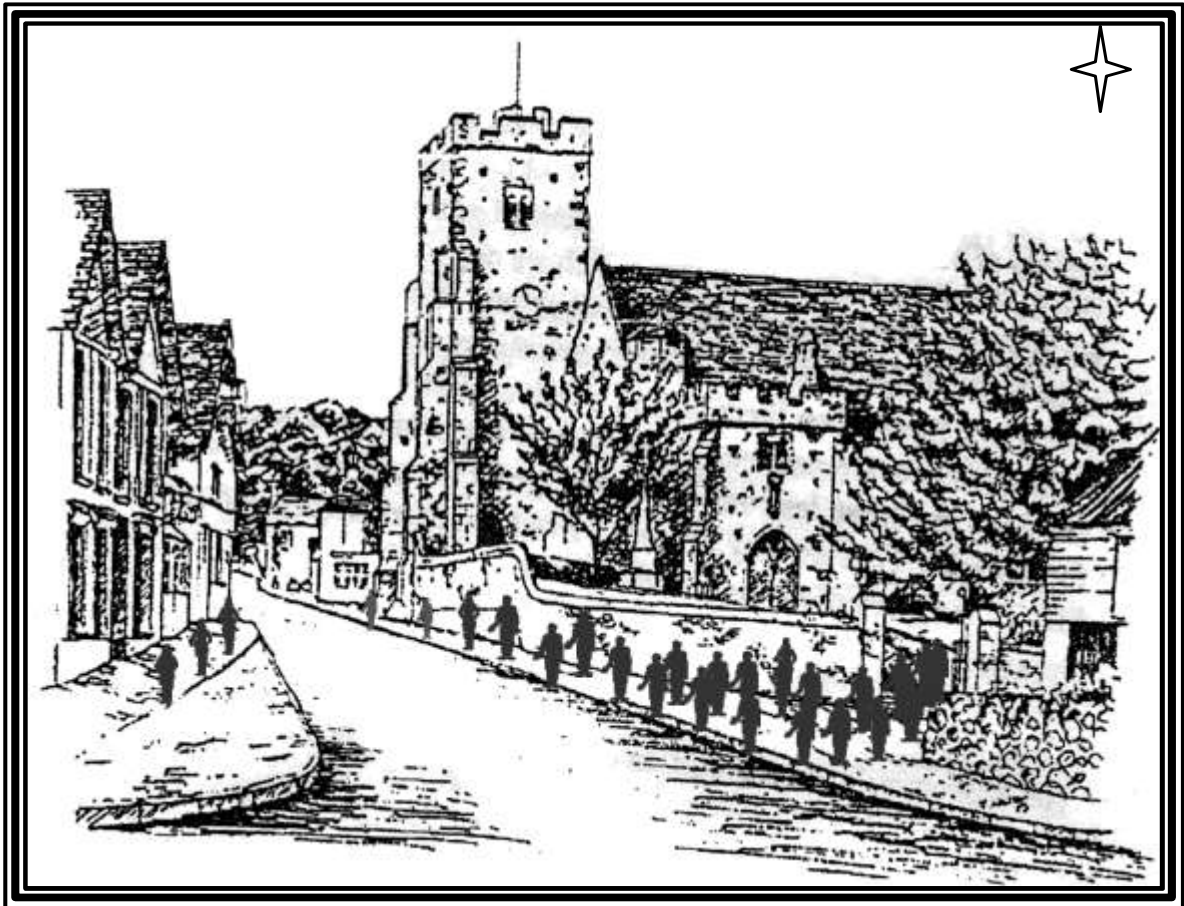


# *St George's Church Wrotham*



## *Service of Readings and Carols by Candlelight*

*Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024  
6.30pm*

*Please would you stand for all the congregational carols, and be seated for the readings, the choir items and other spoken pieces*

**All Once in Royal David's city**

*(Choir only)*

1. 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.

(All) 2. 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. And through all his wondrous childhood  
He would honour and obey,  
Love and watch the lowly maiden,  
In whose gentle arms he lay.  
Christian children all must be  
Mild, obedient, good as he.

4. For He is our childhood's pattern:  
Day by day like us he grew;  
He was little, weak and helpless;  
Tears and smiles like us he knew:  
And he feeleth for our sadness,  
And he shareth in our gladness.

5. 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.

6. 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.

## **Welcome and Bidding Prayer**

### **All In the bleak midwinter**

1. In the bleak midwinter  
Frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron,  
Water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
Snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter  
Long ago.

2 Our God, Heav'n cannot hold Him  
Nor earth sustain;  
Heav'n and earth shall flee away  
When He comes to reign:  
In the bleak midwinter  
A stable-place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty,  
Jesus Christ.

3 Enough for Him, whom cherubim  
Worship night and day,  
A breastful of milk  
And a mangerful of hay;  
Enough for Him, whom angels  
Fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel  
Which adore.

4 Angels and archangels  
May have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim  
Thronged the air,  
But only His mother  
In her maiden bliss,  
Worshipped the Beloved  
With a kiss.

5 What can I give Him,  
Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb,  
If I were a wise man  
I would do my part,  
Yet what I can I give Him,  
Give my heart.

**1st Reading      Genesis 3 vs 8-15, 17-19 Harry Rayner Kent County Councillor**

**Choir      Masters in this Hall: French Carol Arr. Holst**

**2nd Reading      Isaiah 9 vs 2, 6-7 John Winram Friends of St George's**

**All      God rest you merry gentlemen**

1 God rest you merry, gentlemen,  
Let nothing you dismay,  
For Jesus Christ our Saviour  
Was born upon this day,  
To save us all from Satan's power  
When we were gone astray:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

2 From God our heavn'ly Father  
A blessed angel came,  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same,  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by name:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy...*

3 The shepherds at those tidings  
Rejoicèd much in mind,  
And left their flocks afeeding,  
In tempest, storm and wind,  
And went to Bethlehem straightway  
This blessèd babe to find:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy...*

4 But when to Bethlehem they came,  
Whereat this infant lay,  
They found him in a manger,  
Where oxen feed on hay;  
His mother Mary kneeling,  
Unto the Lord did pray:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy...*

5 Now to the Lord sing praises,  
All you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood  
Each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas  
All others doth deface:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

## All O Little town of Bethlehem

1 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.

2 O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth  
For Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wond'ring love.

3 How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive Him still,  
the dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in;  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels,  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel!

**4th Reading**      **Matthew 1.18-25** **Robin Betts** Wrotham Parish Councillor

**CHOIR**              **A Child is Born in Bethlehem: Malcolm Archer**

**5th Reading**      **Luke 2.1-20** **Henry & Ben Forsyth** Breakfast Church Youth

**All**    **While shepherds watched their flocks by night**

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

2 'Fear not,' said he, for mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled mind;  
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind.'

3. 'To you in David's town this day  
Is born of David's line  
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;  
And this shall be the sign:

4. 'The heavenly Babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed,  
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands  
And in a manger laid.'

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

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

**Choir**              **The Holly and the Ivy: Gardner**

Choir      **The Kings: Cornelius**

All      **We three kings**

1 We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

*Refrain:*

*O star of wonder, star of light,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.*

2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign. *[Refrain]*

3 Frankincense to offer have I;  
incense owns a Deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, voices raising,  
worshiping God on high. *[Refrain]*

4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *[Refrain]*

5 Glorious now behold him arise;  
King and God and sacrifice:  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
sounds through the earth and skies. *[Refrain]*

*Remain Standing*



**All    Joy to the World**

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

2 Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns;  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

**Reflection for Christmas (John Webster, Lay Minister)**

**Choir      Shepherds are Kneeling: Peter Nardone**

**Prayers**

**Offertory 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:

3. See how the shepherds,  
Summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks,  
draw nigh with lowly fear;  
We too will thither  
Bend our joyful footsteps:

4. Lo! star-led chieftains  
Magi, Christ adoring,  
Offer him incense, gold and myrrh  
We to the Christ Child  
Bring our hearts' oblations:

5. Child, for us sinners  
Poor and in the manger,  
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;  
Who would not love thee,  
Loving us so dearly?

6. Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven 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, Christ the Lord!*

**Blessing (please remain standing)**

May the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the perseverance of the wise men,  
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,  
and the peace of the Christ child  
be yours this Christmas;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

**Organ Voluntary**

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***Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the service in the North Aisle***

*All are welcome. Please stay if you are able.*

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*You are warmly invited to join us for our  
Christmas Services*

**Christmas Eve**

4.00pm Crib Service

5.15pm Carols in the Square

11.00pm Benefice Midnight Eucharist at St George's

**Christmas Day**

10.00 am Christmas Morning Family Communion

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December**

10.00 am United Service of Holy Communion at St Peter's for  
the Benefice of Ightham & Wrotham.

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

10.30am Holy Communion Service for Epiphany