

CAROL SERVICE

16 December, 2105

Our Carol Service was wonderful! Many thanks to our stalwart musicians Aidan and Roxana for putting it all together. Aidan and Roxana revised last year's service to make it a bit shorter (thanks to feedback from the PCC) and ensured that the Christmas nativity readings covered all the scripture story from the foretelling in Isaiah, through the birth of John the Baptist, through the annunciation by the angel Gabriel to Mary, the journey and the birth in a manger, and the angelically sung announcement "*Gloria in Excelsis Deo*" to the shepherds. Thank you to Tony, Father David P, Elizabeth, Michael and Gaston for your good clear reading.



The church was completely filled for the carolling.

And when it came to singing... well we sung our tongues out. There must have been eight or nine good traditional Christmas hymns – each one reflecting on the scripture story just read. And what a surprise to have verses in French this year along with one of the readings in French... and it was wonderful to have the readings printed in our bulletins, in both languages, this was so welcoming to our Francophone neighbours and hosts. And fittingly, our whole service started off with one solo voice, piercing the darkness of the hushed room – Christine with her crystalline clear notes singing, pleading, calling forth the whole message of the Advent season, "O Come, O come Emmanuel."

But what really made the evening was the band of players. Thank you Aidan for assembling your students and letting them show off. Amanda was a delight on the flute and Aidan and Roxana conducted and underscored the others. And what really melted every heart was the beautiful solo feature by Matthias who started with his half sized cello and then all the other cellos joined him for the second and third verses of a traditional German hymn. A video clip of the piece is on our church's FaceBook page. At the end of his piece the congregation broke into applause, the only hymn of the evening to earn such an accolade.



Although the church was filled with listening singers, it really was all about the music and the musicians.

After the concert, there were traditional Christmas tarts and cookies and a hot spiced drink. A great evening celebrating the birth of our Lord and Saviour.

And great fellowship at the Reception afterwards

