

Originally conceived by Archbishop Benson (when Bishop of Truro), the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first held on Christmas Eve 1918 as planned by **Eric Milner-White** who, at the age of thirty-four, had just been appointed Dean of Kings' College, Cambridge, after experience as an army chaplain which had convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship.

A revision of the Order of Service was made in 1919, involving a re-arrangement of the lessons, and from that date the service has always begun with the hymn – 'Once in royal David's city'.

Another musician intimately associated with this service was **Boris Ord** (born Bernhard Ord) who was organist and choirmaster of King's College, Cambridge between 1929 and 1957 (though Harold Darke deputised during World War II whilst Boris served in the Royal Air Force).

He was born at Clifton, Bristol on 9 July 1897 and died at Cambridge in 1961.

His setting of *Adam lay ybounden*, (which is his only published piece of music) was once a fixture in the order of service although it now occasionally alternates with the settings by Peter Warlock and Philip Ledger.

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“We wish you a Merry Christmas . . .

And the joy of a Peaceful New Year”

**Barbara Mapley**  
*Rector*

**Pauline Jones**  
*Lay-Reader*

**Anne Harris Jean Carter**  
*Church Wardens*

**Harry Grove**  
*Organist & Choirmaster*

## A Service of Nine Lessons And Carols



**Saint Leonard's Church  
Clent**

**December 2006**

“No love that in a family dwells, No carolling in frosty air,  
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells Can with this single truth compare\_  
That God was Man in Palestine, And lives today in Bread and Wine.”

Sir John Betjeman  
(1906-1984)

|                                           |                                               |                 |                                    |                                           |                |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------|
|                                           | Voluntaries                                   |                 | Choir                              | “Hail ! Blessed Virgin Mary”              |                |
| Organ<br>(1910)                           | ‘Weinacht’s Lied’                             | Herbert Fricker | Charles Wood                       |                                           | Italian _ arr. |
| organist)                                 | <i>A Christmas Song</i>                       | (Leeds City     |                                    | SIXTH LESSON                              |                |
| Organ                                     | ‘Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier’                | J.S.            | Matthew                            | <i>St. Matthew tells of the birth</i>     | St.            |
| Bach                                      | <i>‘Dearest Jesus, we are here’</i>           | BWV             | “Unto us a boy is born”            |                                           | 339 (NH&WS)    |
| 730-1                                     | ~ ~ ~ ~ ~                                     |                 | Choir                              | ‘Nativity Carol’                          |                |
| “Once in Royal David’s city ... ”         |                                               | 46 (A&M)        |                                    | SEVENTH LESSON                            |                |
| <i>Verse 1 ~ Solo</i>                     | <i>Verse 2 ~ Choir</i>                        |                 | Luke ii                            | <i>The shepherds go to the manger</i>     | St.            |
|                                           | BIDDING PRAYER                                |                 | “Sing Lullaby”                     |                                           | 297 (NH&WS)    |
| “Hark ! A thrilling voice is calling .. “ |                                               | 24 (A&M)        |                                    | EIGHTH LESSON                             |                |
|                                           | FIRST LESSON                                  |                 |                                    | <i>The wise men are led by the star</i>   | St. Matthew    |
|                                           | <i>God announces in the garden of Eden ..</i> | Genesis iii     |                                    | ii                                        |                |
| Choir                                     | “Adam lay y-bounden”                          |                 | “God is love; Praise Him !”        |                                           | 95 (NH&WS)     |
|                                           |                                               | Boris Ord       |                                    |                                           |                |
|                                           | SECOND LESSON                                 |                 | Choir                              | “The Crown of Roses”                      |                |
|                                           | <i>God promises to faithful Abraham ..</i>    | Genesis xxii    | Tchaikovsky                        |                                           | Pietre         |
| “The Saviour will come .. “               |                                               | 325 (NH&WS)     |                                    | NINTH LESSON                              |                |
|                                           | THIRD LESSON                                  |                 | John i                             | <i>St. John unfolds the great mystery</i> | St.            |
|                                           | <i>Christ’s birth foretold ..</i>             | Isaiah ix       |                                    |                                           |                |
| Choir                                     | “Come, come, come to the manger ..”           |                 | “O Come, all ye Faithful ...”      |                                           | 34             |
| traditional                               |                                               | English         | (A&M)                              | <i>Verses 1 - 3</i>                       |                |
|                                           |                                               |                 |                                    | COLLECT & PRAYER                          |                |
|                                           | FOURTH LESSON                                 |                 |                                    | BLESSING                                  |                |
|                                           | <i>God’s people called to be ready</i>        | Isaiah lx       | “Hark, the herald angels sing ...” |                                           | 35 (A&M)       |
| “O little town of Bethlehem”              |                                               | 40 (A&M)        |                                    | ~ ~ ~ ~ ~                                 |                |