

**Festival of Carols & Readings
by Candlelight**

Wednesday 21 December 2022



St Mary's Parish Church, Hampton



You are invited to stand and join in the singing of the carols.

Following each reading, the response is 'Thanks be to God.'



Vicar: Rev'd Ben Lovell

Choir Director: Paul Jeanes

Organist: Nat Keiller

Soloists: Fiona Rowett & Jonathan Williams



Please stay at the end for mulled wine and mince pies
which will be served at the back of church.





Please stand for the first carol as the procession enters

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.

Choir: 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.

All: 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.

All: 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.

All: 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.

All: 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.



Please remain standing

The Bidding Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

All:

**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.**



Please be seated for the first lesson

Genesis 1:1-5

Let there be light

read by Shirley Short

*Please remain seated as the choir sings A Tender Shoot,
composed by Otto Goldschmidt 1829-1907*





Please stand to sing the second carol

All: The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep:
 Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
 Born is the King of Israel!

They lookéd up and saw a star,
Shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night:
 Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
 Born is the King of Israel!

And by the light of that same star,
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went:
 Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
 Born is the King of Israel!

This star drew nigh to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay:
 Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
 Born is the King of Israel!

Then entered in those wise men three,
Full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense:
 Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
 Born is the King of Israel!

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind hath bought:
 Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
 Born is the King of Israel!



Please be seated for the second lesson

Psalm 27

The Lord is my light

read by Alan Jackson



*Please remain seated as the choir sings Infant Holy,
a Polish Carol arranged by Paul Jeanes b.1973*



Please remain seated for the third lesson

Isaiah 9:2,6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light

read by Hilary Hart





Please stand to sing the third carol

All: 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.*

From God our heav'nly 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 of comfort and joy...

The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoicèd much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding,
In tempest, storm and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway
This blessèd babe to find:
O tidings of comfort and joy...

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 of comfort and joy...

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 of comfort and joy...

ENGLISH TRADITIONAL CAROL



Please be seated for the fourth lesson

Isaiah 60:1-7

Arise, shine; for your light has come

read by Hadley Baldock



*Please remain seated as the choir sings The Sans Day Carol,
a traditional Cornish Carol arranged by John Rutter b.1945*



Please remain seated for the fifth lesson

Luke 1:26-38

The birth of Jesus is foretold

read by Samantha Bailey



*Please remain seated as the choir sings Sweet was the Song the Virgin Sang,
from the collection of William Ballet, arr. Geoffrey Shaw 1879-1943*





Please stand to sing the fourth carol

All: 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 heav'n.
 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 Emmanuel!

PHILLIPS BROOKS 1835-93





Please remain seated for the sixth lesson

Luke 2:1-7

The birth of Jesus

read by Nigel Francis



*Please remain seated as the choir sings In the Bleak Midwinter,
composed by Harold Darke 1888-1976*



Please remain seated for the seventh lesson

Ephesians 5:8-14

Live as children of light

read by Janet McCall





Please stand to sing the fifth carol.

All: 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 heav'ns 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 heav'nly music floats
Over all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov'ring wing;
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
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!

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 o'er all the earth,
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

MUSIC: EDMUND H SEARS 1810-1876, ADAPTED BY ARTHUR SULLIVAN 1842-1900





The Sermon

Please be seated to hear Rev'd Ben Lovell



*Please remain seated as the choir sings All Bells in Paradise,
composed by John Rutier b.1945*



Please remain seated for the final lesson

John 1:1-14

The light shines in the darkness

read by Rev'd Cara Lovell





Please stand to sing the sixth 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:
O come, let us adore him...

See how the shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear:
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps:
O come, let us adore him...

Lo! star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer him incense, gold and myrrh;
We to the Christ-Child
Bring our hearts' oblations;
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!
O come, let us adore him...

TR. FREDERICK OAKELEY 1802-1880 AND OTHERS





Prayers

*Led by Rev'd Ben Lovell
Please be seated.*



The Collect

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



*Please be seated as the choir sings Ding Dong Merrily on High,
Words: GR Woodward 1831-1934, Arrangement: Mack Wilberg b.1955*





Please stand for the final carol.

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

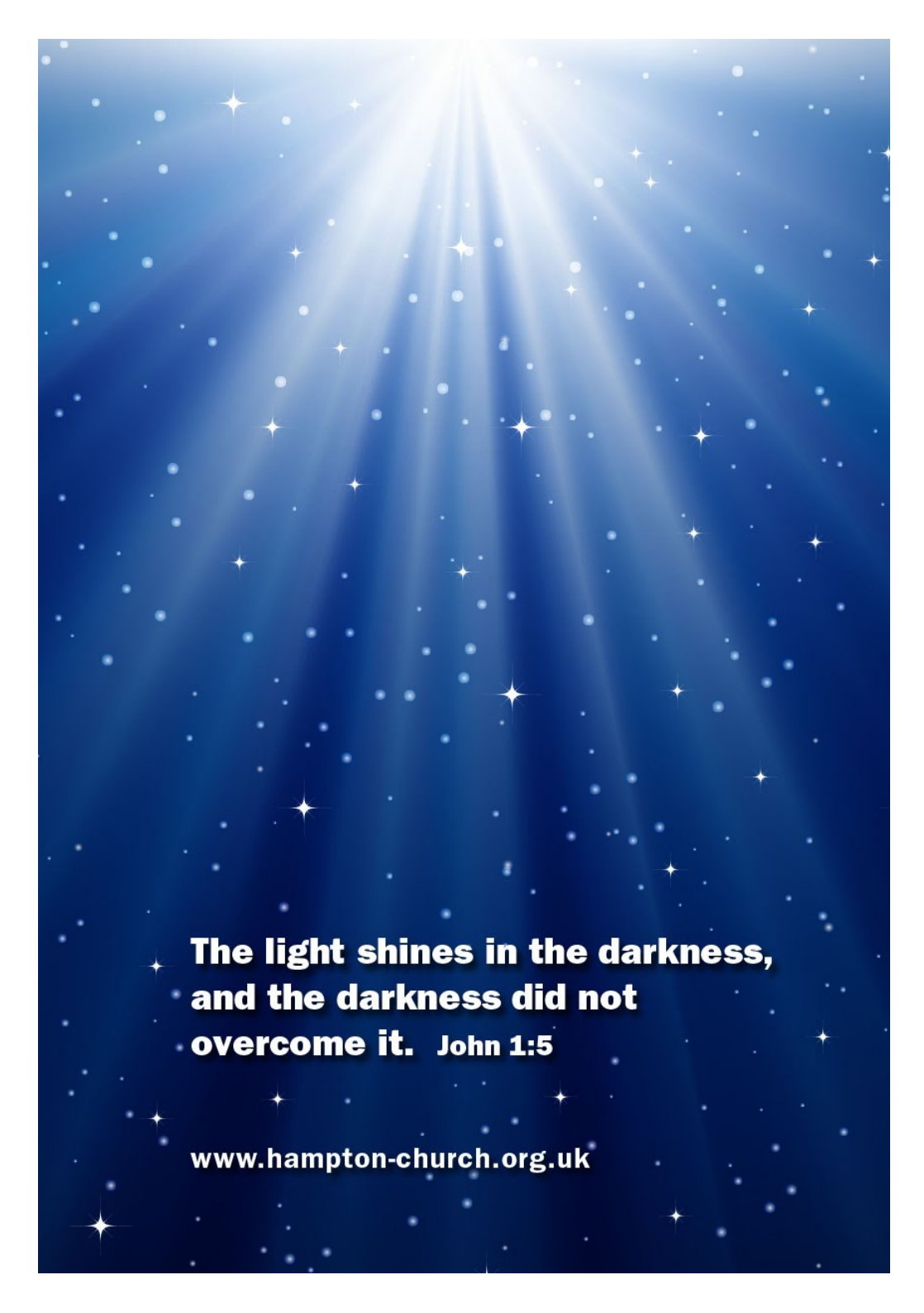
Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord,
Late in time, behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing...

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n 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 1707-1788 AND OTHERS



The Blessing



**The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not
overcome it. John 1:5**

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