

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
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A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols



Follow The Star
THE GREAT
INVITATION

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



St Mary's Church Denham
Sunday 18th December, 6.30pm

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, who wrote the Bidding Prayer, which we still use today.

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 18 and 25 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.

CONCLUSION
Christoph Lindner

COLLECT AND BLESSING
Ian Jennings

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.

All Amen.

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,
fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

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.

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

- The Christmas issue of *Denham Parish News*
- "*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 on Monday, 23 January at 7.30pm. 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

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.



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**.*

INTRODUCTION

Christoph Lindner

CAROL

A soloist and the choir sing the opening verses

1	2
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.	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	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.	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.

5
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.

NINTH LESSON: John 1.1-14

Please stand.

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

CHOIR

Joy, Your Light Has Come (*Geraldine Latty, Carey Luce, Kate Simmonds*)

Joy! Joy! Joy to the world. Your Light has come! Your Light has come!

To these lonely streets in darkness, comes the everlasting Light
And the hopes and fears of all the years find their peace in Jesus Christ
Brighter than the sun, Your Light is shining everywhere
See Your glory come – the hope of all the world!

For the Lord desires to give us all the blessings of His heaven
To the soul who will receive Him still, oh, the dear Christ enters in
Righteousness and peace and joy are found in You alone
See Your kingdom come – the hope of all the world!

*See the kingdom coming, see the King is here
See the kingdom coming, good news of great joy!*

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...*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
'Glory to God in the highest:' *O come...*

*I love to hear the story, which angel voices tell,
how once the King of Glory came down on earth to dwell.*

I'm glad my blessed Saviour was once a child like me,
to show how pure and holy his little ones might be;
and, if I try to follow his footsteps here below,
He never will forget me, because He loves me so.

To tell His love and mercy, my sweetest songs I'll raise;
and, though I cannot see Him, I know He hears my praise;
For He himself has promised that even I may go
to sing among His angels, because He loves me so.

EIGHTH LESSON: Matthew 2.1-11

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

CAROL

1
Joy has dawned upon the world,
promised from creation:
God's salvation now unfurled,
hope for every nation.
Not with fanfares from above,
not with scenes of glory,
but a humble gift of love:
Jesus born of Mary.

2
Sounds of wonder fill the sky
with the songs of angels,
as the mighty Prince of Life
shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place,
shaped the earth in darkness,
cling now to a mother's breast,
vulnerable and helpless.

3
Shepherds bow before the Lamb,
gazing at the glory;
gifts of men from distant lands
prophecy the story.
Gold, a King is born today,
incense, God is with us,
myrrh, His death will make a way,
and by His blood He'll win us.

4
Son of Adam, Son of heaven,
given as a ransom,
reconciling God and man,
Christ our mighty Champion!
What a Saviour, what a Friend,
what a glorious mystery:
once a babe in Bethlehem,
now the Lord of history.

Remain standing

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Ian Jennings

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ be with you

All and also with you.

Beloved in Christ ...

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the
throne of Heaven, in the words which Christ himself has
taught us:

**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.**

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.

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 3.8-15

CAROL

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise
and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.

CAROL

(ALL)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear,

Rejoice, rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

(MEN ONLY)

O come, thou rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

(LADIES ONLY)

O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thy advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

(ALL)

O come, thou key of David come
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

(ALL)

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the Law,
in cloud and majesty and awe.

1

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.

2

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream 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 from Thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

SEVENTH LESSON: Luke 2.8-19

The shepherds go to the manger.

CHOIR

I Love To Hear The Story (*Emily Huntington Miller, Stephen Armstrong*)

I love to hear the story, which angel voices tell,
how once the King of Glory came down on earth to dwell.
I am both weak and sinful, but this I surely know:
The Lord came down to save me, because He loved me so.

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!

SIXTH LESSON: Luke 2.1-7

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus Christ.

SECOND LESSON: Genesis 22.15-18

God promises to Abraham that through his faithfulness
all nations shall be blessed.

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.

Prophet voices loudly crying,
making pathways clear;
glimpsing glory, self-denying,
calling all to hear.
Through their message - challenged, shaken -
hearts awaken: God is near!

John the Baptist, by his preaching
and by water poured,
brought to those who heard his teaching
news of hope restored:
'Keep your vision strong and steady,
and be ready for the Lord.'

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.

THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 11.1-9

A descendant of King David will bring justice and renewal.

CAROL

Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew.
Come to make all things new;
Bear his people's burden,
Freely love and pardon.

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, when he comes,
Who will make him welcome?

God in time, God in man,
This is God's timeless plan:
He will come, as a man,
Born himself of woman,
God divinely human. *Ring bells ring...*

Mary, hail! Though afraid,
She believed, she obeyed.
In her womb, God is laid;
Till the time expected
Nurtured and protected. *Ring bells ring...*

Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
Stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes! Jesus comes!
We will make him welcome!

FOURTH LESSON: Zephaniah 3.14-18

The prophet Zephaniah announces
the coming of the Lord to his people.

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.

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 wond'ring love.

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!

FIFTH LESSON: Luke 1.26-38

The Angel Gabriel announces
the Messiah's birth to the Virgin Mary.