

## **Preparation Notes 2014 for NHS Carol Service**

**York Minster Rehearsal starts at 1.45 p.m. on 11<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2014**

**Please bring pencils with you to the rehearsal.**

***Page numbers refer to 100 Carols for Choirs***

### **Once in Royal**

**P 260**

**Congregational**

Verses 1 2 5 & 6 Only. Verse 1 solo Verse 2 Choir only – sing with real sensitivity and clarity of diction. Verse 6 descant. Altos – lean heavily into the G on ‘lowly’ in vv 2. Ensure the final note of each verse is held strongly for a full 2 beats.

### **Ding Dong Merrily**

**P82**

**Choir only**

All 3 verses *forte*. Gloria – verses 1 and 2 *forte* repeated *piano*, verse 3 *piano* repeated *forte*.

### **Adam lay ybounden**

**P32**

**Choir only**

Men sing verse 1, all the ladies verse 2, Sopranos verse 3. Men start verse 4 but ladies join at bar 34. Even though this is in unison, it is not easy, and the intervals need learning carefully (particularly verse 4).

### **Lo! He comes with clouds**

**P 206**

**Congregational**

Verses 1 & 4 in Unison, and verses 2 & 3 in Harmony.

### **In the bleak midwinter (No 40)**

**P174**

**Choir only**

1<sup>st</sup> verse sung by all sopranos. Verse 2 harmony. Verse 3 Sung by all tenors and any baritones who can comfortably cope. Verse 4 in harmony; Tenors and Basses hum the 1<sup>st</sup> 4 bars then words for the rest of the verse.

### **O Come all ye faithful**

**P 226**

**Congregational**

Verses 1 2 & 6 only Verse 6 descant  
Sopranos and Altos sing in unison the 1<sup>st</sup> “O come, let us adore him” in the chorus of each verse. Sopranos – just before the chorus, be precise over the notes on “Angels” “created” etc (no slithering!)

### **O Little Town**

**P 234**

**Congregational**

All 4 verses. Verse 3 choir only. Verse 4 Unison + descant.

### **Still, still, still**

**P306**

**Choir only**

Sung in English!

As written – All Ladies sing verse 1 and Men sing verse 2. Verses 3 in harmony.  
In all 2-note slurs, lean into the first note and shade off the 2<sup>nd</sup> note.

**God Rest You Merry****P 83****Congregational**

All 5 verses. Verse 1 change words in 2<sup>nd</sup> line to “was born **ON CHRISTMAS** day”. Always sing refrain in Unison. Verses 1 & 3 in Unison. In verse 5 – sopranos and altos be confident with the notes on the “ah”s.

**Sans Day Carol****P219****Choir only**

As written. Ladies be particularly careful over notation in Verse 3 “ah” (sopranos rhythm in bars 73 – 76 is tricky - put an accent on the 1<sup>st</sup> beat of bar, even though it is tied).

**Whence is that goodly****P270****Choir only**

Sung in English! Please be confident with the harmony of verse 4 – the “ah” is not what the sopranos expect!

**While Shepherds Watched****P 378****Congregational**

Verse 1 Unison, vv2 & 3 harmony Verse 3 choir only. vv 4 Ladies singing the melody vv 5 Men singing the melody vv 6 Unison + descant (in previous years, this has been the least confident descant, so please count carefully and sing with assurance).

**It Came Upon****P194****Congregational**

All 4 verses. Vv1 Unison vv 2 & 3 Harmony Verse 4 unison – no descant.

**Nativity Carol****P62****Choir only**

Be sure to know how to get from verse 2 to verse 3, and from verse 3 to verse 4!! Watch dynamics carefully. Sopranos watch the G natural on “ si – lent” in the refrain of the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 verses.

**Hark the Herald****P107****Congregational**

All 3 verses. Verses 1 & 2 sing in harmony (incl. last 2 bars). Basses – be precise over notes on 3<sup>rd</sup> line. Verse 3 descant.

**So that you can quickly find the next carol during the Service, please write the page number of the NEXT carol at the end of each carol in your book. (You may have to erase the numbers that you wrote in last year!)**

**Please ensure that these notes are passed on to ALL singers. It is vital that all the carols are learned and confident in advance of the day, that the above directions are carefully observed and copies ‘marked up’, to achieve a high standard of performance for all singers to really enjoy the day.**

Best wishes – *Andrew Padmore*

**Looking forward to another splendid Service on 10<sup>th</sup> Dec. in York.**