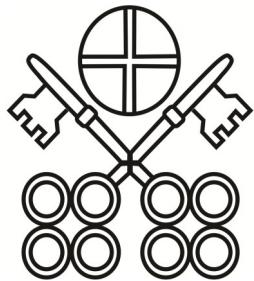


SERVICES AND EVENTS AT ST PETER'S

Christingle Service

Wednesday 24th December at 4.00pm
The Christmas story is retold for all the family, with a collection for the Children's Society.



Midnight Mass

Christmas Eve at 11.30pm
A Choral Mass by candlelight, with our full choirs.

Choral Eucharist

Christmas Day at 11.15am
A joyful, family celebration for Christmas morning, with our full choirs and incense.

Sung Eucharist

Sunday 28th December at 11.15am

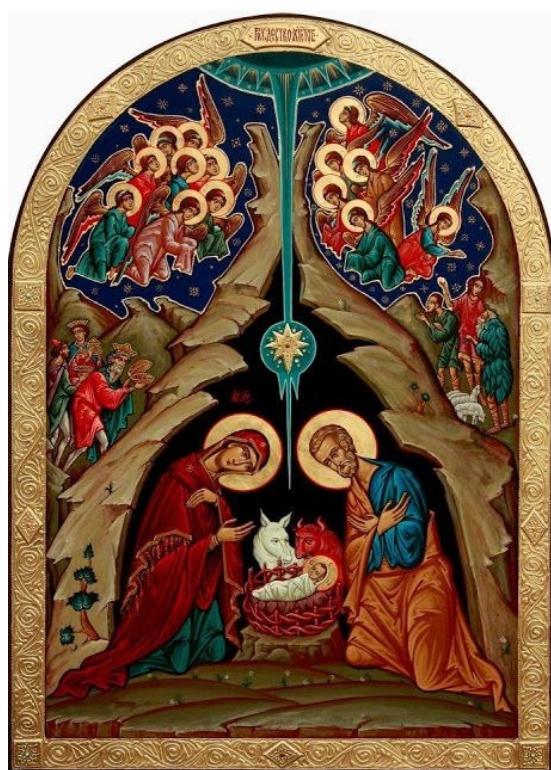
Epiphany Carol Service

Sunday 11th January
We watch the three kings journey towards the star to worship at the manger with their gifts, as the choir and congregation sing carols.



St Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton

Festival Service of Nine Lessons and Carols



21st December 2025

6.30 pm

The cost of printing these booklets has been very kindly covered by a donation from Gough Group Holdings Ltd.



and the Babe lying in a manger."

The nine lessons from Scripture tell the story of our Redemption from the fall of Adam to the coming of Christ. They culminate in the profound words with which St John begins his Gospel.

Please follow the invitations to stand and sit during the service, if you are able comfortably to do so.

Details of our other Christmas services are on the back of this leaflet.

May you know Christ's presence with you this Christmas, and may He be your companion and guide throughout the coming year.

Welcome

Please stand, if you are able

Congregational Carol

(*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 only*)

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.

**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.**

**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 Heav'n above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him, but in Heaven,**

Our prayers conclude with the Christmas Collect

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon Him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Please stand, if you are able

Blessing

Congregational Carol

**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.**

**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 the Incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.**

**Hail the Heav'n-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.**

Words: Charles Wesley and others
Music: Felix Mendelssohn,
arr. David Willcocks

Organ Voluntary
Théodore Dubois -

"Fiat Lux" from Douze pièces nouvelles pour orgue.

**Set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars His children crowned,
All in white shall wait around.**

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander
Music: Henry Gauntlett; harm. Arthur Henry Mann;
desc. Sir David Willcocks

The Bidding

The Bidding Prayer is followed by the Lord's Prayer

**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 them that 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.**

May the Almighty God bless us with His grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life, and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of angels bring us all.

Amen.

Please sit

First Lesson
Genesis 3: 8-15
read by a Server

The fall of humanity

Choir Carol

This is the truth sent from above,
the truth of God, the God of love;
therefore don't turn me from your door
but hearken all, both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate,
is that God did man create;
the next thing which to you I tell
woman was made with man to dwell.

And we were heirs to endless woes,
till God the Lord did interpose;
and so a promise soon did run:
that He would redeem us by His Son.

And at that season of the year,
our blest Redeemer did appear,

here He did live, and here did preach,
and many thousands He did teach.

Thus He in love to us behaved,
to show us how we must be saved;
and if you want to know the way,
be pleased to hear what He did say:

Words: Edmund Hamilton Sears
Music: Melody 'Herefordshire Carol',
arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

Second Lesson
Genesis 22: 15-18
read by a Junior Church Leader

The promise to Abraham

Choir Carol

Drop down ye heavens from above,
And let the skies pour down righteousness.
Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people;
My salvation shall not tarry.
I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy
transgressions.
Fear not, for I will save thee;
For I am the Lord thy God,
The holy one of Israel, thy redeemer.
Drop down ye heavens from above,
And let the skies pour down righteousness.

Words: George Ratcliffe Woodward
Music: Dame Judith Weir

Third Lesson
Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7
read by a Churchwarden

The prophecy of the Messiah's birth

Choir Carol

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day;
I would my true love did so chance
To see the legend of my play,
To call my true love to my dance;

*Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love, my love, my love,
This have I done for my true love*

Then was I born of a virgin pure,
Of her I took fleshly substance
Thus was I knit to man's nature
To call my true love to my dance.

In a manger laid, and wrapped I was
So very poor, this was my chance
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass
To call my true love to my dance.

Then afterwards baptized I was;
The Holy Ghost on me did glance,

Offertory Carol

During this Carol the collection will be taken and offered to God, to be used in His service.

If you are a UK taxpayer, please use our contactless machine or one of the white envelopes for your donation, ensuring that you complete the details on the front.



**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...

**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...

**Lo! Star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
We to the Christ Child
Bring our hearts' oblations:**

O come...

**Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of Heav'n above;
Glory to God
In the highest.**

O come...

Words: 18th century Latin,
Tr. F. Oakeley and others.
Music: 18th century,
arr. David Willcocks

Please sit

Prayers

That sees December turned to May
That sees December turned to May

Why does the chilling winter's mourn
Smile, like a field beset with corn?
Or smell like a meadow newly-shorn
Thus, on the sudden? Come and see

The 'cause, why things thus fragrant be
It is He is born, whose quickening birth
Gives life and luster, public mirth
To Heaven, and the under-Earth

We see him come, and know him ours
Who with his sunshine and his showers
Turns all the patient ground to flowers
Turns all the patient ground to flowers

The darling of the world is come
And fit it is, we find a room
To welcome him, to welcome him
The nobler part of all the house here is the heart

Which we will give him, and bequeath
This holy and this ivy wreath
To do him honour, who's our King
And Lord of all this revelling

What sweeter music can we bring
Than a carol for to sing
The birth of this our Heavenly King?
Of this our Heavenly King, our King

Words: Christina Rossetti
Music: John Rutter

Please stand, if you are able

Ninth Lesson

John 1: 1-14

read by Rev Paul Farthing

Please sit

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation

Choir Carol

Little Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life, and bade thee feed
By the stream and o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing, woolly, bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice:

Little lamb, I'll tell thee!
He is called by thy name,
For he calls Himself a Lamb:
He is meek and he is mild;
He became a little child:
I. a child, and thou, a lamb,
We are called by His name.
Little lamb, God bless thee!

Words: 15th Century Anon.
Music: John Tavener

Please stand, if you are able

My Father's voice heard from above,
To call my true love to my dance.

Words: Traditional
Music: John Gardner

Please sit

Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 11: 1-9
read by a Steward

Christ's peace is foretold

Please stand, if you are able

Congregational 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 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.**

Words: Bishop Phillips Brooks
Music: English traditional tune
Descant: Thomas Armstrong

Please sit

Fifth Lesson

Luke 1: 26-38
read by a member of the Flower Guild

**The Angel Gabriel salutes the
Blessed Virgin Mary**

Choir Carol

A spotless Rose is blowing
Sprung from a tender root
Of ancient seers' foreshowing
Of Jesse promised fruit
It's fairest bud unfolds to light
Amid the cold, cold winter
And in the dark midnight

The Rose which I am singing
Whereof Isaiah said
Is from it's sweet root springing
In Mary, purest Maid
For through our God's great love and might
The blessed babe she bare us
In a cold, cold winter's night

The Rose which I am singing
Whereof Isaiah said
Is from it's sweet root springing
In Mary, purest Maid
For through our God's great love and might
The blessed babe she bare us
In a cold, cold winter's night

Words: Traditional German Hymn
Music: Herbert Howells

Sixth Lesson

Luke 2: 1-7

read by the Director of Music on behalf of the Choir

The birth of Jesus

Choir Carol

Oh my dear heart young Jesus sweet
Prepare thy cradle in my spirit
And I shall rock thee to my heart
And never more from thee depart
And I shall praise thee ever more

With songes sweet unto thy glore
The knees of my heart shall I bow shall I bow
And sing that right balulalow
And sing balulalow
And sing that right balulalow :

Words: James, John and Robert Wedderburn
Music: Richard Causton

Please sit

Seventh Lesson

Luke 2: 8-16

read by a Bellringer

The Shepherds go to the manger

Please stand, if you are able

Congregational Carol

**While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.**

**'Fear not', said He (for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind);
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.'**

**'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:'**

**'The Heav'ly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid.'**

**Thus spake the Seraph; and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus Addressed
their joyful song:**

**'All glory be to God on high,
And on the earth be peace;
Good-will henceforth from Heav'n to men
Begin and never cease.'**

Words: Nahum Tate
Music: Este's Psalter, 1592

Please sit

Eighth Lesson

Matthew 2: 1-11

read by a member of the Congregation

The Wise Men are led by the star to Jesus

Choir Carol

What sweeter music can we bring
Than a carol for to sing
The birth of this our Heavenly King?
Awake the voice, awake the string

Dark and dull night, fly hence away
And give the honor to this day