



### **St Edmund's Taverham**

We are so pleased you are able to join with our online Christingle this year. Although everything is so different it is good we can carry on celebrating Jesus' birth even with the disruption of 2020.

There was disruption at the time of Jesus' birth. The Romans insisted on counting everyone, so Joseph and Mary had to make the difficult journey from their home in Nazareth to the town of Bethlehem.

Everyone was having to do this, which is why Bethlehem was full. It must have been hard as Mary was expecting the birth of Jesus within days.

Mary could never have imagined she would be giving birth to her first child in a borrowed room where the animals were kept. At least they had somewhere to go because of the kindness of the innkeeper who took pity on them. At least it would have been warm where the animals were.

Our Youth Group painted the Nativity scene at the front of the church. They wanted a big red heart in the centre. Jesus' birth is about God's love for us, that has come into all the disruption and messiness of our world.

As we celebrate Christmas differently this year, Jesus' love has come right into the heart of our world and our lives. He invites each of us to know He is with us, at Christmas and every day as we move to a New Year. I pray you will know His love for you and that Jesus is God who has come to us, who hears our prayers, and promises always to be with us.

*Rev Paul Seabrook and the team, St Edmund's Church Taverham*

## Welcome to our Christingle service -with a difference!

We are so pleased you can join us on Facebook as we make our Christingles and celebrate the birth of Jesus together.

**Song** (*O little town of Bethlehem written by Phillips Brooks*)

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

For Christ is born of Mary  
And gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love  
O morning stars together  
Proclaim the holy birth  
And praises sing to God the King  
And Peace to all on earth

How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heaven.  
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 to us today  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell  
O come to us, abide with us  
Our Lord Emmanuel

### Time to make



## Time to listen

Our bible reading is written in Luke 2:1-7

## The Birth of Jesus

**2** About that time Emperor Augustus gave orders for the names of all the people to be listed in record books. **2** These first records were made when Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** Everyone had to go to their own hometown to be listed. **4** So Joseph had to leave Nazareth in Galilee and go to Bethlehem in Judea. Long ago Bethlehem had been King David's hometown, and Joseph went there because he was from David's family. **5** Mary was engaged to Joseph and traveled with him to Bethlehem. She was soon going to have a baby, **6** and while they were there, **7** she gave birth to her first-born son. She dressed him in baby clothes and laid him on a bed of hay, because there was no room for them in the inn.

(Contemporary English Version)

## Time to think.....



## Time to light our Christingles

**Song** (*Away in a manger*,— unknown author  
- traditional Christmas carol dating back to late  
19<sup>th</sup> century)

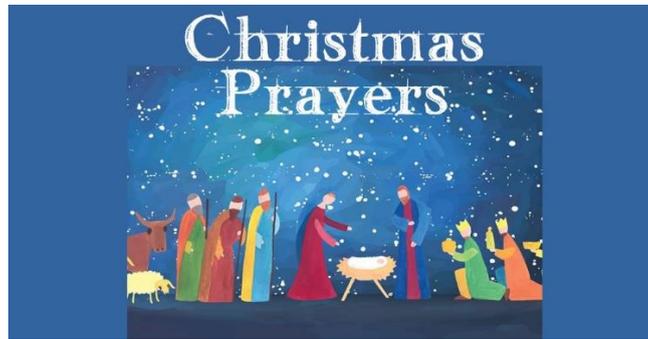


Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven, to live with Thee there.

## Time to pray



- who do you want to pray for today?
- are there things you want to say thank you to God for?
- is there anything that worries you at the moment?
- is there anything you want to say to Jesus?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the World"

Son of God, Child of Mary,  
born in the stable at Bethlehem,  
be born again in us this day  
that through us the world may know  
the wonder of your love.  
Hear this prayer for your name's sake.  
Amen.

### **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.

### **Song** (*Come and Join the celebration written by Valerie Collison*)

*Come and Join the celebration  
It's a very special day  
Come and Join the celebration  
There's a new King born today*

See the shepherds  
Hurry down to Bethlehem  
Gaze in wonder  
At the son of God who lay before them

*Chorus*

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

*Chorus*

God is with us  
Round the world the message bring  
He is with us  
Welcome all the bells on earth are peeling

*Chorus*

**A prayer of blessing**

We wish you a joy – filled, holy and peaceful Christmas. May the Lord bless you with His love and Light