

## 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

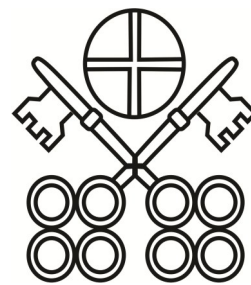
Christmas Day at 11.15am  
*A joyful, family celebration for Christmas morning,  
 with our full choirs and incense.*

### Sung Eucharist

Sunday 28th December at 11.15am

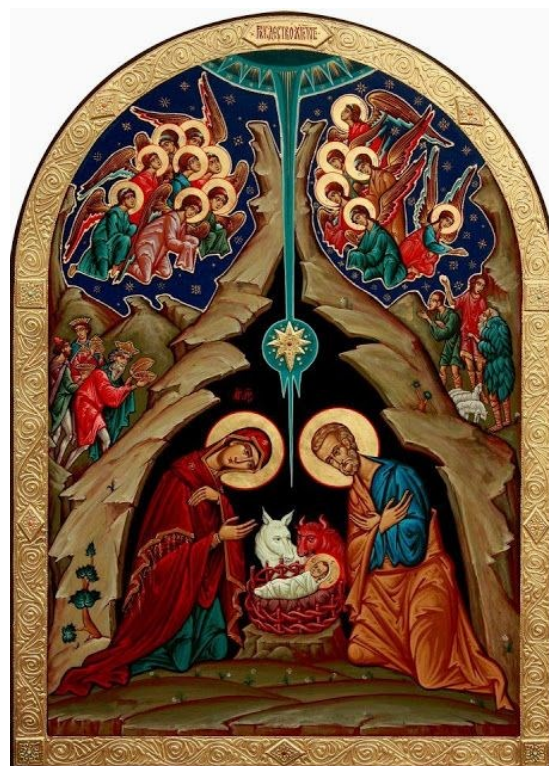
### Epiphany Carol Service

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.*



## Festival Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

St Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton



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.



*A very warm welcome to this service when we, as the  
 Bidding reminds us, "in heart and mind go even unto  
 Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass,*

*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

### 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 gloire  
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'nly 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