



What do you think?
#AskAtAlpha

**Explore life • faith • meaning
in Denham in 2023**

**Starts in January. Find out more:
www.denhamparish.church/alpha**



**Carols for All Ages
by Candlelight**


**Follow The Star
THE GREAT
INVITATION**



St Mary's Church Denham
Sunday 18th December, 10.30 am

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 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.

Denham Church Christmas Appeal



There will be a retiring collection which will be divided equally between **Trinity/SHOC** and **TEARFUND**. 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)



Tearfund

Tearfund is following Jesus where the need is greatest. Tearfund and its local church partners are on the ground now in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda to tackle the East Africa hunger crisis. More than 36 million people have been affected by the worst droughts East Africa has seen in forty years. Local conflict, combined with skyrocketing food prices, is making the situation even worse. Lives have been lost and children are especially vulnerable.



Christmas Services

Christmas Eve	4.00 pm	Crib Service. ST MARY'S & YOUTUBE <i>For all ages. Bring a new toy as a gift for another child!</i>
	11.00 pm	Midnight Holy Communion. ST MARY'S & YOUTUBE
Christmas Day	9.00 am	Holy Communion. ST MARY'S
	10.30 am	Family Service. ST MARY'S & YOUTUBE <i>A short service for all ages, celebrating Jesus' birth</i>

Find all our online services at www.youtube.com/DenhamParishChurch

(Hymn words reproduced under CCLI Licence 61873)

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.

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

- The Christmas issue of *Denham Parish News*
- For Adults: "*Who do you say I am?*", a beautifully illustrated reflection on the person of Jesus and why he has had such a transforming effect on world history and the lives of countless people. If you would like to explore the person of Jesus and the Christian faith with others, *Alpha* is a great place to do that. *Alpha* will start in Denham in January. It explores the big questions we all have and is an excellent introduction to the Christian faith. Why not give it a go in 2023?
Find out more at www.denhamparish.church/alpha
- For Children: "*The Christmas Story*" Bible Comic Strip with puzzles and a colouring page.

At the end of this service you are invited to contribute to *our Christmas Appeal* as you leave. Details can be found on page 15 of this booklet and on the blue notice board near the door.



FROM REFUGEE TO REVEREND
Azita's Story

Mon 16 Jan 2023, 7.30pm
St Mary's Church, Denham
UB9 5BH
FREE ENTRY

Find out more and sign up:
www.denhamparish.church/azita


Follow The Star
THE GREAT
INVITATION

When the wise men 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. (Matthew 2:10–11)

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

CAROL

INTRODUCTION

Azita Jabbari and Edda 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

The prophets promise a Saviour.

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.

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.**

THE MADUKAS Mary's Boy Child

Long time ago in Bethlehem, so the Holy Bible said Mary's boy
child Jesus Christ, was born on Christmas Day

*Hark, now hear the angels sing, a king was born today And man will
live for evermore, because of Christmas Day*

While shepherds watch their flocks by night
They see a bright new shining star
They hear a choir sing a song, the music seemed to come from afar

CONCLUSION

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

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

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: Luke 1. 26-38

Mary hears the news.

Reader In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said,

MEN: "Greetings, favoured woman! The Lord is with you!"

Reader Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. The angel told her,

WOMEN: "Don't be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son,

CAROL

God rest you merry, gentlemen
let nothing you dismay
remember, Christ, our Saviour
was born on Christmas 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 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...*

And when they came to Bethlehem
where our dear Saviour lay,
they found him in a manger
where oxen feed on hay;
his mother Mary kneeling,
unto the Lord did pray: *O tidings...*

Now to the Lord sing praises,
all you within this place,
and with true love and charity
each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas
all others doth deface: *O tidings...*

NINTH LESSON: John 1.1-5

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

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

EIGHTH LESSON: From Matthew 2
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.

ALL: and you will name him Jesus.

WOMEN: *He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David.*

MEN: And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"

Reader: Mary asked the angel,
WOMEN: *"But how can this happen? I am a virgin."*

Reader: The angel replied,
MEN: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
WOMEN: *and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.*

MEN: So the baby to be born will be holy,
WOMEN: *he will be called the Son of God.*

Reader: What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month.

ALL: **For nothing will be impossible with God."**

Reader: Mary responded,
ALL: **"I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true."**

Reader: And then the angel left her.

CHOIR

Gaudete! (Trad. 1582)

English Translation:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Christ is born of the Virgin Mary; rejoice!

The time of grace has come for which we have prayed;
 let us devoutly sing songs of joy,

God is made man, while nature wonders;
 the world is renewed by Christ the King.

Therefore let our assembly sing praises now at this time of purification;
 let it bless the Lord: greetings to our King.

FOURTH LESSON: Matthew 1.18–24

Joseph learns the truth.

TRUMPETS: Carol of the Bells

Rebecca Nash-Steer and Josephine Bentham

FIFTH LESSON: Luke 2.1-7

Jesus is born.

CHOIR

The darkest night, the deepest sleep, lay over all the earth
The Light of life, our greatest need, came through a baby's birth
There lying in the manger, the glorious Son of God!
To us He came, His joy to save the world that God so loved

The Father raised the starry veil, revealed the ethereal choir
Eternal grace met time and space and heaven and earth entwined
The Alpha and Omega, unlimited in power
As helpless babe, to miry clay, came for salvation's hour!

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

The Word was God, the Word made flesh, to walk as one of us
To guide us on the path of peace, to reconcile with God
The Author joined our story, so He can now be known!
And through a cross, our humble King has made our hearts His throne

As Mary prayed, 'Your will I choose', with courage and in awe
Now in our day, Lord, will You use our weakness for Your world?
Whate'er the cost to follow, let this now be our song:
'My soul will glorify the Lord for great things He has done!'

To all who ask, to all who seek, no matter what has been
A gift of grace is freely given to save all who believe!
Now we behold His glory, in praise He comes to dwell
Alive in us, our God with us, our Lord Immanuel!

CAROL

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

The angels announce the birth

SUNDAY CLUB

Good news! Good news! *(Mark and Helen Johnson)*

Glory be to God on high, we'll sing hallelujah,
Glory be to God on high and peace on earth.
Heaven sent us here to bring a great message to you.
We're here to tell you of the Saviour's birth.

Good news! Good news!
It's for you and everyone to share in the story.
Good news! Good news!
Tell everybody that His love has come!

SEVENTH LESSON: Luke 2.15-20

The shepherds find the baby.