

CHRISTMAS IN OUR CHURCHES

Come and celebrate at our planned services this Christmas as we welcome baby Jesus Christ as our Saviour (please check our website to book your place and check the services are running at www.parishesofetsph.org.uk)

CHRISTMAS EVE

3pm CRIB SERVICE

at St James' Elstead in the churchyard

Children, please come dressed as angels, shepherds, kings, donkey, camel or any other animal and join in the nativity play

N.B. Wrap up warm for outdoor services

6pm CAROL SERVICE at St James' Elstead in the churchyard

9.30pm BETHLEHEM MIDNIGHT COMMUNION at St Nicholas, Peper Harow

11.30pm MIDNIGHT COMMUNION at St James', Elstead

CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30am COMMUNION at St Michael and all Angels, Thursley

10.00 am COMMUNION at St Mary's Shackleford

10.30am SHORT INFORMAL FAMILY SERVICE at St James' Elstead

St Nicholas, Peper Harow



**A Service of Lessons and Carols
At 5 pm
20th December 2020**

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 meek and lowly
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

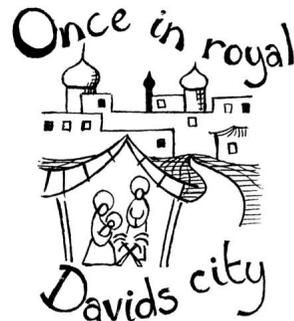
And through all His wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly mother
In whose gentle arms He lay.
Christian children all should be
Mild, obedient, good as He.

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.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him, but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars His children crowned,
All in white shall wait around.

Cecil F. Alexander.



Hark! the herald angels sing:
'Glory to the new-born King.'
Charles Wesley, altd.

The Blessing

Let us go in faith
To ponder in our hearts
The mystery of the moment
And may life be born with you,
Christ Jesus seen among you,
And joy surround you like the angel's song
And the blessing of God,
Creator, redeemer and life sustainer,
Be with you all and those you love
Tonight and forever.

A retiring collection will be taken for the life and work of the parish



All hymns covered by CCL No. 114407

Priest The Lord be with you
All **And also with you**

Almighty God,
As we prepare with joy
To celebrate the gift of the Christ-child,
Embrace the earth with your glory
And be for us a living hope
In Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

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 men no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth;
Born to give them second birth.



Words of Welcome and notices

The Bidding and Lord's Prayer

We have come together as the family of God, in our Father's presence, to celebrate the great festival of Christmas. In this service we hear and receive the good news of the birth of Christ and we offer to God our thanksgiving in the joyful singing of carols.

As we gather together in the name of Christ, we pray for the world he came to save:

for the Church, that it may be enabled in our generation to surrender anew to God's holy Wisdom, and bear the good news of God's love to a needy world;

for the world, which is already Christ's, that all its peoples may recognize their responsibility for its future, and may be inspired by the message of Christmas to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom and peace every where;

for all in special need, the sick, the anxious, the lonely, the fearful and the bereaved, that the peace and light of the Christ-child may bring hope and healing to all who sit in darkness.

We commend all whom we love, or who have asked for our prayers, to the unfailing mercy of our heavenly Father, and say together, as Christ himself taught us:

Our Father, which art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name;
 thy kingdom come;
 thy will be done,
 in earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive them that trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation;
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 the power and the glory,
 for ever and ever.
 Amen.

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER,

Frosty wind made moan;
 Earth stood hard as iron,
 Water like a stone.
 Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
 Snow on snow;
 In the bleak midwinter,
 Long ago.



Our God, heaven cannot hold Him,
 Nor earth sustain,
 Heaven and earth shall flee away
 When He comes to reign.
 In the bleak midwinter
 A stable-place sufficed
 The Lord God Almighty,
 Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels
 May have gathered there,
 Cherubim and seraphim
 Thronged the air.
 But His mother only,
 In her maiden bliss,
 Worshipped the Belovèd
 With a kiss.

witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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!*

O, Come let us adore Him



God of God,
 Light of light,
 Lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;
 Very God,
 Begotten, not created:

O come, let us adore Him,

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

Tr. Frederick Oakeley, altd.

*O Star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light*

Frankincense to offer have I
Incense owns a Deity nigh
Prayer and praising, all men raising
Worship Him, God most high

O Star of wonder, star of night

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes of life of gathering gloom
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb

O Star of wonder, star of night

Glorious now behold Him arise
King and God and Sacrifice
Alleluia, Alleluia
Earth to heav'n replies

O Star of wonder, star of night

All Remain Standing

7th Lesson John 1: 1-14 Revd Hannah Moore
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him—
Give my heart.
Christina G. Rossetti.

1st Lesson Isaiah 40:1-9

Kathryn Hockley

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins. A voice of one calling:
"In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.
And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."
A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?"
"All people are like grass,
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.
The grass withers and the flowers fall,
because the breath of the Lord blows on them.
Surely the people are grass.
The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God endures forever."
You who bring good news to Zion,
go up on a high mountain.
You who bring good news to Jerusalem,
lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid;
say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!"

Silent night, holy night

All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace



Silent night, holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia
Christ the Savior is born
Christ the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night
Son of God love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.

Joseph Mohr.

2nd Lesson Luke 1: 26-28

Arthur Templeton-Ward

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."

priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

We three kings of Orient are

Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star, star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect Light.

*O Star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light*



Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign.

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 the sign.

'The heavenly babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,
And in a manger laid.'

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels, praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high
And on the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.'
Nahum Tate.

6th Lesson Matthew 2: 1-12 Iain Barnes

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."
When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴When he had called together all the people's chief



O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth;
For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in;
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!
Philips Brooks.



3rd Lesson Isaiah 9: 2-7 Lily Orr

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.
You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.

Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in
blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no
end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

4th Lesson Luke 2: 1-7 Tamara Zambrano

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census
should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first
census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And
everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to
Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to
the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary,
who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a
child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be
born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him
in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest
room available for them.

AWAY IN A MANGER, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay;
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes:
I love You, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.



Be near me, Lord Jesus: I ask You to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in Your tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with You there.

Verses 1 & 2 unknown. Verse 3 J. T. McFarland.

5th Lesson Luke 2: 8-20 Max Cornelius

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping
watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to
them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were
terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you
good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the
town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the
Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby
wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the
angel, praising God and saying,
Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the
shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see
this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."
So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who
was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread
the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and
all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to
them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them
in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising
God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as
they had been told.