

CHURCH of St. MARY the VIRGIN, WARE

EUCHARIST FOR CHRISTMAS, EPIPHANY  
& CANDLEMAS



This order of service will guide you through today's worship.

Words in yellow speech bubbles are intended to help children through the service. They may be helpful too if you are less familiar with St Mary's.

***Coffee, juice and biscuits are served in the Hall after the service.  
Please stay for a while if you can.***

## Welcome & Notices – including any *Banns of marriage*

We gather & settle down to share news & sometimes pray for those getting married.

### Hymn

Please stand

## The Greeting

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

**All And also with you**

After the hymn we greet each other in the name of Jesus, and pray together

## Prayer of Preparation

Please kneel or sit

**All Lord, direct our thoughts, and teach us to pray.  
Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## Prayers of Penitence

### Christmas

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:  
'You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' Therefore, let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

### Saying SORRY

At the beginning of the service we say sorry for the things that get in the way of our relationships with God and with other people.

We pray together, for ourselves and also for the hurtful and difficult things in our world.

### Epiphany

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own. Let us confess our sins.

### Candlemas

Hear the words of our Saviour Jesus Christ: 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me shall never walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.' Let us therefore bring our sins into his light and confess them in penitence and faith.

Christ came in humility to share our lives;  
forgive our pride.  
Lord have mercy.

All **Lord have mercy.**

Christ came with good news for all people;  
forgive our silence.  
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ have mercy.**

Christ came in love to a world of suffering;  
forgive our selfishness.  
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord have mercy.**

## **Absolution**

The God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself, and cleanse you from your sins, that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen**

The 'Absolution' is a statement of God's love and forgiveness for us. We say 'Amen' as a way of saying 'thank you'

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

Please stand

**All Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

The Gloria reminds us that humanity is not alone in our worship of God. The whole heavenly host joins us in adoration of our saviour. The Gloria reminds us that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. An important part of the Easter message.

## **The Collect**

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

### **Reading(s)**

*Please sit*

At the end of each reading

This is the word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God**

### **Hymn**

*Please stand*

### **Gospel Reading**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
and we have seen his glory.

**All Alleluia**

The Gospel is processed  
to the middle of the  
church as these are the  
stories of Jesus and the  
heart of what we  
believe.

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to ...

**All sing Glory to you, O Lord**

And at the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All sing Praise to you, O Christ**

## **Sermon/Talk**

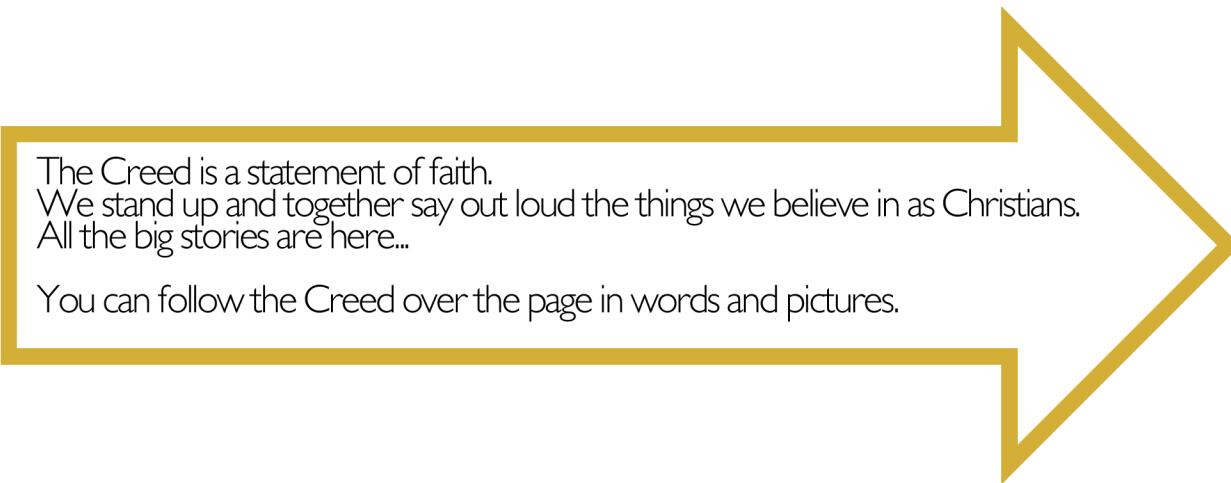
*Please sit*



This is where one of the people leading the service will talk in more detail about the readings from the Bible and the Gospel that you heard earlier.

## **The Creed**

*Please stand*



The Creed is a statement of faith.  
We stand up and together say out loud the things we believe in as Christians.  
All the big stories are here...

You can follow the Creed over the page in words and pictures.

All **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**CREATION**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**CHRISTMAS**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**GOOD  
FRIDAY**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**EASTER**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**ASCENSION**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

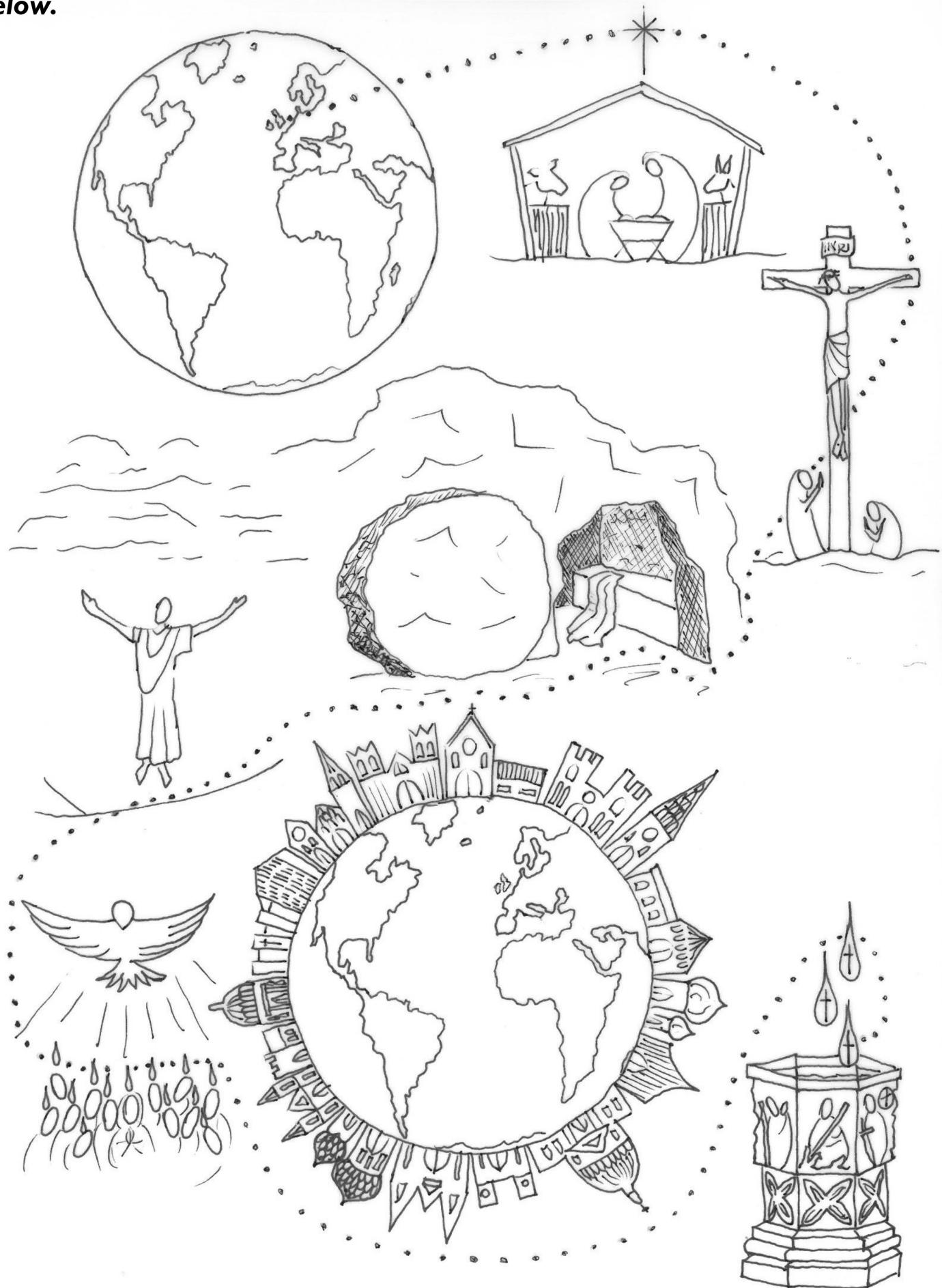
**PENTECOST**

**THE CHURCH  
WORLDWIDE**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.**

**BAPTISM - OUR  
PART IN THE  
CHURCH**

**As you listen to The Creed, you can follow the prayer through all the stages below.**



## **Prayers of Intercession**

Please kneel or sit

During the prayers these responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy

All **hear our prayer.**

And at the end

Merciful Father,

All **accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

If a different response is to be used it will be announced

In our prayers we pray for:

- The Church
- The World
- Our community, families and friends
- People who are ill or in trouble
- Those who have died

We share these prayers together so be ready to join in the responses.

## **The Peace**

Please stand

## **Christmas**

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,  
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

Now we begin to prepare to share the bread, wine and blessing of Communion.

## **Epiphany**

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there shall be no end.

## **Candlemas**

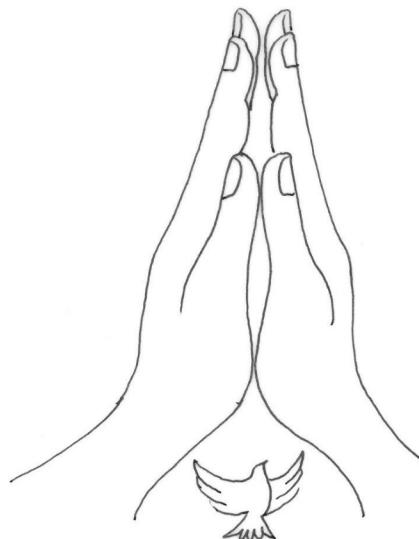
In the tender mercy of our God the dayspring from on high has broken upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**All and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace by shaking hands with those around you, a wave, a smile or a hug.



“PEACE BE  
WITH YOU”

## Hymn

During the hymn bread and wine for communion is brought to the altar and the table is prepared.

A collection is taken to enable the work of St Mary's Church.

Gift Aid envelopes are available in the pews, please use them if you can.

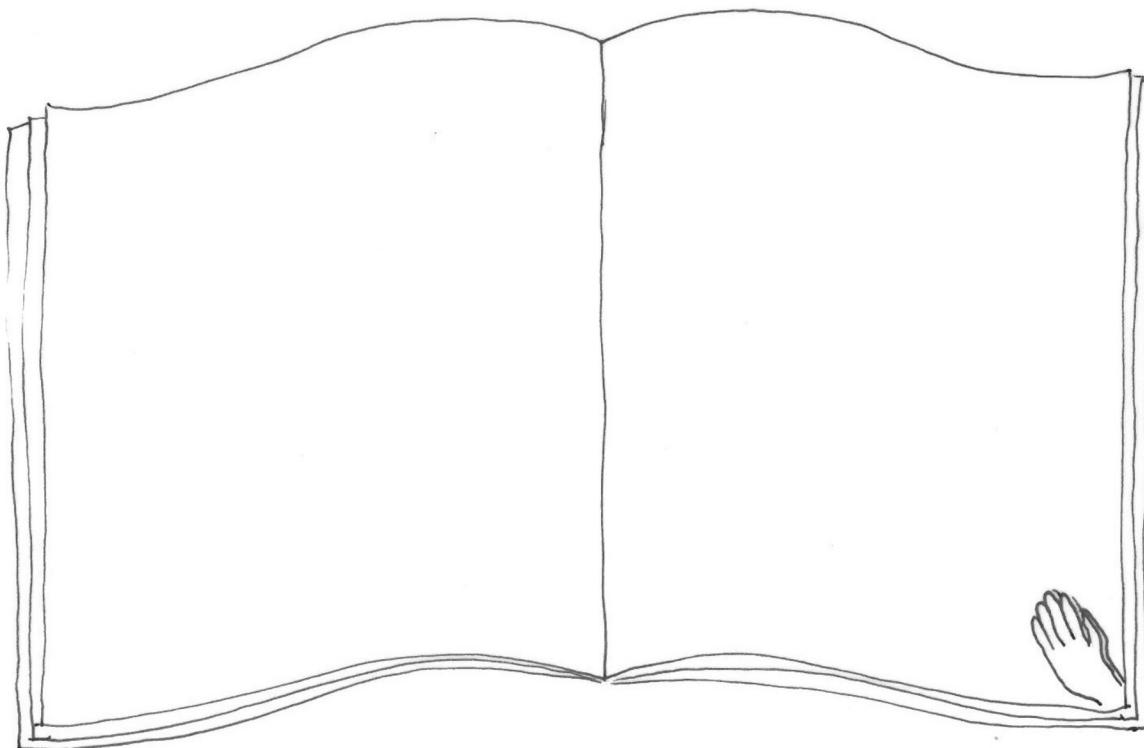
Like all churches we rely on voluntary giving for everything we do, so every donation makes a difference. Thank you for your offering.

You may notice that some people do not put anything in to the plate, or offer a small token – this is because they make their weekly offering through their bank as part of our planned giving scheme. If you would like to find out more, one of the people who welcomed you as you arrived will be able to help you.

## Thanksgiving

All **Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,  
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;  
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.  
All things come from you,  
and of your own do we give you.**

The thanksgiving prayer is from the Book of Revelation – right at the end of the Bible. Revelation is a vision (like a dream) of heaven. You can say this prayer as loud as you like.



## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you  
All **and also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
All **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

This prayer moves us towards communion. There is a lot going on in this prayer – words to listen to and think about. Things to join in with. Actions – look at what is happening at the table.

## **Christmas**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, ever-living God.  
We give you thanks and praise for your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,  
was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit,  
and lived as one of us.  
In this mystery of the Word made flesh  
you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,  
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.  
In him we see our God made visible  
and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.  
Therefore with all the angels of heaven  
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name  
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy...** continues on page 15

## **Epiphany**

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, ever-living God,  
through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:  
for at this time we celebrate your glory made present in our midst.  
In the coming of the Magi  
the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.  
In the waters of baptism Jesus was revealed as the Christ,  
the Saviour sent to redeem us.  
In the water made wine  
the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.  
Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.  
Therefore with all the angels of heaven  
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name  
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy...** continues on page 15

## **Candlemas**

It is indeed right and good,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise  
through Jesus Christ, who is one with you from all eternity.  
For on this day he appeared in the Temple in substance of our flesh  
to come near to us in judgement.  
He searches the hearts of all your people  
and brings to light the image of your splendour.  
Your servant Simeon acclaimed him as the light to lighten the nations  
while Anna spoke of him to all who looked for your redemption.  
Destined for the falling and rising of many,  
he was lifted high upon the cross  
and a sword pierced his mother's heart  
when by his sacrifice he made our peace with you.  
And now we rejoice and glorify your name  
that we, too, have seen your salvation  
and join with angels and archangels in their unending hymn of praise:

All sing **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.

Great is the mystery of faith  
All **Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

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:

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

*Silence is kept*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Please kneel or sit*

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**All Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

This is the prayer  
that Jesus taught us  
and has been said in  
this church for over  
800 years.

## **Breaking of the Bread**

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

## **Giving of Communion**

God's holy gifts  
for God's holy people.

All **Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

The bread is broken to prepare it for sharing with the congregation.

The word "consecrated" means that it has been blessed by a priest.

## **During Communion**

If you normally receive the bread and wine at communion you are welcome to do so here. Otherwise please come forward for a blessing, just bow your head when you come to the rail as a sign to us. If we're not sure we'll ask you, please do not be embarrassed if that happens.

While everyone is going up for Communion, you might want to sit and pray, draw or do one of the worksheets. You will find paper, pens and worksheets in the Children's Corner at the back of the church.



As everyone receives communion The Agnus Dei may be sung

EITHER

**All Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

OR

**All 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.**

*The choir may sing an anthem or other music and there will be a hymn you can join in with.*

*This is an opportunity for personal prayer and reflection.*

## **Prayer after Communion**

We pray quietly for a few moments and then the post communion prayer for the week may be said, followed by

All **Almighty God,**  
**we thank you for feeding us**  
**with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.**  
**Through him we offer you our souls and bodies**  
**to be a living sacrifice.**  
**Send us out**  
**in the power of your Spirit**  
**to live and work**  
**to your praise and glory.**  
**Amen.**

At this point in the service we may hear from the children who have been taking part in Children's Church.

## **The Dismissal**

### **Hymn**

At the end of the service we are sent out to be like Jesus in our everyday lives.

Please stand

### **Blessing**

How can you be like Jesus this week?

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 among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

## **Blessing**

### **Christmas**

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one  
things earthly and heavenly,  
fill you with peace and goodwill and make you  
partakers of the divine nature;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

### **Epiphany**

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory and  
gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; and the  
blessing of God almighty the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be  
among you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

### **Candlemas**

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,  
fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will;  
And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be  
among you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

### **Sending Out**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*All* **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## What is the Christmas season?

The Christmas season starts on Christmas Day and runs through Epiphany to Candlemas.

The Church Year is also referred to as the liturgical year and is the annual cycle of seasons and days observed in commemoration of the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**ADVENT** – The Church Year begins with the first Sunday of Advent and is followed by the four weeks leading up to Christmas. This is the first penitential season in the calendar, the other being LENT. The liturgical colour of Advent is Purple.

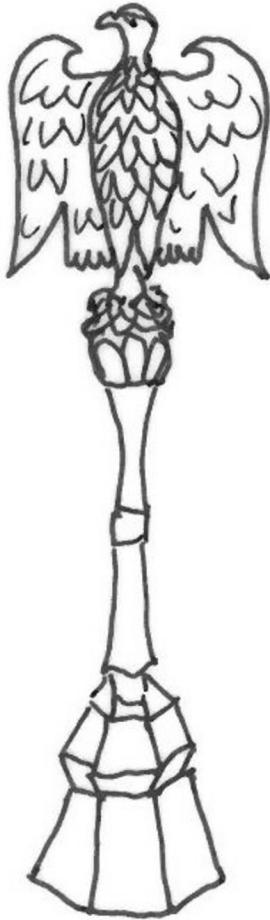
**CHRISTMAS** – The Christmas season starts on Christmas Day and continues through Epiphany, the Baptism of Christ to Candlemas or the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. The liturgical colours are White & Gold.

**ORDINARY TIME** – The first season of Ordinary Time begins on the day following Candlemas and runs to Ash Wednesday. Green is the liturgical colour used for this season.

**LENT** – The second penitential period of 40 days, which covers Ash Wednesday through Holy Week to Easter Eve. Purple is the colour for Lent.

**EASTER** – is celebrated from Easter Day through Ascension Day and finishes at Pentecost. Like Christmas, White or Gold are the colours of this season, except for Pentecost when Red is the liturgical colour. Red is also used to celebrate Saints and Martyrs.

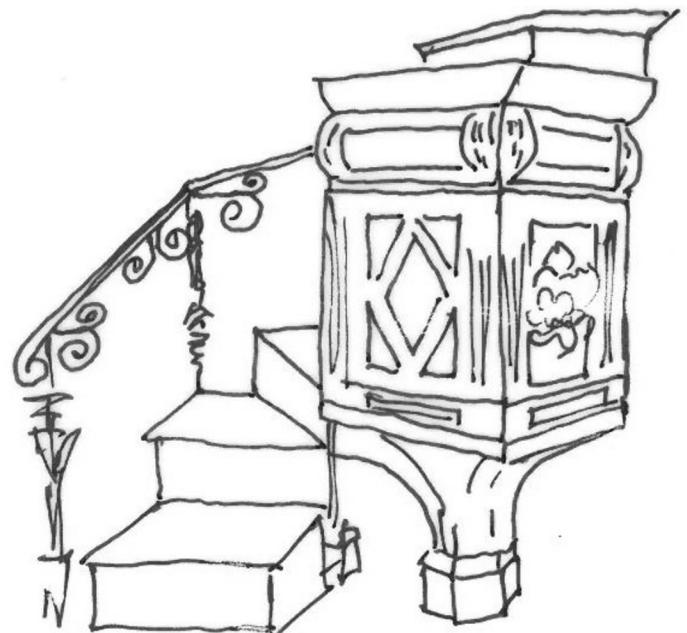
**ORDINARY TIME** – This second season of Ordinary Time covers the twenty-two weeks after Trinity Sunday and includes All Saints' Day and the Sunday before Advent. Green is again the liturgical colour.



### **The Lectern**

The readings and intercessions are read from the lectern.

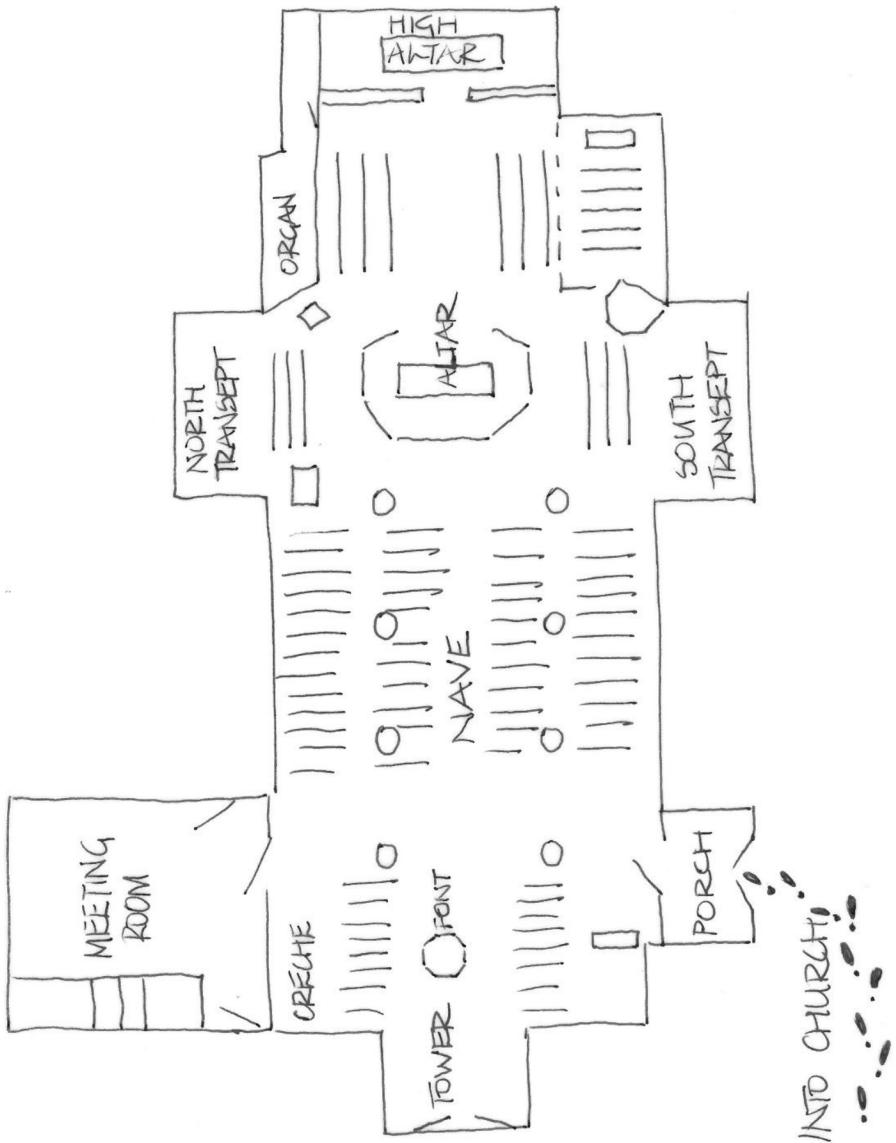
The Eagle can fly very high and very far, so is a symbol of the good news of Jesus being carried far and wide. It is also the symbol of St John the Apostle and Evangelist who starts his gospel announcing that Jesus is God.



### **The Pulpit**

The person doing the sermon/talk will sometimes read from here. As it is a high point in the church, it allows the congregation, no matter where they are sitting, to see them.

THIS IS A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF YOUR CHURCH



PUT A DOT TO  
SHOW WHERE  
YOU ARE  
SITTING



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