



**Garden Carol Service**  
**Tuesday 17th December 2024**  
**7pm**

# Welcome

## ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

C.F.Alexander, 1823-9

## Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: his mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us').

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**

## Thought - Jesus is Immanuel God with us

### SILENT NIGHT! HOLY NIGHT!

1. Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright  
round the virgin and her child.  
Holy Infant, so gentle and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace.  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quail at the sight,  
glory streams from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Saviour, is born!  
Christ, the Saviour, is born!

3. Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams your holy face,  
with the dawn of saving grace,  
Jesus, Lord at your birth.  
Jesus, Lord at your birth.

Josef Mohr, 1818;

## Reading: Luke 2:1-12

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.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 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 Saviour 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.'

This is the word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**

## Thought - Jesus came to save us from our sins

### WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS BY NIGHT

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down,  
and glory shone around.
2. "Fear not," said he (for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled mind),  
"glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and all mankind.
3. "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:
4. "The heavenly babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
and in a manger laid."
5. Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God, who thus  
addressed their joyful song:
6. "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, 1700

### Reading: Luke 2:13-15

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 favour 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.'

This is the word of the Lord  
All: **Thanks be to God**

## Thought - Jesus came to give us peace with God

## HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

1. Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the newborn 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 newborn King!*

2. 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 Emmanuel!

*Hark! the herald angels sing...*

3. 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.

*Hark! the herald angels sing...*

Charles Wesley, 1739

## Thought - we have to receive Jesus personally

### Prayers

#### O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

1. 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!*

2. 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...*

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing all ye citizens of heaven above:  
Glory to God in the highest!

*O come, let us adore him...*

tr. F.Oakley, 1802-80

### Final Prayer

## **Mulled punch and mince pies**

Please stay behind to enjoy non-alcoholic mulled punch and mince pies\* will be served immediately after the service. (\*may contain traces of nuts)

## **Donations**

At Christmas all our church giving is going to two excellent charities: This year, our Christmas Giving will be divided between two charities. The Maidenhead Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Debt Centre provides debt counselling and support for families and individuals in our area. Tearfund's Middle East Humanitarian Appeal will provide food, shelter and medical care in Gaza and Lebanon.

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Church office: 01628 638866 Website: [www.stmarysmaidenhead.org](http://www.stmarysmaidenhead.org)

# What's the best news you've ever heard?



Christianity Explored is an informal and relaxed seven-week evening course, with dinner on Monday evenings.

It is for anyone who wants to think about the meaning of life. You don't need to know anything about the Bible, and you won't be asked to pray or sing. You can ask any question you like, or you can just sit and listen. It is completely free.

Whoever you are, whatever you're thinking, CE is a place for you to explore what life's all about. It might just be the best news you've ever heard.

**Mondays at 7.30pm - seven weeks starting 13th January 2025  
& Sundays at 11am starting 19th January 2025 at St. Mary's.**  
Hot dinner provided on Mondays

For more information please contact the St Mary's Church Office:  
01628 638866, [office@stmarysmaidenhead.org](mailto:office@stmarysmaidenhead.org)