



# ...BUT ONCE A YEAR

## A Preview of the Christmas Radio Programmes

THERE are some things without which Christmas would simply not be Christmas—though it is surprising how Christmas still has been Christmas these last few years without them. When we say a thing like that, of course we expect most people's thoughts to turn at once to the dinner table and the children's Christmas stockings. But actually, we were thinking of radio programmes, as it is our job to do. Christmas, we feel, would hardly be the real thing if Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" (with Ronald Colman as Scrooge) didn't turn up somewhere in the programmes, and Corelli's "Christmas Concerto," to say nothing of lashings of carols from both ends of the country, and at least one of Dorothy Sayers' plays.

All these are to be found; we will tell you when and where in a moment, but before we give you a guide to the Christmas features in the programmes in this issue, there are one or two items being heard this current week (in last issue's programmes, that is) to which we would draw your attention.

### Reminders for This Week

For instance, the performance by the Auckland Lyric Harmonists Choir, on Wednesday, December 19, at 8.21 p.m., of "A Ceremony of Carols," by the young English composer Benjamin Britten. It was written for women's voices and harp, but a piano will be used in this performance. There are old English anonymous carols in it, and others with words by James, John, and Robert Wedderburn, Robert Southwell, and William Cornish. There will also be some Christmas music by the Carina Trio from 1YA at 7.30 p.m. on Saturday, December 22, and a recital by Alice Graham from 2YA at 8.10 p.m. on Sunday, December 23.

West Coast listeners who want to hear the Dorothy Sayers' plays "The Man Born to be King" should note that the series will begin at 3ZR this Sunday, December 23, at 5.0 p.m.

### Some New Features

Among the special seasonal programmes in this issue are some features that weren't available last year. Charles Laughton's recordings of "Mr. Pickwick's Christmas" for instance, which 2YD will present for the first time at 7.33 p.m. on Christmas Eve. And if you miss it, you will have another chance when 2YA puts it on at 9.30 p.m. the following Sunday, December 30.

Another feature that arrived this year is the BBC production "Bardell and Mr. Pickwick" (arranged and produced by V. C. Clinton Baddeley) which may be heard from 2YA at 9.30 p.m. and from 3ZR at 3.0 p.m. on Christmas Day.

Then there is that thing of Norman Corwin's, "The Plot to Overthrow Christmas," that arrived so unseasonably in the middle of this year, and was broadcast at the time it is a U.S. Office of War Information recording of a radio

play which Corwin wrote for last Christmas, and 3YA will put it on at 9.25 p.m. on December 25.

Another special feature of 3YA's seasonal offerings will be "Poems for Christmas," by J. R. Hervey, which will be read by the author at 7.20 p.m. on December 25.

Now here are some of the special features in the programmes for December 24 and 25 as we have them at present:

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

#### Plays, Readings, etc.:

- 2YD: 7.33 p.m. Charles Laughton in "Mr. Pickwick's Christmas."  
3YA: 11.33 p.m. 2YN (9.01 p.m.) and 2YH (8.0 p.m.), "A Christmas Carol" (Dickens) with Ronald Colman as Scrooge.  
4YZ: 8.15 p.m. "Mr. Pickwick's Christmas"

#### Religious Services:

- 1YA: 12.0 Midnight Mass from St. Patrick's Cathedral.  
2YA: 12.0 Midnight Mass from St. Gerard's Church.  
3YA: 12.05 Midnight Mass from St. Michael's Church.

#### Carols and Music:

- 1YA: 11.45 p.m. Christmas Music.  
2YA: 10.0 p.m. Carols from the Studio.  
3YA: 9.25 p.m. "The Carol Singers"  
4YA: 10.28 p.m. "The Coventry Carolers"

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

#### Plays, Readings, etc.:

- 2YA: 3.0 p.m. "Kings in Judea."  
9.30 p.m. "Bardell and Mr. Pickwick" (BBC).  
3YA: 9.25 p.m. "The Plot to Overthrow Christmas" (Norman Corwin).  
4YA: 8.29 p.m. "Lovely Lady of Bethlehem," by Marjorie Lyon (NBS production).  
2YH: 8.15 p.m. "Four Looked Down" (W. Graeme Holder).  
3ZR: 3.0 p.m. "Bardell and Mr. Pickwick" (BBC).  
7.06 p.m. "A Christmas Carol" (Dickens).  
4YZ: 3.08 p.m. "A Reputation for Benevolence" (Oliver and Matthews).

#### Religious Services:

- 1YA: 11.0 a.m. Anglican Service (St. Mary's Cathedral).  
2YA: 10.0 a.m. Salvation Army Carol Service.  
3YA: 11.0 a.m. Solemn Pontifical High Mass (Catholic Cathedral).  
7.30 p.m. Carol Service (Anglican Cathedral).  
4YA: 11.0 a.m. Anglican Service (St. Paul's Cathedral).

#### Carols and Music:

- 1YA: 3.30 p.m. Yugoslav Young People's Choir.  
2YA: 8.40 p.m. Five Christmas Songs (Cornelius).  
3YA: 7.30 p.m. Carol Service.  
2YD: 7.33 p.m. Christmas Music.  
3ZR: 9.0 a.m. Carols.

### "Shadows Before."

THE future looks uncommon  
shady  
For the harassed shopping lady,  
The shopping lady has no friend,  
She wishes she had not been born,  
The week begins on Wednesday  
morn

And on Thursday evening closes,  
All the rest is just "week-end,"  
Isn't life a bed of roses?

—Arnold Wall.

# men



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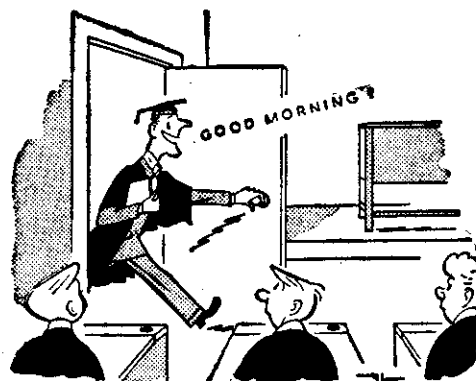


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