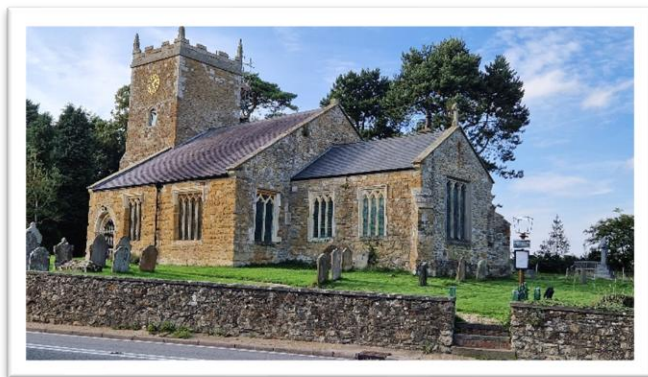




St Helen's Church, Burgh on Bain



Order of Service for Bethlehem Mass 24 December 2025

Please take this booklet with you after the service



Gathering & Welcome

(Notices can be found on the last page of this booklet)

Unless otherwise noted, words in *italics* are spoken by the service leader, words in ***bold italics*** are spoken by the congregation.

Carol

266 Hark the herald angels sing

Greeting

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

Amen

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

and also with you.

The lighting of the Advent wreath

A prayer will be spoken which ends...

*...we ask this through Jesus Christ,
the Light who has come into the world.*

Amen

Prayers of Penitence

When the Lord comes, He will bring to mind the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore, in the light of Christ let us confess our wrongdoing.

Silence is kept in preparation for the prayer of penitence

Let us say together

***In the stillness of this holy night,
let us confess our wrongdoing to God
who comes to dwell among us.
Amen.***

Absolution

*May the God of love and power
Forgive you and free you from your wrongdoing,
Heal and strengthen you by His Spirit,
And raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen*

The Collect

*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*

The Word

Readings

Reading - Old Testament - Isaiah Chapter 52.7-10

- ⁷ How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of those who bring good news,
who proclaim peace,
who bring good tidings,
who proclaim salvation,
who say to Zion,
“Your God reigns!”
- ⁸ Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices;
together they shout for joy.
When the Lord returns to Zion,
they will see it with their own eyes.
- ⁹ Burst into songs of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem,
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
- ¹⁰ The Lord will lay bare his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth will see
the salvation of our God.

Reader: *This is the word of the Lord.*

All: Thanks be to God.

Reading - New Testament – Titus 2 11-14

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Carol

427 Love came down at Christmas

Gospel Acclamation

To us is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Alleluia

The Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord

Luke 2.1-20

The Birth of Jesus

¹ At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. ² (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. ⁴ And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. ⁵ He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.

⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. ⁷ 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.

The Shepherds and Angels

⁸ That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. ⁹ Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, ¹⁰ but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. ¹¹ The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! ¹² And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in highest heaven,

and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

¹⁵ 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.”

¹⁶ They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. ¹⁷ After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. ¹⁸ All who heard the shepherds’ story were astonished, ¹⁹ but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. ²⁰ 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Talk

The Bethlehem Liturgy

*We remember now that, in Bethlehem, it is already midnight.
At the place of Christ's birth, the Church keeps the feast of his nativity.
We join our prayers with theirs, and with the song of angels and
shepherds.*

Carol

597 Silent night, holy night

The figure of Jesus will be placed in the crib during this carol.

Prayer at the Crib

God of Bethlehem,
you chose the poverty of the stable
and the vulnerability of a child.
As we look upon this crib, receive our praise,
our wonder and our lives.
Amen

The Creed

Please stand and we say together in faith

***Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God Almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.***

***We believe in God the Father,
who created all things:
For by his will they were created
and have their being.***

***We believe in God the Son,
who was slain:
For with his blood
he purchased us for God,
from every tribe and language,
from every people and nation.***

***We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'
even so come, Lord Jesus.***

Amen

Prayers

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy...

All: Hear our prayer

Intercessor: Merciful father...

All: Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

*In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

***The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you***

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace with their neighbours.

Carol

326 In the bleak midwinter
(verses 1, 2, 4, 5 only)

Prayer of preparation of the table

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement;
draw us from hatred to love;
make the frailty of our praise
a dwelling place for your glory.

Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human
flesh, he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of
the world to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,
we now watch for the day
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven
to proclaim your glory,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of
the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power be
yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

***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

Breaking of the Bread

***We break this bread to share in the body of Christ
Though we are many we are one body because we all share in one
bread.***

***Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.***

***Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.***

***Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.***

Invitation to Communion

*Come to this table, not because you must but because you may,
not because you are strong, but because you are weak.*

*Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right
to come, but because you need mercy and help.*

*Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love
him more.*

Come, because he loved you and gave himself for you.

Come, for all are welcome at his table.

All baptized Christians who usually receive communion are invited to do so.

If you would prefer to receive a blessing instead, please carry this service booklet as a signal to the minister.

Prayers after Communion

The minister says a prayer.

Let us say together

***Generous God,
you have fed us at your heavenly table.
Set us on fire with your Spirit
that when Christ comes again
we may shine like lights before his face,
who with you and the Spirit lives for ever.***

Blessing and Dismissal

Carol

479 O come all ye faithful
(verses 1, 2, 6, 7 only)

The Blessing

*Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.*

Amen.

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon'.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

May the Lord, when he comes, find us watching and waiting.

Amen.

Notices

Please join us for refreshments after the service.

Sunday 28th December – Holy Communion – 10am
St Martin's Church, Scamblesby

Sunday 4th January – Holy Communion, Epiphany – 10am
All Saints' Church, Goulceby

Sunday 11th January – Morning Praise – 10am
St Helen's Church, Burgh on Bain

Sunday 18th January – Holy Communion – 10am
St Andrew's Church, Donington on Bain

Sunday 25th January – Holy Communion – 10am
St Martin's Church, Scamblesby

The Ministry Team is setting up a **Pastoral Care** team to support our communities. If you feel you have a heart for this, please contact Neil Walker on 07771 861202 and more information will be provided.

The Parish **Prayer Circle** exists to meet some of the prayer needs of the community. You can join the Prayer Circle or you can make a request for prayer (confidential within the Prayer Circle) by contacting Neil Walker on 07771 861202)

Service leaders: Revd. Andrew Roberts & Neil Walker
Churchwardens: Judith Varley, George Ward
Organist: George Ward



Asterby Group website: www.asterbygroup.org



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