

# CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

WITH THE SALVATION ARMY



Royal Albert Hall

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TUESDAY 3 DECEMBER 2024

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# CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

## WITH THE SALVATION ARMY

### Credits

Artistic Director: Graham Hubbard  
Assistant to the Artistic Director: Rebecca Stafford

### Readers

Judy Cornwell  
Jack Dee  
Sally Dexter  
Paul Burrell

### Performers

International Staff Band: Bandmaster Dr Stephen Cobb  
International Staff Songsters: Leader Dorothy Nancekiveill  
Salvation Army Big Band: Conductor Nik King  
Una Voce: Leader Karl Westwood  
Khaim and Anais Spencer  
Belinda Gifford-Guy  
Testimony: John Stark (Chaplain at Tŷ Gobaith Lifehouse)  
Organist: Paul Leddington-Wright  
Nativity Cast: Mia Laird, Josie Lamplough, Nathaniel Leighton, Erin Moir, Grace Moir, Jasmin Nancekivell-Smith, Anna Sharman

Executive Producer: Lieut-Colonel Nick Coke  
Event Manager: Lisa Little  
Territorial Events Unit: Matthew Simmons, Bianca Pierre

Lighting and Technical Design: Richard G. Jones  
Live Audio and Visuals: D and B Solutions  
Audio Recording: World Of Sound  
Online Production: Video Production Unit  
Crew Catering: Baxter Storey  
Graphic Design: Mel Gillman, Let's Imagine  
Casting Director: Rebecca Stafford  
Box Office: Royal Albert Hall  
Event Manager for the Royal Albert Hall: Mo Crowe

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All of our backstage hosts, Salvation Army staff, Cadets and collectors.

**Watch again:** This evening's concert will be online at: [youtube.com/salvationarmyvideo](https://youtube.com/salvationarmyvideo) from Sunday 8th December

**Listen again:** Highlights from this evening's concert will be broadcast on: BBC Radio 4 on Christmas Day at 7am



Royal Albert Hall



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## CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

WITH THE SALVATION ARMY



December 2024

Dear friends,

Welcome to the Royal Albert Hall for this year's Salvation Army carol service. It is a joy to gather with you all in this magnificent venue to celebrate the season of Advent and the theme of Everlasting Light.

As we come together in song and reflection, we are reminded of the profound significance of light in our lives. Light symbolises hope, guidance and the promise of a brighter future. In the midst of winter's darkness, the light of our faith shines ever more brightly, leading us forward with unwavering assurance.

The theme of Everlasting Light resonates deeply with the message of Christmas. It speaks to the enduring presence of God's love and the birth of Jesus Christ, who is the true Light of the world. His light dispels the shadows of fear and doubt, bringing peace and joy to all who seek him.

Tonight, as we listen to the beautiful carols and join in heartfelt worship, let us open our hearts to the everlasting light that shines within us and around us. May this light inspire us to spread kindness, compassion and love to those in need, reflecting the true spirit of Christmas.

Thank you for being here and for sharing in this special evening. May the everlasting light of Christ fill your hearts with hope and joy this Christmas season and always.

God bless you.

Yours sincerely,

Jenine and Paul Main  
Commissioners  
Territorial Leaders  
Leaders of The Salvation Army  
in the UK and Ireland



## INTERNATIONAL STAFF SONGSTERS | INTERNATIONAL STAFF BAND

### **The International Staff Songsters has a special ministry.**

Since their founding in 1980, the Songsters have used music and singing to share the love of God far and wide. From a cathedral to a community hall, concert venues to schools and prison chapels, the group is blessed to reach thousands of people.

Their repertoire incorporates a wide range of choral styles and includes music by composers from The Salvation Army and artists such as Bob Chilcott, Mark Hayes, John Rutter, and Eric Whitacre. Each member volunteers their time and travels from around England and Wales for weekly rehearsal in central London. Profits from recordings (sold via [www.sps-shop.com](http://www.sps-shop.com)) and performances support the work of The Salvation Army.

The International Staff Songsters are conducted by Dorothy Nancekieveill who is a Honorary Associate of the Royal Academy of Music. Dorothy is a former Head of Farringtons School in Kent and former Director of Music at Wells Cathedral School.

For more information visit [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/iss](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/iss)

### **The International Staff Band is pleased to support the carol concert here at the famous Royal Albert Hall, a venue where the band has made many performances over many years.**

The band, conducted by Dr Stephen Cobb, continues to maintain its place at the forefront of Salvation Army music-making.

Officially formed in 1891, the ISB still aims to achieve the very highest standards in communicating the Christian message through its music. The band rehearses each week at our Territorial Headquarters in London, and members of the band travel from around the UK to be part of it. The band travels extensively in the UK presenting concerts and leading worship at many of our Salvation Army centres. Frequent overseas visits have been undertaken by the band. In addition, the band makes regular recordings spreading its music around the world.

A significant number of the band's players are employed by The Salvation Army, others working in a wide range of professions. All members however, are also active members of their local Salvation Army, many holding leadership positions. The band's purpose is the same as all Salvation Army groups – to bring honour and glory to God.





# CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

## WITH THE SALVATION ARMY

International Staff Band

International Staff Songsters

Welcome

Carol

*(Words will appear on the screen and are also available in the middle of your concert programme)*

Salvation Army Big Band

International Staff Songsters

Reading

Carol

Reading

Belinda Gifford-Guy and Anais Spencer

Reading

Carol

Salvation Army Big Band

International Staff Band

International Staff Songsters

Homelessness Services

Una Voce and Salvation Army Big Band

Message

Carol

International Staff Band

International Staff Songsters

Anais and Khaim Spencer

Carol

Finale

Carol

Christmas Presence

The Triumph Of The Skies

Commissioner Paul Main

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Sleigh Ride

Lux Aurumque

Genesis 1 and Isaiah 9

The First Nowell

John 1: 1-14

Nella Fantasia

Luke 2: 1-20

Joy To The World

Feliz Navidad

Everlasting Light

The Quiet Heart

This Little Light Of Mine

Commissioner Jenine Main

Starry Night

Three Kings Swing

Celebrate The Child Who Is The Light

Little Did They Know

Once In Royal David's City

Angels We Have Heard On High

O Come All Ye Faithful





## JUDY CORNWELL

**Judy is probably best known these days for her part as Daisy in the BBC's *Keeping Up Appearances* - a series which is still being shown in 66 countries around the world and is one of the biggest money earners the BBC has ever produced – although she has enjoyed a wonderful career in show-business for no less than seventy years.**

She began making a big name for herself in television in the 1960s and by 1968, she and the late Donald Pleasance played an intriguing two-hander called *Call Me Daddy*. It was to win Britain's first Emmy award for ITV.

Judy went on to be nominated by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts for Best Actress for her part as Rosie in *Cakes and Ale*, and during the early seventies she starred as Miss Pegg in her own hugely popular comedy *Moody and Pegg* - the first and second series are now available on DVD.

In theatre, Judy has done everything from Joan Littlewood's Theatre Workshop, where she starred in the original production of *Oh What A Lovely War*, to the Royal Shakespeare Company

in Stratford and a string of leading roles in the West End. More recently she completed a short season of *When the Lilac Blooms, My Love* at the Leicester Square Theatre and a UK national tour of Agatha Christie's *A Murder Is Announced* in the title role of Miss Marple.

Of her many films you can still see her playing Mrs Claus opposite Dudley Moore in *Santa Claus - the Movie* regularly shown on television every Christmas.

Somewhere in the middle of all this, Judy has found time to write four novels and a delightful autobiography, *Adventures of a Jelly Baby*.

Away from show-business at her home in Brighton, she served as a magistrate for many years and was president of Relate and the National Association for Deaf Children for East Sussex. She was also on the national executive committee of the Institute of Alcohol Studies.

Judy has been married for over 60 years to John Parry, the BBC's first Arts Correspondent, an arts columnist for the *Spectator* magazine and editor of *Sculpture*, the magazine for the Royal Society of British Sculptors.

*Photo credit: Astrid Schulz*







## JACK DEE

**Firmly established as one of Britain's biggest and best-loved comedy stars, Jack Dee has captured the imagination of audiences and critics alike with his dry humour and deadpan delivery over the last four decades.**

As the Chairman of the iconic BBC Radio 4 'antidote to panel games', *I'm Sorry, I Haven't a Clue*, Jack regularly tours the country with a live stage show to celebrate the BBC hit show.

He co-hosts the weekly podcast *Oh My Dog!* with fellow comedian Seann Walsh where they discuss their dogs and their weeks and interview well-known dog owners about their canine antics.

Jack co-wrote and starred in two of his own sitcoms; *Lead Balloon* for BBC Two and the hit ITV show *Bad Move* and published his autobiography *Thanks for Nothing*, followed by the 'problem-solving guide' *What Is Your Problem?* which was published in 2021.

Recent TV credits include *Taskmaster* (Channel 4), *Have I Got News for You* (BBC1), *QI* (BBC2) and *The Ranganation* (BBC2).

Insta: [thisisjackdee](#)

X: [therealjackdee](#)

Web: [jackdeecomedy.com](#)

Contact Fay: [@offthekerb.co.uk](#)





# CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

## WITH THE SALVATION ARMY



### Hark! the herald angels sing:

Glory to the new-born King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

*Hark! the herald angels sing:  
Glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest Heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come,  
Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel.

Hail the Heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.



### Joy to the world! the Lord is come;

Let earth receive her King,  
Let every heart prepare him room  
And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns;  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love.



### The first Nowell the angel did say

Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.*

They looked up and saw a star,  
Shining in the east beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night.

And by the light of that same star,  
Three wise men came from country far,  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went.

Then entered in those wise men three,  
Full reverently upon their knee,  
And offered there in his presence  
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
That hath made Heaven and earth of naught,  
And with his blood mankind hath bought.



## CHRISTMAS APPEAL

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this Christmas, thank you!





### **It was on a starry night**

When the hills were bright,  
Earth lay sleeping, sleeping calm and still.  
Then in a cattle shed,  
In a manger bed,  
A boy was born, King of all the world.

And all the angels sang for him,  
The bells of heaven rang for him,  
For a boy was born, King of all the world.  
And all the angels sang for him,  
The bells of heaven rang for him,  
For a boy was born, King of all the world.

Soon the shepherds came that way  
Where the baby lay  
And were kneeling, kneeling by His side.  
And their hearts believed again  
For the peace of men,  
For a boy was born, King of all the world.

And all the angels sang for him,  
The bells of heaven rang for him,  
For a boy was born, King of all the world.  
And all the angels sang for him,  
The bells of heaven rang for him,  
For a boy was born, King of all the world.



### **O come, all ye faithful,**

Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him  
Born the King of angels:

*O come, let us adore him  
O come, let us adore him  
O come, let us adore him Christ the Lord!*

God of God,  
Light of Light  
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb  
Very God, Begotten, not created:

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above;  
Glory to God In the highest:



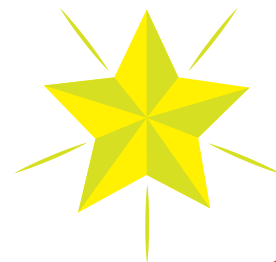
### **Once in royal David's city**

Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for his bed.  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from Heaven  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable  
And his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly  
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

For he is our childhood's pattern;  
Day by day like us he grew;  
He was little, weak and helpless;  
Tears and smiles like us he knew;  
And he feeleth for our sadness,  
And he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him  
Through his own redeeming love;  
For that child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in Heaven above.  
And he leads his children on  
To the place where he is gone.



# *Join us again in* **CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS**

**Wednesday 3 December 2025**



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## SALLY DEXTER

**An average of 6.6 million people tune in to ITV each night to watch Sally play Faith Dingle in *Emmerdale*.**

Since her debut in 2017, Sally has been nominated for Best Newcomer and Funniest Female at the Inside Soap Awards as well as Best Newcomer at The British Soap Awards.

Previous TV credits include: *Poldark* (BBC One), *Father Brown* (BBC), *Will* (TNT), *Genius: Einstein* (History Channel) and *Snatch* (Crackle/Sony).

Despite being a fixture on national TV, Sally is best known for her work on stage.

In 1987 she won the Olivier Award for Most Promising Newcomer for her performance in Tom Stoppard's *Dalliance* at the National Theatre.

Her West End credits include: Sam Mendes' *Oliver!* (London Palladium) which earned her an Olivier nomination; *Bad Girl The Musical* (Garrick Theatre), *Sister Act* (London Palladium), *Viva Forever* (Piccadilly Theatre) and *Billy Elliot The Musical* (Victoria Palace Theatre).

*Photo credit: Nick James*





## PAUL BURRELL

**Paul Burrell is a former servant of the British Royal Household, having served the late Queen Elizabeth II and later Princess Diana for 21 years.**

Born in Grassmoor, Derbyshire in 1958, Paul knew from an early age that he wanted to work with the British Royal Family. His dream became reality when he joined the staff at Buckingham Palace at just 18, starting as a footman to Queen Elizabeth II before becoming butler to Prince Charles and Princess Diana at Highgrove House. This role evolved into a close friendship with Diana, who famously referred to him as her 'rock' for his unwavering support.

In the years since Diana's passing, Paul has continued to honour her memory, sharing heartfelt anecdotes and preserving her legacy through his books and media appearances, notably in *A Royal Duty*.

A familiar face to British television audiences, Paul has brought his

charm to popular shows like *I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!* in 2004 and again in 2023 for the *All Stars* season. His humour and sincerity made him a fan favourite, and he has also appeared as a royal correspondent on several UK television programmes such as *Lorraine* and also internationally, where he has provided expert perspective on royal events.

In recent years, Paul has embarked on a personal journey of transformation. After 32 years of marriage, he came out as gay and married his longtime partner, Graham. And in 2024, Paul's health journey took a positive turn as he celebrated completing successful treatment for prostate cancer, with his journey well documented in 2023 on ITV's *The Real Full Monty: Jingle Balls*.

Ever the advocate, he now raises awareness and encourages others to stay proactive about their health, hoping to inspire positive change.





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## BELINDA GIFFORD-GUY | ANAIS AND KHAIM SPENCER

### **Belinda is 13 years old and is on the Specialist Vocal Programme at Wells Cathedral School.**

Having grown up in Oxfordshire, Belinda started her musical and spiritual journey, singing in the Junior Choir at Dorchester Abbey in Oxfordshire. At the age of eight, she moved to Wells in Somerset, to attend the Cathedral School, with a vocal and choral scholarship, and passed her ABRSM Grade 8 Singing exam with distinction aged 11.

A former Chorister at Wells Cathedral, she was thrilled to win the title of 2023 BBC Young Chorister of the Year. She has since sung for the BBC at Sheffield City Hall and also at the National Gallery in London.

She has also performed and recorded with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra for Radio 2 and Radio 4, and recorded live broadcasts in Manchester and at St Martin-in-the-Fields in London. She has performed as a guest soprano with the Orchestra of St John's in Oxfordshire, for the Voices for Life Choir in Bath Abbey, and in Rutter's Requiem in Surrey.

Belinda has always loved singing, and, right from the earliest age, she has said that singing makes her feel closer to God. She sings this evening with the permission of Wells Cathedral School.

### **Anais and Khaim Spencer, siblings from a musical family, are a duo who share a passion for music.**

Anais, who studies under Susan Legg, graduated from the University of Chichester Conservatoire in 2023 with a First Class Bachelor of Music degree in Classical Vocal Performance. Khaim, who plays piano, drums, and guitar, graduated this summer with a degree in Audio Production and Music Technology.

Khaim is a versatile musician, freelance producer, composer, and songwriter with a particular interest in composition for film and television. Anais, while rooted in classical music, is also the lead singer of Pop Runners, a London-based function band under the management of Entertainment Nation.

Anais and Khaim's musical collaboration extends beyond their individual achievements, as they frequently record and perform together, sharing their work through their Instagram account @thespencerss which they began during their school days.

Their musical talents are intertwined with their faith and they regularly lead worship both at their Salvation Army church in New Addington and at various events across the country.



For more information please visit  
[Anaispencervoice.com](http://Anaispencervoice.com) [Khaimlukespencer.com](http://Khaimlukespencer.com)



## SALVATION ARMY BIG BAND | UNA VOCE

**The sight and sound of a big band may not be anything new to most people, but did you know that until around the 1920s saxophones were not an uncommon sight in Salvation Army Bands.**

The Salvation Army has had various connections to the world of big band music.

In 1932 Henry Hall was the leader of the BBC Dance Orchestra but before taking on this role, his first job after leaving Trinity College of Music was in the Music Editorial Department at the Salvation Army's Territorial Headquarters. Possibly the most recognisable big band leader with Salvation Army connections was Don Lusher.

He was brought up at the corps in Peterborough where he learned to play the trombone. He was probably best known as the lead trombonist in the Ted Heath Orchestra, but also worked with Jack Parnell and the Squadron Aires, to name a couple.

The Salvation Army Big Band you will hear tonight was first formed in November 2017 and its members are taken from Salvation Army centres up and down the United Kingdom. We hope that you will sit back and enjoy our contribution to this years carol service here at the Royal Albert Hall.

**'Now may God, the source of great endurance and comfort, grace you with unity among yourselves, which flows from your relationship with Jesus, the Anointed One. Then, with a unanimous rush of passion, you will with one voice glory God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. You will bring God glory when you accept and welcome one another as partners, just as the Anointed One has fully accepted you and received you as his partner.' Romans 15:5-7 (TPT)**

The name 'Una Voce' comes from Latin, meaning 'One Voice'. It is a vocal group of young adults who are members of and linked to The Salvation Army from across the UK and Ireland Territory. The purpose of the group is to magnify choral music within The Salvation Army church, and to encourage and grow singers and vocal leaders whilst placing God at the centre of everything they do.

Since its inception in 2018, the group has been fortunate to have received numerous invites across the UK and Europe to share in ministry. Led by Karl Westwood, they come together four times a year to share in worship. Follow Una Voce on Facebook to stay up to date with their next concert. Una Voce is founded on a theology of inclusion, ensuring that all are welcome.







## GRAHAM HUBBARD

### Graham is an Olivier Award nominated theatre adaptor/director (2022)

He trained at LAMDA (Evelyn Laye Award) and was an actor for fourteen years working extensively in regional/West End theatre, television and film with directors such as Kenneth Branagh, Matthew Warchus, Gregory Doran, John Caird and John Doyle. He then moved into directing and writing.

In the West End Graham was associate director on *Sweeney Todd* (New Ambassadors also at the Eugene O'Neil on Broadway), *Mack and Mabel* (Criterion), *The Sound of Music* (Palladium), *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* (Palace).

Graham's productions range from Shakespeare, through Coward and Brecht to musical theatre. As artistic director for New Rep Theatre, he was nominated for the Peter Brook Award (2012) for his actor/musician production of *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*.

He supports and develops new writing and was nominated for Best Director (Broadway World 2013) for his work on the world premiere of *The Spring Tide*. Graham regularly directs at many of the top drama

schools in the UK (LAMDA, CSSD, Arts Ed, LIPA, BSA, LSMT, Guildford Conservatoire.)

For over a decade Graham has enjoyed being artistic director for the Salvation Army's annual charity carol concert at the Royal Albert Hall.

His stage adaptation of Julia Donaldson's children's book *What The Ladybird Heard*, which he also directed, has had two successful West End seasons (Palace and Lyric theatres) and several international tours.

He wrote the book/lyrics for a musical adaptation of *The Colonel's Lady* (based on a short story by Somerset Maugham) and has adapted the South African novel, *Buckingham Palace, District Six* for the stage. He is also co-creating a new children's book *Purple Pastures*.

He has recently finished directing/devising *Common Ground*, a new piece of musical theatre reflecting on the shared human condition for the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts and is looking forward to directing Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd* in 2024.

[www.grahamhubbard.co.uk](http://www.grahamhubbard.co.uk)  
Instagram: [hubbard.graham](https://www.instagram.com/hubbard.graham)





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