Nativity Service

Christmas Eve at 3.30pm and 5pm

Welcome to St Mary's Church

Following two Christmases affected by Covid, it is wonderful to gather this year and to celebrate Christmas together once again.

Welcome to St Mary's church for this Nativity service in which we immerse ourselves afresh in the story we know well and yet which surprises us every year with the mystery and amazement of God born into a troubled world as a humble baby. The birth of a baby is always good news and the birth of Jesus, God's Son, to be our Saviour is the best news ever for us all!
We wish you a very blessed Christmas,
Revs Jonny and Cathy Blair

A retiring collection will be taken for the church special appeal to hire a Children and Families Minister to work in the Parish with a priority to help families establish faith in the family and for helping primary aged children grow in faith. Donations can be made through the QR Code in the pews and on the back of the order of service or using the donations box or digital giving box as you leave.

The words of the hymns and songs are copied under CCL Licence no. 47622

Welcome and Introduction

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.

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 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.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

Words: Mrs C F Alexander
Tune: H J Gauntlett, harmonised A H Mann,

Reading   Luke 2:1-7

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

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

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Reading   Luke 2:8-15

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 heaven 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 heaven-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: C Wesley, T Whitefield, M Madan and others Tune: Mendelssohn,

Reading   Matthew 2:1-12

Talk

Prayers ending with THE LORD'S PRAYER
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.

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, let us adore him ...

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:
'Glory to God in the highest!'
O come, let us adore him ...

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

Words: 18th C Latin, trans T Oakeley, W T Brooke et al. Melody: Adeste Fidelis arr. David Willcocks

THE BLESSING

May the joy of the angels, the wonder of the shepherds,
and the peace of the Christ child fill your hearts this
Christmas time;
and the blessing of God the Father, God the Son
and God the Holy Spirit be with you now and always.
Amen

Regular Sunday Services at St Mary's
9.00am   Holy Communion with Traditional music
10.15am   All Age service in the Hall
6.30pm   Evening Praise with Contemporary music

Regular Sunday Services at St John's
10.30am   Morning Praise
*   with Communion on 2nd Sundays*

Midweek Thursday Services
10.30am   St Mary's 1st and 3rd Thursdays
10.30am   St John's 2nd Thursday

Connections - anyone retired is welcome for soup and chat
2nd Saturday 11.30am at St Mary's hall

Youth   Monday evenings every week

*Christmas this year may raise some questions for you about the Christian faith. The **Alpha Course** is designed for people who want to know more about God and the Christian faith and ask any questions. The next course will be beginning in January 2023. See our website for more details.*

If you would like to support the work of the church we would be most grateful. Scan the QR code for more information.