stpauls.co.uk/christmas
Prices: Free and un-ticketed. All welcome.
Details: Carols and seasonal music. Sung by the Cathedral Consort.