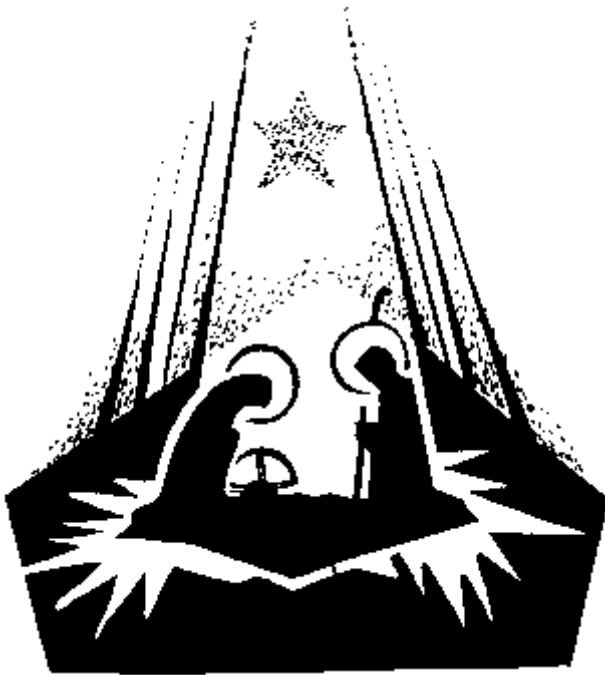


The Church of England in
Melbourne, Smisby, Stanton & Ticknall



A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS
AND CAROLS

Recorded: Saturday 19th December 2020

Melbourne Parish Church

WELCOME!

This celebration of Christmas carols and readings is special for many reasons. In this service we enter again into the greatest story ever told and journey along with Mary and Joseph, the Shepherds and the Wise Men to gaze in wonder, once again, at the Baby in the Manger - **Jesus, God's Son, God with us.**

But this is not just a story - it is a unique moment and happening as the God who creates mountains and microbes breaks decisively into our history. He comes into poverty, vulnerability and pandemics-not the way the Wise Men or anyone else would have thought. He comes to love us back into life and to lead us home. Dare we hear and dare we follow?

Yours In Christ's service,

Steve Short

Rector of Melbourne, Smisby, Stanton-By-Bridge & Ticknall

ORDER OF SERVICE

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CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

*Solo: **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.*

*All: 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.*

And through all his wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly Maiden,
In whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as he.

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;
Where like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

THE CHRISTMAS BIDDING

The Rector introduces the service.

My brothers and sisters: in the name of Christ I welcome you. We have come together as Christmas draws near to prepare for **our celebration of the birth of God's beloved Son. Through these** days of Advent we have followed the light of Christ, and now we travel in spirit with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem to acclaim with the multitude of the heavenly host the coming of the Prince of Peace. Through Scripture and silence, prayer and song, let us hear again the wonderful story of our redemption, and, hearing, let us rejoice and respond with lively faith.

All pray in silence for a few moments.

Almighty God,
you make us glad with the yearly remembrance
of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer,
we may with sure confidence behold him
when he shall come to be our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Choir: Up! Good Christen folk *Piae Cantiones 1582,*
harmonised Woodward

Ding-dong, ding:
Ding-a-dong-a-ding:
Ding-dong, ding-dong:
Ding-a-dong-ding.

1. Up! good Christen folk, and listen
How the merry church bells ring,
And from steeple
Bid good people
Come adore the new-born King.

2. Tell the story how from glory
God came down at Christmastide,
Bringing gladness,
Chasing sadness,

Show'ring blessings far and wide.

3. Born of mother, blest o'er other,

Ex Maria Virgine,

In a stable

('tis no fable),

Christus natus hodie:

FIRST READING - GENESIS 22.15-18

The Promise to Abraham

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, **and said, 'By myself I have sworn, says the Lord:** Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because **you have obeyed my voice.'**

Choir: Adam lay ybounden Boris Ord

Adam lay ybounden,
Bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter
Thought he not too long.

2. And all was for an apple,
An apple that he took,
As clerkes finden
Written in their book.

3. Ne had the apple taken been,
The apple taken been,
Ne had never our lady
A-been heavené queen.

4. Blessed be the time
That apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen,
Deo gracias!

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels, bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on the earth, good-will to men,
From heaven's all-gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing;
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

Men:

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel-strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;

Women & children:

and man, at war with man, hears not
the love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
and hear the angels sing.

All:

For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophet-bards foretold,
when, with the ever-circling years,
comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

SECOND READING - ISAIAH 9: 2, 6, 7

Christ's birth and Kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.



Choir: A Maiden most gentle French arr. Andrew Carter

1. A maiden most gentle
and tender we sing;
Of Mary the mother
of Jesus our King.
Ave Maria.

2. How blessed is the birth of
her heavenly child,
Who came to redeem us
in Mary so mild.
Ave Maria.

3. The Archangel Gabriel
foretold by his call
The Lord of Creation
and Saviour of all.
Ave Maria.

4. Three kings came to worship
with gifts rich and rare,
And marvelled in awe at
the babe in her care.
Ave Maria.

5. Rejoice and be glad at
this Christmas we pray;
Sing praise to the Saviour,
sing endless 'Ave'.
Ave Maria.

THIRD READING - LUKE 1.26-38

The Annunciation to Mary

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of **the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.** And he came to her and said, **'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.'** But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. **The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'** **Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'**

The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of god. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, **'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.'** Then the angel departed from her.



CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

1 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 to-night.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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 Emmanuel.

Choir: Away in a manger trad. Normandy arr. Reginald Jacques

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 thee Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

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

FOURTH READING - LUKE 2.1-7

St Luke tells the birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Choir: Lully, Lulla (Coventry Carol) Philip Stopford

*Lully, lulla, Lully, lulla,
By, by, lully, lullay.
Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child,
By, by, lully, lullay.*

1. O sisters too, How may we do
For to preserve this day
This poor youngling for whom we sing?:
'By, by, lully, lullay'

2. Herod the King In his raging
Charged he hath this day
His men of might in his own sight,
All young children to slay.

3. That woe is me, Poor child, for thee,
And ever morn and day
For thy parting neither say nor sing:
'By, by, lully, lullay'.

FIFTH READING - LUKE 2.8-20

The Shepherds go to the manger

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

**'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'**

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds **said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.'** So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born upon this day,
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray;
*O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

Refrain:

From God our heavenly Father
A blessèd angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name
O tidings etc.

But when to Bethlehem they came
Whereat this infant lay,
They found him in a manger,
Where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling,
Unto the Lord did pray:
O tidings etc.

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All others doth deface:
O tidings etc.

SIXTH READING - MATTHEW 2.1-11

The Magi are led to by the star to Jesus

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, **asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'** When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. **They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:**

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,

are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler

who is to shepherd my people **Israel.**"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to **Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.'** When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Choir: In the bleak midwinter Harold Darke

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

Enough for him, whom Cherubim
Worship night and day
A breast full of milk
And a manger full of hay.
Enough for him, whom angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.

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.

SEVENTH READING - JOHN 1.1-14

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his **glory, the glory as of a father's only son**, full of grace and truth.

Choir: The Holly and the Ivy Matthew Owens

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
*O, the rising of the sun and the running of the deer
The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir*

The holly bears a blossom as white as any 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:

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

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:

LITANY OF THE INCARNATION

In wonder and in joy let us pray to our Saviour saying:
we worship and adore you.

Heavenly king, yet born of Mary; Jesus, Son of God,
we worship and adore you.

Eternal Word, yet child without speech; Jesus, Son of God,
we worship and adore you.

Robed in glory, yet wrapped in infant clothes; Jesus, Son of God,
we worship and adore you.

Lord of heaven and earth, yet laid in a manger; Jesus, Son of God,
we worship and adore you.

Silence is kept.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who 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.

THE BLESSING

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ child
be yours this Christmas;
and the ✠ blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

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 th'angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem:
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of a Virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel:

Hail the heav'n-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:

ORGAN VOLUNTARY: In dulci jubilo (BWV729) J.S.Bach

Music Director: Simon Collins

Organist: Tom Corfield

Brass Co-ordinator: **Brendan O'Neill**

Christmas 2020 at

Melbourne Parish Church

Thursday 24th December - Christmas Eve

Christingle & Nativity- 4.00 pm Facebook

Midnight Mass - 11.00 pm [Ticknall](#)

Friday 25th December - Christmas Day



Family Eucharist - 10.30 am

(booking required)

