



St Mary's Church, West Rainton
Monday 15th December 6.30pm

Village Carol Service 2025



All the readings this year are from the New Living Translation.

The service begins with the Church in near darkness...

Please feel free to take this booklet away with you

CAROL: Once in Royal David's City (We sing from verse 2)

1. SOLOIST ONLY:

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. ALL:

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.

3. ALL:

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.



Welcome by Rev. Christine Britcliffe

READING: MICAH 5: 2-5

Joanna Fleet, Village Resident

But you, O Bethlehem, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel, whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on my behalf.

The people of Israel will be abandoned to their enemies until the woman in labour gives birth. Then at last his fellow countrymen will return from exile to their own land. And he will stand to lead his flock with the LORD 's strength, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. Then his people will live there undisturbed. And he will be the source of peace.

OPENING PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS:

Read by Mike Whitehouse: Lay Minister

(Let us pray)

CAROL: O, Come, All Ye Faithful

1. 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.*

2. God of God,
light of light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created:
O come,

3. Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above
Glory to God, in the Highest;
O come,



READING: LUKE 2: 1-7



Ken Groves, Chair of the Village Partnership

At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. Everyone returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home.

He travelled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child. And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

READING: LUKE 2: 8-14

West Rainton Primary School

That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people."

"The Saviour—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

CAROL: While Shepherds Watched

(ALL- Collection Hymn)



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

3. "To you in David's
Town this day
Is born of David's line
The Saviour who is Christ the Lord
And this shall be the sign."

5. Thus spake the seraph,
And forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song

2. "Fear not," he said,
For mighty dread
Had seized their troubled minds
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind"

4. "The heavenly Babe
You there shall find
To human view displayed
And meanly wrapped in swathing
bands- And in a manger laid"

6. "All glory be to God on high
And to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to
men
Begin and never cease

West Rainton Primary School

"It was on a starry night"

&

"African Carol/ Go tell it on the mountain"

"Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy"
(on the handbells of course!)



West Rainton Youth Group

A poem for Christmas
(Written and read by members)

Hymn: Come and Join the Celebration

Chorus:

*Come and join the celebration
It's a very special day
Come and share our jubilation;
There's a new King born today!*

1. See, the shepherds
Hurry down to Bethlehem,
Gaze in wonder
At the Son of God who lay before
them

Chorus

2. Wise men journey,
Led to worship by a star
Kneel in homage
Bringing precious gifts from lands afar,
so...

Chorus

3. "God is with us"
Round the world the message bring
He is with us
"Welcome", all the bells on earth are
pealing

Chorus



READING: LUKE 2: 15-19

Read by Erin Goodwill, Village Youth Group (Durham Area Youth)

When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child.

All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.

CAROL:

Away In A Manger

(During this carol the Baby Jesus will be placed into the Nativity scene under the altar)



1. Away in a manger,
No crib for His bed
The little Lord Jesus
Laid down His sweet head

2. The stars in the bright sky
Looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay

3. The cattle are lowing
The poor Baby wakes
But little Lord Jesus
No crying He makes

4. I love Thee, Lord Jesus
Look down from the sky
And stay by my side,
'Til morning is nigh.

5. Be near me, Lord Jesus,
I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever
And love me I pray

6. Bless all the dear children
In Thy tender care
And take us to heaven
To live with Thee there

The Blessing Of The Crib and Christmas Address

Rev. Christine Britcliffe



Intercessions (Let Us Pray)

Led by Mike Whitehouse, Lay Minister



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 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.

The Calypso Carol (All)

1 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*

2 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!

O now carry me...

3 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.

O now carry me...

4 Mine are riches, from your poverty,
from your innocence, eternity;
mine, forgiveness by your death for me,
child of sorrow for my joy.

O now carry me...



**Seasonal Blessing: Rev.
Christine Britcliffe**



***The collection in this service is being donated to
Durham Christian Partnership to help with their work
with foodbanks. We thank you for your generosity.***

***Here are some dates for your diary. We would love to see
you at one of our Christmas Services and you are also
welcome to Café Church. More details overleaf!***

Wed December 24th 7.00pm

Simple service of readings & carols

**Christmas Morning 10am
Wednesday 25th**

Christmas Day Communion



Café Church at St. Mary's

**Every 4th Sunday
of the month**

Since 2018 Café Church has been really popular with people who do not come to our regular services and we would love to see you there.

Our next Café Church will be held on 25th January.

It's a non-communion service which features coffee & cakes (donations appreciated!) and a theme. Sometimes we listen to music. Sometimes we have a quiz or maybe a discussion. Themes have included the environment, the symbol of the cross, persecution, refugees, pilgrimage, Ukraine, stained glass, saints and many more.

It is especially for people who prefer an informal and friendly meeting where good company and decent coffee is important!

We have short prayers (including the Lord's Prayer). Each Café Church lasts just over an hour and everyone is welcome to just join in from 11am with no obligation to keep attending at all.

The next few dates are January 25th, February 22nd, March 22nd.



Facebook.com/stmaryschurchwestrainton for updates and news!

Our website has service and social events news:

[https://
www.achurchnearyou.com/
church/13694/](https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13694/)

Or just search online for St Mary's, West Rainton and go to :
"A Church Near You"



St Mary's Church West Rainton

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We are pleased to announce that you can now donate electronically to St. Mary's! It cost just under £600 a week to run St. Mary's last year. This is entirely paid by the small congregation and our fund raising efforts. We get no funds from the government or central church.

If you would like to help St Mary's survive you can support our fund-raising efforts (100 Club, Coffee Mornings, Afternoon Teas etc) and now you can also donate online!

You can go to our website at A Church Near You <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13694/>

or you can click go straight to donations at <https://st-marys-parish-church.sumupstore.com/>

Thank you!

