We always dance on Boxing Day at Woodhouse Cross (11.15) and outside Handsworth Church (12 noon) and sing these carols afterwards in the Cross Keys pub.

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All hail the power 4
At Jacob’s well 2
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Updated November 2012
1 Merry Christmas

We singers make bold, as in days of old,
To celebrate Christmas and bring you good cheer,
Glad tidings we bring of Messiah our king,
So we wish you a merry Christmas
And a happy new year

The shepherds amazed as onward they gazed.
Behold, holy angels to them drawing near!
Singing 'Goodwill to men', as onward they came,
So we wish you a merry Christmas
And a happy new year.

Let's join hearts and hand to keep God's command,
By loving to serve him throughout the new year.
In an innocent way we'll be merry today,
So we wish you a merry Christmas
And a happy new year.

2 Jacob's Well

At Jacob's well a stranger sought
His drooping frame to cheer.
Samaria's daughter little thought
That Jacob's god was near.

This had she known, her fainting mind
For richer draughts had sighed.
Nor had Messiah ever kind
Those richer draughts denied.

This ancient well no glass so true
Britannia's image shows.
Now Jesus travels Britain through,
But who the stranger knows?

3 Holmfirth Anthem

Abroad for pleasure as I was a-walking,
On one summer, summer's evening clear,
There I beheld the most beautiful damsel,
Lamenting for her shepherd dear.

The dearest evening that e'er I beheld thee,
Ever, evermore with the lad I adore.
Wilt thou go fight yon French and Spaniards,
Wilt thou leave me thus my dear?

No more to yon green banks will I take thee,
With pleasure for to rest myself and view the land,
But I will take thee to yon green gardens
Where the pratty flowers grow.

4 Diadem

All hail the power of Jesu's name,
Let angels prostrate fall.
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown him lord of all.

Ye saints redeemed of Adam's race,
Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail him who saves you by his grace
And crown him lord of all.

Sinners whose love can ne'er forget
The wormwood and the gall,
Go spread your trophies at his feet
And crown him lord of all.

5 Awake, Arise Good Christian

Awake, arise good Christian, let nothing you dismay!
Remember Christ our saviour was born upon this day!
The selfsame moon was shining that now is in the sky,
When a holy band of angels came down from God on high.

Chorus: Hosannah, hosannah to Jesus we'll sing!
Hosannah, hosannah, our saviour and king!

Fear not, we bring glad tidings, for on this happy morn
The promised one, the saviour, in Bethlehem's town was born.
Up rose the simple shepherds, all in a joyful mind,
And let us go with haste, they say, this holy child to find.

And like unto the shepherds we wander far and near,
And bid you wake, good Christian, they joyful news to hear.
Awake, arise, good Christian, let nothing you dismay!
Remember Christ our saviour was born upon this day!

6 Back Lane

Behold the grace appears,
The promise is fulfilled.
Mary the wondrous virgin bears,
And Jesus is the child.
'Go humble swain', said he. 
'To David's city fly. 
The promised infant born 
today 
Doth in a manger lie. 

With looks and hearts serene 
Go visit Christ your king.' 
And straight a flaming troop 
was seen. 
The shepherds heard them sing. 

[Spurious extra verse now sung at 
Dungworth: 
All glory be to God 
And on the earth be peace, 
Goodwill henceforth from 
Heaven to men 
Begin and never cease!]

'Awake! Awake! Ye saints 
awake! 
And hail this day our saviour's born. (repeat) 
Allelujah! Allelujah! Allelujah, 
praise ye the lord!' 

7 Song for the Time 
A song for the time when the 
sweet bells chime, 
Calling rich and poor to pray. 
On this glad morn, when Christ 
was born, 
On the holy Christmas day. 

The squire came forth from his 
rich old hall, 
And the peasants by two and 
by three, 
The woodman let his hatchet 
fall 
And the shepherd left his tree. 

Through the churchyard snow 
in a goodly row 
They came forth old and 
young, 
And with one consent in prayer 
they bent, 
And with one consent they sang. 

We'll cherish it now in a time 
of strife 
As a holy and peaceful thing, 
For it tells of his love coming 
down from above, 
And the peace he deigns to bring. 

In those good old days of 
prayer and praise, 
'Twas a season of right 
goodwill, 
For they kept his birthday holy 
then, 
And we'll keep it holy still. 

8 Egypt 
Christians, awake, unclose 
your eyes, 
Glad tidings, lo, I bring! 
To us is born a heavenly prize. 
Arise, rejoice and sing! 

This prize it is the son of God, 
And Jesus called by name. 
Great wonders he hath shown 
abroad. 
Salvation by him came! 

Therefore let us uplift our 
voice, 
And 'allelujah!' sing. 
For evermore let us rejoice 
In Israel's holy king. 

9 Tinwood 
Come all ye weary travellers, 
come let us join and sing 
The everlasting praises of 
Jesus Christ our king! 
We've had a tedious journey 
And toilsome, it is true, 
But see how many dangers the 
lord has brought us through. 

At first when Jesus found us he 
called us unto him, 
And pointed out the dangers of 
falling into sin. 
The world, the flesh and Satan 
will prove to us a snare, 
Except we do reject them by 
faith and humble prayer. 

But by our disobedience, with 
sorrow we confess, 
We oft have had to wander in 
that dark wilderness, 
Where we might soon have 
fainted in that enchanted 
ground, 
But now and then a cluster of 
precious grapes we found. 

Now to the king immortal be 
everlasting praise, 
For in his holy service we 
mean to spend our days. 
Till we arrive a Canaan, that 
glorious land above, 
With everlasting praises sing 
his sing his redeeming love! 

10 Malin Bridge 
Bright and joyful is the morn. 
Unto us a child is born. 
From the highest realms of 
heaven 
Unto us a son is given. 

On his shoulder he shall bear 
Power and majesty, and wear 
On his vesture and his thigh 
Names most awful, names 
most high. 

Wonderful in counsel he, 
The incarnate deity, 
Sire of ages, ne'er to cease, 
King of kings and prince of 
peace. 

Come and worship at his feet. 
Yield to Christ the homage 
meet, 
From his manger to his throne 
Homage due to God alone. 

Praise God, from whom all 
blessings flow! 
Praise him all creatures here 
below! 
Praise him above, ye heav'nly 
host! 
Praise Father, Son and Holy 
Ghost!
11 New Celestial

Come, let us all rejoice
To see this happy morn!
We'll tune our hearts and raise
our voice.
This day our saviour's born!

'Go, humble swain,' said he
To David's city fly!
The promised infant, born
today,
Doth in a manger lie.

Glory to God on high,
And heavenly peace on earth!
Goodwill to men, to angels joy,
At our redeemer's birth!

12 Good News/Tyr Mill

Hark, hark, what news those
angels bring!
Glad tidings of a new born
king,
Born of a maid, a virgin pure,
Born without sin, from guilt
secure.

Hail, mighty prince, eternal
king!
Let heaven and earth rejoice
and sing.
Angels and men with one
accord
Break forth in song to praise
the lord.

Behold, he comes and leaves
the skies!
Awake, ye slumbering mortals, rise!
Awake to joy and hail the
morn!
A saviour of this world was
born.

13 Mount Zion

Mortals, awake, with angels
join,
And chant the solemn lay.

Joy, love and gratitude
combine
To hail the auspicious day.

Swift through the vast expanse
it flowed,
And loud the echo rolled.
The theme, the song, the joy
was new.
'Twas more than heaven could
hold.

Hail, prince of life, forever
hail!
Redeemer, brother, friend!
Though earth and time and life
shall fail,
Thy praise shall never end.

14 Christmas Tree

Who comes this way so blithe
and gay
Upon the merry Christmas day,
So merrily, so cheerily,
With his peaked hat and
reindeer sleigh,
With pretty toys for girls and
boys,
As pretty as you e'er did see?
Oh, this is Santa Claus's man,
Kriss Kringle with the
Christmas tree!

Chorus: Oh, ho! Oh, ho! Ho,
ho, ho, ho, ho, ho!
And jingle, jingle, jing, a-jing,
a-jing,
Right merry shall you be!
Yes, jingle, jingle, he comes
this way,
He comes with the Christmas
tree!
And welcome, welcome,
welcome, Kriss,
Right welcome shall you be!
Oh, here he is, yes, yes he is,
'Tis Kriss with the Christmas
tree! (Repeat four times)

His sleighbells ring with a
merry ching
As o'er the reeves the reindeer
spring.

Gee-up, gee-ho, how swift they
go,
Away o'er the ice and the drifts
of snow.
For he must call on one and all,
His master's pretty pets, you
see,
For he is Santa Claus's man,
Kriss Kringle with the
Christmas tree!

With cakes and plums,
trumpets and drums,
And lots of pretty things he
comes,
So now be quick your places
take,
And all a merry circle make.
For now he's near he'll soon
appear,
And we his jolly face shall see.
Oh, welcome, Santa Claus's
man,
Kriss Kringle with the
Christmas tree!

15 Star of Bethlehem

When marshalled on the
mighty plain,
The glittering host bestrewed
the sky,
One star alone of all the train
Can fix the sinner's wandering
eye.
Hark, hark, to God the chorus
breaks
From every host, from every
gem.
But one alone the saviour
speaks.
It is the Star of Bethlehem.

Now safely moored, my perils
o'er,
I'll sing first in life's diadem.
Forever and for ever more,
The Star, the Star of
Bethlehem.

16 Hark, Hark

Hark, hark! Hark, hark! What
news those angels bring!
Glad tidings of a new born
king.
Born of a maid, a virgin pure,  
Born without sin, from guilt secure.

Hail, mighty prince! Eternal king!  
Let heaven and earth rejoice and sing!  
Angels and men, with one accord,  
Break forth in song to praise the lord!

Behold, behold! He comes and leaves the skies!  
Awake, ye slumb'ring mortals, rise!  
Awake to joy and hail the morn!  
A saviour of this world was born.

**17 While Shepherds**

[ Tunes: Fern Bank, Liver-pool, Llloyd, Lyngam, Old Foster, Pentonville, etc]

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
All seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down  
And glory shone around.

'Fear not,' said he, for mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled mind.  
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind.

To you in David's town this day  
Is born of David's line  
A saviour who is Christ the lord  
And this shall be a sign.'

All glory be to God an high  
And to the earth be peace.  
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men  
Begin and never cease!

**18 Sweet Bells**

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
All seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down  
And glory shone around.

**Chorus:** Sweet bells, sweet chiming Christmas bells!  
They cheer us on our heavenly way, sweet chiming bells.

[Then same verses as no. 17]

**19 Hail, Chime On!**

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
All seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down  
And glory shone around.

**Chorus:** Hail, chime on, chime on,  
Merry, merry Christmas Bells, chime on.

[Then same verses as no. 17]

**20 Hail, Smiling Morn**

Hail, smiling morn, that tips the hills with gold, that tips the hills with gold,  
At whose rosy fingers open wide the gates of heaven, the gates of heaven,  
At whose rosy fingers open wide the gates of heaven!  
(Repeat)

All the green fields that nature doth enfold,  
At whose bright presence darkness flies away,  
Flies away, flies away,  
Darkness flies away, darkness flies away,  
At whose bright presence darkness flies away,

Flies away, flies away,  
Hail, hail, hail, hail!  
Hail, hail, hail, hail!

**21 Stannington**

Sing, all ye people of the earth, today,  
For Jesus Christ was born on Christmas day,  
Ring out, ye joyous bells in heaven, ring on,  
For Christ is born!

Born in a stable bare of humble birth,  
Born of a virgin pure to dwell on earth,  
Let all mankind rejoice on this great day,  
For Christ is born!

He came to us that wars on earth may cease,  
He came to bring us hope and joy and peace.  
Worship, o nations, at his feet today, For Christ is born!

Glory to God on high we all will sing,  
Glory and praise we render to our king.  
Peace on the earth, goodwill to men this day,  
For Christ is born!

**22 Hark the Herald Angels Sing**

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.

**Chorus:** 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 the virgin's womb!  
Veiled in flesh the godhead see,  
Hail the incarnate deity,  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!  

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.  

23 How Beautiful upon the Mountain  

How beautiful upon the mountain,  
Are the fields, the fields, that bring us glad tidings (repeat)  

Glad tidings I bring,  
I bring you glad tidings, glad tiding I bring,  
The promise of salvation, that saith unto Zion:  
'My god reigneth! My god reigneth!'  

Break forth, sing together,  
In the presence of Jerusalem,  
For the lord he hath comforted his people,  
He hath redeemed Jerusalem.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, praise ye the lord!  

24 Mount Moriah  

Glory to God! the angels sing,  
Glad tidings, lo, I bring;  

In David's city lies a babe,  
And Jesus is the child.  
Glory to God! let man reply,  
For Christ the lord is come,  
Behold him in a manager lie!  
A stable is his room.  

Glory to God! let all the earth  
Join in the heavenly song,  
And praise him for a saviour's birth  
In every land and tongue.  

25 Reapers  

Ho, reapers in the whitened harvest,  
Oft feeble, faint and few,  
Come wait upon the blessed master;  
Our strength he will renew.  

Chorus: For they that wait upon the lord  
Shall renew their strength.  
They shall mount up with wings,  
They shall mount up with wings as eagles.  
They shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.  
(repeat last 2 lines twice)  

Too often weary and discouraged  
We pour a sad complaint,  
Believing in the blessed master  
Why should we ever faint?  

Rejoice, for he is with us always,  
Lo, even to the end.  
Look up, take courage and go forward,  
All needed grace he'll send.  

26 Old Christians  

Christians awake! Salute the happy morn,  
Whereon the saviour of mankind was born!  
Rise to adore the mystery of love,  
Which hosts of angels chanted from above.  
With them the joyful tiding fist begun  
Of God incarnate and the virgin's son,  

Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,  
Who heard th'angelic herald's voice: 'Behold!  
I bring good tidings of a saviour's birth  
To you and all men living upon earth.  
This day hath God fulfilled his promised word,  
This day is born a saviour, Christ the lord.'  

He spake, and straightway the celestial choir  
In hymns of joy unknown before conspire.  
The praises of redeeming love they sang,  
And heaven's whole ord with allelujas rang.  
'God's highest glory,' was their anthem still,  
'Peace upon earth and unto men goodwill!'  

27 Boar's Head Carol  

The boar's head in hand bear I  
Bedecked with bay and rosemary,  
And I bid you my masters be merry  
Quot estis in convivio.  

Chorus: Caput apri defero  
Reddens laudes domino.  
The boar's head as I understand  
Is the rarest dish in all the land  
Which thus bedecked with a gay garland  
Let us servire cantico.  

Our steward hath provided this  
In honour of the king of bliss,  
Which on this day to be served is  
In reginensi atrio.
28 The Holly and the Ivy

The holly and the ivy
When they are both full grown
Of all the trees that are in the wood
The holly bears the crown.

Chorus: The rising of the sun
The running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing all in the choir.

The holly bears a blossom
As white as lily flower,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To be our sweet saviour.

The holly bears a berry
As red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To do poor sinners good.

The holly bears a prickle
As sharp as any thorn,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
On Christmas day in the morn.

The holly bears a bark
As bitter as any gall,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
For to redeem us all.

[Repeat first verse]

29 The Old Rugged Cross

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of sufferings and shame,
And I love that old cross,
where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Chorus: So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down.
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown.

Oh, that old rugged cross, so despised by the world
Has a wondrous attraction for me,
For the dear lamb of God left his glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary.

In the old rugged cross, stained with love so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see,
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died
To pardon and sanctify me.

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,
Its shame and reproach gladly bear.
Then he'll call me someday to my home far away
Where his glory for ever I'll share.

30 Swaledale

I'll sing of a place to my heart very dear,
A place where I always would dwell,
And if you will kindly lend me your ear,
A few of its beauties I'll tell.

Chorus: In that beautiful dale,
home of the Swale,
How well do I love thee, how well do I love thee,
Beautiful dale, home of the Swale,
Beautiful, beautiful dale!

'Tis far, far away from the noise and the din
Of colliery and factory and mill,
From the bustle and stir of town life shut in
By verdant and radiant hill.

31 The Mistletoe Bough

The mistletoe hung in the old castle hall,
The holly branch shone on the old oak wall,
And the baron's retainers were blythe and gay,
All keeping their Christmas holiday.

The baron beheld with a father's pride
His beautiful child, young Lovell's bride,
While she with her bright eyes seemed to be
The star of that goodly company.

Chorus: Oh, the mistletoe bough, oh, the mistletoe bough!

How often as boys have we wandered along
Beside of the river so clear,
The birds never failing to sing their sweet song
And lend a charm to your ear.

And if fate compels me to leave that dear spot,
In other lands far away roam,
My earnest wish, whate'er be my lot,
Is to end my days here at home.

'I'm weary of dancing now', she cried.
'Here tarry a moment, I'll hide, I'll hide.
And Lovell be sure thou'rt the first to trace
Some clue to my secret hiding place.'
Away she ran and her friends began
Each tower to search, each nook to scan,
And young Lovell cried
'Where dost thou hide? I'm lonely without thee, my own dear bride!'
They sought her that night,
they sought her next day,
They sought her in vain till a
week passed away.
In the highest, the lowest, the
lonesomest spot
Young Lovell sought wildly
but found her not.
And the years flew by, and
their grief at last
Was told as a sorrowful tale
long past,
And when Lovell appeared all
the children cried,
'See the old man weeps for his
fairy bride!'

At length an old chest that had
long lain hid
Was found in the castle. They
raised the lid.
A skeleton form lay
mouldering there
In the bridal wreath of a lady
fair.
Oh, sad was her fate, for in
sportive jest
She hid from her lord in an old
oak chest.
It closed with a spring, and the
bridal bloom
Lay withering there in a living
tomb!

32 Twelve Days of Christmas

1 Partridge
2 Turtle doves
3 French hens
4 Colly birds
5 Gold rings
6 Geese a-laying
7 Swans a-swimming
8 Maids a-milking
9 Ladies dancing
10 Lords a-leaping
11 Pipers piping
12 Drummers drumming

33 Seven Joys of Mary

The first good joy that Mary
had
It was the joy of one,
To see the blessed Jesus Christ
When he was first he son,

When he was first her son,
good lord,
And blessed may we be.
Praise Father, Son and Holy
Ghost
To all eternity.

2...to make the lame to go.
3...to make the blind to see.
4...to read the bible o'er.
5...to make the dead alive
6...upon the crucifix.
7...ascending into heaven.

34 The Holly Bears a Berry

Now the holly bears a berry
As white as the milk,
And Mary bore Jesus
All wrapped up in silk.
Chorus: And ary Bore Jesus,
Our Saviour for to be,
And the first tree in the
greenwood
It was the holly.

Now the holly bears a berry
As green as the grass …
Who died on the cross …

As red as the blood …
Who died on the Rood…

As black as the coal…
Who died for us all …

35 Sovereignty

Would Jesus have the sinner
die?
Why hangs he then on yonder
tree?
What means that strange
expecting cry?
Sinners, he prays for you and
for me.
'Forgive them, Father, O
forgive.
They know not that by me they
live.'

Thou loving, all-atoning Lamb,
Thee, by thy painful agony,
Thy bloody sweat, thy grief
and shame,
Thy cross and passion on the
tree,

Thy precious death and life, I
pray,
Take all, take all my sins away.
O let thy love my heart
constrain,
Thy love for every sinner free,
That every fallen soul of man
May taste the grace that found
out me,
That all mankind with me may
prove
Thy sovereign, everlasting
love.

Praise God, from whom all
blessings flow,
Praise him ye creatures here
below,
Praise him above, ye heavenly
host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy
Ghost.
Praise him above, ye heavenly
host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy
Ghost.

36 Spout Cottage

Remember the time when our
saviour was born,
No house for a home but a
stable forlorn,
His birthplace no more than
where oxen did lie,
Yet he for all people most
surely did die.

So now he's ascended to
heaven above,
And there to all nations reveals
his sweet love,
While angels before him in
rapture doth sing,
In hymns most delightfull
makes heaven to ring.

So now we will praise him for
what he has done,
And trust in his mercy for what
is to come.
Be true to your king while the
battle is o'er,
And we'll sing 'allelujah' to
God evermore.