## Preparation Notes 2014 for NHS Carol Service

York Minster Rehearsal starts at 1.45 p.m. on 11th 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  P 82  Choir only
All 3 verses *forte*. Gloria – verses 1 and 2 *forte* repeated *piano*, verse 3 *piano* repeated *forte*.

### Adam lay ybounden  P 32  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)  P 174  Choir only
1st 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 1st 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 1st ‘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  P 306  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 2nd note.
God Rest You Merry  P 83  Congregational
All 5 verses. Verse 1 change words in 2nd 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 1st 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 1st 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 3rd 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 10th Dec. in York.