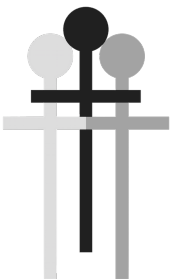


# Carols for All Ages by Candlelight



St Mary's Church Denham  
Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December, 4.00 pm

Christmas recalls us to the central truth of the Word made flesh so that we could become children of God.

The service of *Nine Lessons and Carols* retells the story of God with us: how we were created to live in communion with God but, through self-centredness, have destroyed this relationship.

All through history God has sought to restore our relationship with him; the birth of Jesus announces God's decisive rescue plan. Jesus was fully human, yet fully God. He lived a truly human life and through his death and resurrection he has overcome the power of sin, darkness and even death.

He invites us to come home to God as our Heavenly Father and to receive new life, which even death cannot destroy. God's Holy Spirit makes this resurrection life available to us today when we bow down as the shepherds and wise men did and worship Christ as Lord.

This is the Good News - or *Gospel* - which we celebrate at Christmas. Over the last two years we have experienced separation from those we love like never before. May we experience a renewed joy as we worship the God who has come to be with us so we can be with him.

*The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first drawn up by Edward Benson, when Bishop of Truro. It was simplified and adapted for use in the chapel of King's College, Cambridge, in 1918 by the Dean, Eric Milner-White.*

We would love to give you two small gift as you leave today:

- The Christmas issue of *Denham Parish News*
- "*Why Christmas?*", a booklet which explores the 'reason for the season' and why the person of Jesus Christ has had such a transforming effect on world history and the lives of countless people. It has been written by Nicky Gumbel, who is also the author of *Alpha*. *Alpha* will start in Denham in February. It explores the big questions we all have and is an excellent introduction to the Christian faith. Why not give it a go in 2022?

Find out more at [www.denhamparish.church/alpha](http://www.denhamparish.church/alpha)

At the end of this service you are invited to contribute to *our Christmas Appeal* as you leave. Details can be found on the back cover of this booklet and on the blue notice board near the door.



*The shepherds 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. Luke 2:16–19*

*Please stand for the congregational carols and sit for the choir carols and readings. Please join in with words in **bold**.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

*Christoph Lindner*

## **CAROL**

*A soloist and the choir sing the opening verses*

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.

***Please stand as we sing the remaining verses together***

3

**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.**

4

**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.**

## **FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9.6**

*Read by Zoe Sole*

The prophets promise a Saviour.

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: Advent 4 - Mary**

Jesus said, 'Anyone who does what my Father in heaven wants is my brother or sister or mother.'

**All I am the servant of the Lord.**

**Let it be to me according to his word.**

*(The fourth candle is lit)*

Jesus is the light of the world.

**All A light no darkness can ever put out.**

**CAROL**

**Advent candles tell their story  
as we watch and pray;  
longing for the Day of Glory,  
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.  
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness,  
changed for gladness on that Day.**

**Mary's gift, beyond all telling,  
we recall today:  
Son of God within her dwelling,  
born to show the way.  
Who could guess the final story?  
- cross and glory; Easter Day!**

**Advent candles tell their story  
as we watch and pray;  
longing for the Day of Glory,  
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.  
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness,  
changed for gladness on that Day.**

## SECOND LESSON: From Luke 3

*Read by Kelechi Maduka*

John the Baptist announces the coming of Jesus.

### CAROL

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.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace upon the earth!

How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is giv'n;  
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!

## THIRD LESSON: From Luke 1

*Aurelia Foster*

*Mary hears the news.*

**Gabriel's Message** (*Basque carol, Sabine Baring-Gould*)

The angel Gabriel from Heaven came  
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame  
All hail said he thou lowly maiden Mary  
Most highly favoured lady. Gloria

For known a blessed mother thou shalt be  
All generations laud and honour thee  
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel by seers foretold  
Most highly favoured lady. Gloria

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head  
To me be as it pleaseth God, she said  
My soul shall laud and magnify His holy name  
Most highly favoured lady. Gloria

Of her Emmanuel the Christ was born  
In Bethlehem upon that Christmas morn  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say  
Most highly favoured lady. Gloria

**FOURTH LESSON: Matthew 1.18–24**

*Read by Luke Oldfield*

Joseph learns the truth.

**TRUMPETS: Carol of the Bells**

*Rebecca Nash-Steer and Josephine Bentham*

**FIFTH LESSON: Luke 2.1-7**

*Read by Ann Collins*

Jesus is born.

CAROL

**Verse 1: Children only**

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

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray  
Bless all the dear children  
in your tender care  
Prepare us for heaven,  
to live with you there.**

**SIXTH LESSON: Luke 2.8-14**

*Read by Paul Williams*

The angels announce the birth

CAROL

**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  
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia  
Christ the Saviour is born / Christ the Saviour is born  
Silent night holy night / Son of God Love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus Lord at Thy birth / Jesus Lord at Thy birth**



**SEVENTH LESSON: Luke 2.15-20**

*Read by Charlotte and Rebecca Hearnden-Smith*

The shepherds find the baby.

**CHOIR**

**Christmas is Coming** (*J Raney*)

Christmas is comin', let the church bells ring!

People celebratin' the birth of a King.

Shoutin' hosanna till the heavens ring

Christmas is comin', let the church bells ring!

Christmas is comin', Mary's baby boy

bringin' us a message of comfort and joy

Glory hallelujah, what a wonderful thing

Christmas is comin', let the church bells ring!

Glory filled the heavens, music filled the night

Shepherds heard the angels sing, wise men saw the light

**EIGHTH LESSON: From Matthew 2**

*Read by Kathy Paine*

The wise men follow the star.

**SUNDAY CLUB**

**All Of Heaven** (*N Johnson*)

Come as you are, come to the stable, gather round.

You've travelled far, but you'll arrive here safe and sound.

*We're watching over you, promise to guide you through.*

*Know in your heart it's true,*

*All of heaven is rooting for you, all of heaven is rooting for you!*

All of the road, it's been a journey worth the wait.

Left all you know, 'cause you've been called to celebrate.

Oh what a night! One you'll remember through the years.

Followed the signs, it's not by chance that you are here.

**NINTH LESSON: John 1.1-5**

*Read by Ian Jennings*

The Son of God, Jesus Christ, was there from the beginning.

**CAROL**

See Him lying on a bed of straw  
A draughty stable with an open door  
Mary cradling the babe she bore  
The Prince of glory is His name

*O now carry me to Bethlehem  
To see the Lord of love again  
Just as poor as was the stable then  
The Prince of glory when He came  
Star of silver sweep across the skies  
Show where Jesus in the manger lies  
Shepherds swiftly from your stupor rise  
To see the Saviour of the world*

Angels sing again the song you sang  
Sing the glory of God's gracious plan  
Sing that Bethl'em's little baby can  
Be the Saviour of us all

Mine are riches from Your poverty  
From Your innocence eternity  
Mine forgiveness by Your death for me  
Child of sorrow for my joy

## A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem  
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:  
accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you,  
our Saviour and our eternal God.  
**Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name  
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours  
Now and forever. Amen.**

## SUNDAY CLUB

**God Is With Us** (*N Johnson*)

What an amazing night  
So let's celebrate, celebrate, like no one has before.  
What an amazing night, for Jesus has been born.

Praises will fill the sky,  
So let's spread the joy, spread the joy, like no one has before.  
Praises will fill the sky for Jesus has been born

*God is with us, he's with us now and every day.  
Because He gave us Jesus, there's no need to be afraid  
We don't need to be afraid.*

We've got a song to sing  
So let's shout it out, shout it out for everyone to hear.  
We've got a song to sing, so cast away your fears.

## CONCLUSION

### CAROL

1

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.

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, th' incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark, the herald-angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.

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  
Glory to the new-born King.

## 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.**



# Christmas Treasure Hunt for Children

It's not too late to join us for our Christmas Treasure Hunt in Denham Village! Everyone aged 12 or younger can have a go and win a prize. (If you are older than 12 you can of course still have a go and older children and adults can help!)

Find all the baubles in Denham Village (there is a larger map in colour in the current edition of *Denham Parish News*). Write down the letter from each of the eight baubles and work out which word it spells. (Hint: It is a special word we find in the Bible stories about Christmas).

Email your answers to [office@denhamparish.church](mailto:office@denhamparish.church) and tell us your name and age.

## We will draw prizes on:

24 December (Christmas Eve) 4pm at the Crib Service

25 December (Christmas Day) 10.30am at our Family Service

You can also submit your answers online at [www.denhamparish.church/christmasmap](http://www.denhamparish.church/christmasmap)





What do you think?  
**#AskAtAlpha**

**Explore life • faith • meaning  
in Denham this year**

**Starts in January. Find out more:  
[www.denhamparish.church/alpha](http://www.denhamparish.church/alpha)**



# Denham Church Christmas Appeal



There will be a retiring collection which will be divided equally between **Trinity/SHOC** and **GIVE & SHARE**. More information can be found on our notice board at the back of church. You can also give **ONLINE** by scanning the QR code. All gifts given between 19 and 26 December will be for the Christmas Appeal.



## Trinity and SHOC

Trinity provides housing for homeless people in and around Uxbridge and helps homeless people in Slough through its partner SHOC (Slough Homeless Our Concern)



## GIVE & SHARE

Give & Share has grown out of the Christmas Box initiative and gives hope to people in and around Denham by sharing God's love in practical ways. Last year we delivered 192 boxes of food and toys. Your donation will help us to help others all year round.



## Christmas Services

Christmas Eve	4.00 pm	<b>Crib Service.</b> ST MARY'S & YOUTUBE <i>For all ages. Bring a new toy as a gift for another child!</i>
	11.00 pm	<b>Midnight Holy Communion.</b> ST MARY'S & YOUTUBE
Christmas Day	9.00 am	<b>Holy Communion.</b> ST MARY'S
	10.30 am	<b>Family Service.</b> ST MARY'S & YOUTUBE <i>A short service for all ages, celebrating Jesus' birth</i>
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.00 am	<b>NO SERVICE.</b> Please join us at 10.30am
	10.30 am	<b>Family Service with Holy Communion</b> ST MARY'S & YOUTUBE

Find all our online services at [www.youtube.com/DenhamParishChurch](http://www.youtube.com/DenhamParishChurch)

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